

day 21

Saturday, February 8 | 2025

God's Preferred Future

Bible Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

There is still so much that feels like it is in the air with the future of Bethel Church. Are we going to stay where we are? Are we going to move into a new location? What about this building? We are still in the process of trying to discern what God's preferred future is for Bethel Church.

Jesus' words in Matthew 6 might not sit very well with us. How are we to not worry in this moment of uncertainty? But hear what Jesus is saying, this is in God's hands. God is the one who provides to the birds of the air. He makes sure that they always have enough. God is the one who dresses the flowers of the field. If he puts that much thought and attention into how they look how much more will God take care of our clothes. Or to apply this to our situation, if God cares for these "lesser" things how much more will he care for Bethel Church. Will he not make sure that we end up where he wants us? Will he not provide the building space whether it is at our current location or somewhere else? It is in God's hands and hopefully that can at least ease some of our worries.

The real focus of our attention should instead be verse 33. "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." As we continue to seek and discern what it is that God has for us. Pray that God would show us what would be best for his kingdom, and ask that he would help us trust in him for the rest.

Song: "Into the Sea" (It's Gonna Be Ok) by Tasha Layton



Bethel



day 15

Sunday, February 2 | 2025

Restoration Church

Bible Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Today, you are invited to pray for Restoration Church. Pray that the gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ will spread rapidly through them. Pray that they will continue to reach the lost for the sake of God's kingdom. Pray that they will be protected from evil, and that their confidence will remain in the Lord. Pray that Bethel and Restoration will continue to partner together, and that our partnership will be glorifying to our heavenly Father.

Challenge: Learn a new name (or be reminded of one you should know) of someone from Restoration.

Journal Notes:

day 20

Friday, February 7 | 2025

Thanksgiving for the Blessing of God

Bible Reading: Psalm 9:1-2; Psalm 103

God is so generous! He has given us so much more than we could ever ask or imagine. He has given us salvation in him. He has given us life, both now and in eternity. And in this life here today, God has given us so much. We have a great community, we have family and friends, we have resources, and we have freedom. Praise God for all that he has so graciously given us.

Challenge: Write down a list of the blessings of God that you are grateful for (shoot for at least 20 items).

Song: "10,000 Reasons" (Bless the Lord) by Matt Redman

Journal Notes:

day 19

Thursday, February 6 | 2025

Governments

Bible Reading: Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Another group that has been given a big task is that of the government. It doesn't matter if it is the federal government, state government, or local government, we are called to pray for them all. So take a few minutes to pray for each level of government. As you find specific topics coming to your mind, take some extra time to pray about those things. Pray that each of the government officials would know the Lord, and that they could use their gifts for the glory of God.

Journal Notes:

day 16

Monday, February 3 | 2025

Global Church

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:19-22

We are all fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household. Do you ever stop to think about how this faith is so much bigger than you? It is so much bigger than Bethel Church. It is so much bigger than the Christian Reformed Church. We are united with people across the world under the single fact that Christ is the chief cornerstone. How cool is that? There are people across the world who are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all working towards the same mission. We are all seeking to serve our God, put his love on display, advance his kingdom, and give him all the glory. Today, pray for the global church. Pray that the gospel message would continue to share widely, and that it would be accepted in all corners of this globe. Pray for those places where there is great resistance to the gospel message. Pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith. Ask God for strength, so that they can continue to run the good race of faith.

And may all our collective work, which is given to us and for which we are equipped for by God, all be for the glory of God!

Journal Notes:

day 17

Tuesday, February 4 | 2025

God's Will

Bible Reading: Proverbs 19:21; Matthew 6:10

[Video: Pastor Jon Bosma]

We might have 1,000 ideas of our own, but it is not our plans that will prevail. It can be difficult to set our own agenda aside. Sometimes setting our own agenda aside can be painful. We have crafted this beautiful plan for our lives. We have created all these hopes and dreams. We see how they form the most perfect life. But it may all be our plan and not God's plan. It is only God's plan that can prevail. Ours will not last. But to get on God's plan it means setting ours down, and that isn't always easy. It means that the hopes and dreams that we have been crafting for so long might no longer be possible.

On the other hand it does mean that we get to pick up some new hopes and dreams. Ones that God has created, and God's plans are so much greater than our own. He is the one that can bring life out of death. He is the one that causes light to break in where there was darkness. God alone is the one that has the big picture. He is the one that can see all the pieces coming together way before we can.

It is a bold and scary prayer to say, "Your will be done." It takes great courage to hand the reigns over to God. But it is here when we trust in him that he does the most incredible things. It is when we step into his plans that he slowly reveals to us just how amazing his plan really is.

In your own life pray "Your will be done." Ask God for the courage to follow him wherever he is leading. And then pray this for Bethel Church as well. Pray, "Your will be done," on behalf of the church. Pray that we too would have the courage to set our own desires aside and to follow the will of God wherever it takes us.

day 18

Wednesday, February 5 | 2025

Local Schools

Bible Reading: Proverbs 22:6

The local schools have been given a big task. The Christian schools, public schools, and home schools are all trying to teach the next generation. They are working to prepare the students for their future. Together we pray that God would lead the Administrators, the teachers, the custodians, the bus drivers, and anyone else who contributes to the work of a school. We pray that God would use their influence to develop into who God wants them to be. We hope that their skills and passions will be focused so that they can be best prepared for the work that God has for them.

Challenge: At some point in the next week drive or walk to a school near you. Pray over that school. Pray that God would bless both the adults and the students.

Journal Notes:

week 3

40 days of Prayer