

## Our Greatest Strengths

We thank God for His leading and grace that...

- *We faithfully teach the Bible.*
- *We consistently engage in intercessory prayer.*
- *We are a caring and generous congregation that displays love in action by serving others.*
- *We have a commitment to missions and to cultivating missionaries.*
- *We engage in heart-felt worship of Him.*
- *We value and demonstrate a faithful, long-term commitment within our church family.*
- *We strive to affirm, serve, and equip people of all ages.*

## Our Prayer Action Plan

<b>We Repent of</b> (that which displeases God)	<b>We Announce</b> (our resources in Christ)	<b>We Affirm</b> (a promise / truth that motivates and encourages)	<b>We Will</b> (action steps to obey)
1. Self-dependence versus God-dependence.	That apart from Christ we can do nothing. <i>(John 15:5)</i>	That we can do all things through Christ who gives us the strength. <i>(Philippians 4:13)</i>	Seek God first in prayer and walk in dependence on Him. <i>(Isaiah 31:1; Proverbs 3:5-6)</i>
2. Perpetuating and tolerating gossip and a critical spirit through not believing the best in one another.	That God is love and gives us love for one another. <i>(1 John 4:7-8; Galatians 5:22-23)</i>	That we are members together of Christ's body. <i>(Ephesians 4:25)</i>	Lay aside falsehood and speak the truth in love to build one another up. <i>(Ephesians 4:15, 29)</i>
3. Divisiveness, especially relating to worship services.	That God has given us a spirit of unity. <i>(Romans 15:5-6)</i>	That we are one body in Christ. <i>(Ephesians 4:4-6)</i>	Maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <i>(Ephesians 4:1-3)</i>
4. Being deceived that half-hearted commitment to Christ and His mission is okay.	That in Christ we have all we need to fully follow Him. <i>(John 1:16; 2 Peter 1:3)</i>	Christ's call to love God fully and to love all people selflessly. <i>(Matthew 22:37-40; 28:18-20)</i>	Humbly submit our thinking and our lifestyle to Christ and His commands. <i>(Colossians 2:8; Romans 12:2)</i>
5. Verbal and spiritual attacks on our pastors.	That Christ has given shepherds for His flock. <i>(Ephesians 4:11-12)</i>	That in Christ we can resist evil and stand firm in our faith. <i>(Ephesians 6:13, 18)</i>	Humbly submit to and pray for our pastors. <i>(Hebrews 13:17-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2)</i>
6. Excessive resistance to change.	That in Christ we are to continually grow as a whole body together. <i>(Ephesians 4:15-16; 2 Corinthians 12:10)</i>	That God is working to transform us as His people. <i>(2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6, 2:13-15)</i>	Seek continual renewal and growth, both personally and together. <i>(Ephesians 4:20-24; Romans 12:1-2)</i>
7. Spiritual attacks on the proclamation of the gospel.	That God has equipped His people for spiritual battle. <i>(Ephesians 6:10-12; Matthew 4:1-11)</i>	That spiritual warfare is real, but God's good news will advance. <i>(Ephesians 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:8-9; Matthew 16:18)</i>	Prayerfully prepare and take up God's armor, boldly proclaiming the gospel. <i>(Ephesians 6:13-20; 1 Peter 5:8-11)</i>

### *Especially for those who serve as leaders...*

8. A history of authoritarian leadership.	That Christ is the head of the church and gave Himself up for her. <i>(Ephesians 5:23-25; Colossians 1:18)</i>	That true servants are the greatest in God's kingdom. <i>(Matthew 23:11-12)</i>	Humbly lead by serving one another with Christ as our example. <i>(John 13:15-16; Philippians 2:3-5; 1 Peter 5:1-4)</i>
9. Leadership tolerating unhealthy or unbiblical situations.	That God's word is applicable in all situations. <i>(2 Timothy 3:16)</i>	That leaders are accountable to God in shepherding His people. <i>(Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28; Ezekiel 33:1-6)</i>	With grace and truth address unhealthy or unbiblical situations as they arise. <i>(John 1:14, 17; Matthew 18:15-20)</i>
10. Our inconsistency in considering and hearing one another when introducing change.	That in Christ the fruit of the Spirit will be visible in the way we relate with one another. <i>(Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:14)</i>	That godly humility places others before self and follows Jesus' example. <i>(Philippians 2:3-8)</i>	Consider and hear one another as a priority. <i>(James 1:19-20; Philippians 2:4)</i>

## Section 1

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” – Jesus

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD!

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

## Section 2

1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:15, 29 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, ... 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

## Section 3

Romans 15:5-6 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

## Section 4

John 1:16 For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence,

Matthew 22:37-40 And He [Jesus] said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

## Section 5

Ephesians 4:11-12 And He [Jesus] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Ephesians 6:13, 18 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ...18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Hebrews 13:17-18 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. 18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, 2 and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.

## Section 6

Ephesians 4:15-16 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

2 Corinthians 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:13-15 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Ephesians 4:20-24 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

## Section 7

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But He answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” 5 Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command His angels concerning You,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.’” 7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, “All these I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.’” 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to Him.

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2 Timothy 2:8-9 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

Matthew 16:18 “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” – Jesus

Ephesians 6:13-20 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

1 Peter 5:8-11 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## Section 8

Ephesians 5:23-25 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

Matthew 23:11-12 “The greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” – Jesus

John 13:15-16 “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.” – Jesus

Philippians 2:3-5 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

1 Peter 5:1-4 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

## Section 9

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood.

Ezekiel 33:1-6 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, 3 and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

John 1:14, 17 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ... 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 18:15-20 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them.” – Jesus

## **Section 10**

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

Philippians 2:3-8 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

James 1:19-20 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.