

5. THE PERSON AND PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We Announce that we, the community of faith, have been given the Holy Spirit, so that we can live obedient to Christ.

We Affirm: that “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you” (Rom 8:11); that we are called to “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph 5:18b); that abiding in Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, is what produces the Fruit of the Spirit (John 15:1-5; Gal 5:22)

Therefore, We Will submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit to worship, pray, bear witness, obey His word, and “turning up the heat” on grace.

We, therefore, Renounce mediocrity, lukewarmness, and the neglect of the Holy Spirit’s work in our hearts and church.

RESOURCES

This subject needs to be unpacked at length. Pastor Doug is preparing a series of messages on the person and work of the Holy Spirit for January to Easter 2025. In the meantime, a few resources worth checking out:

Chan, Francis. *Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*, (David C Cook, 2009). Video summary on RightNow Media.

Graham, Billy. *The Holy Spirit: Activating God’s Power in Your Life*, (Word Publishing, 1978, 1988). A classic.

McKnight, Scott. *Open to the Spirit: God in Us, God with Us, God Transforming Us*, (Waterbrook, 2018).

Stott, John. *The Spirit, The Church, and The World: The Message of Acts* (InterVarsity Press, 1990).

Swindoll, Charles R. *Flying Closer to the Flame: A Passion for the Holy Spirit* (Word Inc., 1993).

Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ* (NavPress, 2001, 2021).

PRAYER ACTION PLAN 2024

At the end of May 2024, our church leadership team was guided through Neil Anderson’s *Setting Your Church Free* by our BCMB Conference Minister, Rob Thiessen. In preparation, we had all prayerfully read Dr. Anderson’s book. The weekend consisted of times of reflecting on where we have been as a church family over the years, what is good and wonderful about Gospel Chapel, where we have struggled and sinned, and where we need to confess, repent, and realign our hearts and lives with God. This *Prayer Action Plan* is a result of that weekend.

What this “Action Plan” provides is *content* for our praying, not a new prayer meeting or series of gatherings. Notice that there are “actions” (*we will...*) involved, not just prayers. Our encouragement to you is to use this as a bookmark in your Bible and regularly pray through this guide. There are five areas to pray through, take one a day. Pray these for our church and your own life. Along with this, read Revelation 2-3, and imagine what kind of letter Jesus might send to Gospel Chapel. What would he celebrate, and what would he challenge? May we listen and respond.

The central goal of all of this is to ask God to reveal His heart and purposes for the Gospel Chapel family. The five areas for prayer may or may not resonate with you and your experience at Gospel Chapel, perhaps God will lay something different on your heart. In any case, pray.

1. SPEAKING TO MULTIPLY GRACE

We Announce that we are all saved by grace and share that grace by protecting the reputation of others in our attitudes and speech.

We Affirm that conflicts and sin need to be addressed in love according to Matt 18:15-35; that our speech about others needs to evidence the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22), building others up in grace (Eph 5:29-32), recognizing that our words are powerful for good or harm (James 3).

Therefore, We Will remind each other of forgiveness and hold each other accountable to edify others in speech.

We, therefore, Renounce gossip and slander (Gal 5:18-21; Eph 4:31; Col 3:8-11; James 3:5-18)

Resource: Message from June 9, 2024: Who Are We? Life-giving Speakers on our YouTube channel.

2. AN ACTIVE, RESPONSIVE COMMUNITY

We Announce that when we are actively involved in one another's lives as the Body of Christ, truth spoken in love makes hope, healing, and holiness possible, recognizing the reality that conflict is a path to hope, healing and holiness. Recovering sin-addicts are messy.

We Affirm that we are committed to one another's spiritual, emotional, and relational health and wholeness as crucial to discipleship (Gal 2:11-21; Phil 2:12-18); withdrawing from or avoiding conflict is unhealthy and sinful; Biblical Leadership is required and responsible for the promotion of healthy community (Ezek 33:1-9; 1 Tim 4:6-16; Heb 13:17).

Therefore, We Will Listen deeply – understand before being understood (Jam 1:19-20; 3); speak the truth gracefully and in love (Eph 4:15-16); Gently and firmly address sin (Gal 6:1); actively seek restoration, as far as it depends on us (Rom 12:17-18); seek avenues of joyful practical service in obscurity (Matt 6:1-4; 1 Pet 4:8-9); exercising patience with one another – we will fail – grace must abound (Col 3:12-14).

We, therefore, Renounce our tendency toward passivity shown in fear of rejection or judgement for speaking truth, so we let things slide; avoiding difficult conversations or confrontation, lack of courage, fear of man; working to keep people happy at the expense of truth, settling for a false peace; passive aggressive attitudes and actions, harboring resentment and bitterness toward others in silence or gossip and slander.

Resource: Message from June 2, 2024: Who Are We? An Active, Responsive Community on our YouTube channel.

3. ONE PEOPLE, ONE BODY, ONE TEMPLE

We Announce that our allegiance as followers of Jesus is to God's Family in Christ. There is only one family, and therefore we will "enlarge our tent" and "extend our table."

We Affirm that in Christ we are one people (Eph 2:14-18; 1 Pet 2:9-10), one body (Eph 4:4-6; 1 Cor 12), and one temple of the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:21-22; 1 Pet 2:4-5).

Therefore, We Will prioritize the One Body of Christ, submitted to Christ and our duly appointed leaders; every person being valued with love and respect; embracing discomfort and displacement as God grows His One Family.

We, therefore, Renounce the idolization of "my family" over the Family of God; protecting "mine" and unintentionally creating barriers for others; excluding people who are different and avoiding the cost of building relationships with newer people in the church family.

Resource: Message from June 30, 2024: Who Are We? One People, One Body, One Temple (based on Haggai 1) on our YouTube channel.

Tripp, David Paul. *Reactivity: How the Gospel Changes Our Actions and Reactions* (Crossway, 2022).

Rainer, Thom. *I Am a Church Member* (B&H Publishing, 2013).

4. A FORGIVEN PEOPLE

We Announce that we are a forgiven people, redeemed and formed by grace; that our freedom and forgiveness is found in Christ alone.

We Affirm that loving God and others is the centre of our mission (1 John 4; the Greatest Commandment), which grows more evident as the Fruit of the Spirit matures in us over time (Gal 5:22).

Therefore, We Will speak encouragement and walk in grace and forgiveness, and model vulnerability, mercy, and transparency; and actively pursue understanding and living in the freedom and grace that Jesus Christ died to give us, the love that God has demonstrated to us, and the power that the Holy Spirit gives us to live in love, unity, compassion, and patience.

We, therefore, Renounce the critical spirit of graceless moralism, pride, and unforgiveness (Gal 6:1-5; Eph 4:1-3, 29-32; 5:15-21; Phil 2:1-11).

Resource: Message from July 21: A Sinful People Blessed (Haggai 2:10-23).

Chan, Francis. *Letters to the Church* (David C Cook, 2018).

Keller, Timothy. *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith* (Riverhead Books, 2008).

Platt, David. *Don't Hold Back: Leaving Behind the American Gospel to Follow Jesus Fully* (Multnomah, 2023).