

455 South Church Street  
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 10:00-2:00

or by appointment (336-829-5060)  
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## Prayer Support Groups

### On Wings Prayer Support Group

First Monday of each Month  
Calvary Central  
5000 County Club Rd  
Room B 1309  
6:30 to 8:00pm

### River Oaks Prayer Support

Second and Fourth Tuesday  
each month  
6:30—8:00 River Oaks Church  
Room #4.

Led by Jeff and Sherye Hall  
The group will be studying the book  
*Boundaries*. Books can be  
purchased at the study for \$5

### First Baptist Church in Sparta

meets for Prayer/Support each Mon-  
day night at 6:30.  
Leaders are Joseph and Carolyn  
Caldwell

## Calvary Prayer Support Speakers

**January 4:** Stephen and Michelle Powell with Transformed Lives Ministries. Visit their website at:  
[www.transformedlivesws.com](http://www.transformedlivesws.com)

**February 1:** Tonya Fultz will share her testimony and about her ministry to Women Prisoners

# On Wings Like a Dove

A Ministry for the Loved ones of Prodigals and Prisoners

Psalm 55:6

## Words from Sandra

It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay" Ecclesiastes 5:5.

How many times do we make New Year's resolutions only to break them before the first week of the year is completed? Why don't you take the time right now to make one or two resolutions and determine to stick by them? Be very careful when you make oaths or vows to God because He takes those very seriously as you read in our key passage.

Why not make only 2-3 vows or resolutions this year. Write them down and take inventory ever so often. Check up on how you are doing or have a friend who will help keep you accountable. I thought I would share this article with you. Read and look up the Bible passages on the subject. I plan to do just that and to get serious on some things I need to do in 2016 in regards to my physical and spiritual health. Join me and let's keep each other accountable.

What does the Bible say about keeping your  
vows / oaths?

Taken from Got Questions?org.

*Answer:* There are about 30 biblical references to vows, most of which are from the Old Testament. The books of Leviticus and Numbers have several references to vows in relation to offerings and sacrifices. There were dire consequences for the Israelites who made and broke vows, especially vows to God.

"The story of Jephthah illustrates the foolishness of making vows without understanding the consequences. Before leading the Israelites into battle against the Ammonites, Jephthah—described as a mighty man of valor—made a rash vow that he would give to the Lord whoever first came out of doors to meet him if he returned home as the victor. When the Lord granted him victory, the one who came out to meet him was his daughter. Jeph-

thah remembered his vow and offered her to the Lord (Judges 11:29-40). What this account shows us is the foolishness of rash vows.

Perhaps this is why Jesus gave a new commandment concerning vows. "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one" (Matthew 5:33-37).

The principle here is clear for Christians: do not make vows, either to the Lord or to one another. First, we are unable to know for sure whether we will be able to keep vows. The fact that we are prone to the errors in judgment which are part of our fallen nature means that we may make vows foolishly or out of immaturity. Further, we don't know what the future will bring—only God does. We don't know what will happen tomorrow (James 4:14), so to make a vow that we will do or not do something is foolish. God is the one in control, not us, and He "works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Knowing this, we can see that it is unnecessary to make vows and that it indicates a lack of trust in Him. Finally, Jesus commands that our word be sufficient without making vows. When we say "yes" or "no," that's exactly what we should mean. Adding vows or oaths to our words opens us up to the influence of Satan whose desire is to trap us and compromise our Christian testimony.

If we have made a vow foolishly and realized we cannot or should not keep it, we should confess it to God, knowing that He is "faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." A broken vow, while serious, is not an unforgivable matter if taken to the Lord in true confession. God will not hold us to vows made imprudently, but He expects us to obey Jesus and refrain from making vows in the future".

Have a joyous New Year as you commit your life to God and His will for you and your family.



PRISCILLA SHIRER

# The Armor of God



## The Armor of God

By Priscilla Shirer

Beginning Tuesday, January 12, 2016 Janet Linville, our Prayer Coordinator will be teaching *The Armor of God*. If you or anyone you know would like to learn how to "suit up" with the Armor of God, come join us at 12:30 at our office at 455 S. Church Street in Old Salem. Charles Stanley teaches that we need to put on the Full Armor of God before our feet even touch the floor in the mornings because our enemy has his darts aimed at us. We need God's protection each and every day so come learn how to best apply your suit.

# Prayer Thoughts

by Janet Linville

January is the first month of the year and we sometimes tend to make New Year resolutions that we don't usually follow through on. All of us have things that we want to do in life and that we want to accomplish, but sometimes other 'things' just get in our way. At the end of the day or the month, or even the end of the year, we still have not accomplished our goal. So we then experience regret and disappointment because we feel we just aren't disciplined enough to finish anything.



*Ecclesiastes 7:8 says, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit."*

I have things in my life that I need to do as a Mother, wife, Grandmother and friend that I sometimes don't 'feel' like doing, but I realize that unless I do those things, they just won't get done. I know I'm not the only one who feels this way, and I can honestly say that after I accomplish this 'thing', I feel pretty good about it. That I actually finished something that I was dreading to do. I think that's what the above verse is trying to say. Be patient and dedicated to what you want to accomplish in life.

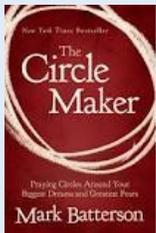
If you have something that you have always wanted to do, whether it's finishing school, college, to lose weight, or to stop doing something that you know is not beneficial to you, why not just set your mind on changing things for the better and then reap the benefits of a completed task. Ask God to help you and you might be surprised what you and He can accomplish together. Blessings to you all.

## Weekly Volunteers at On Wings

Thank you to our volunteers who are so faithful week after week. On Wings appreciates you all so much.



## BOLD PRAYERS



The On Wings Board members and some of our other staff have joined us by reading *The Circle Maker* as it looked at the powerful insights from the true legend of Honi the circle maker, a first-century Jewish sage whose bold prayer ended a drought and saved a generation. Drawing inspiration from his own experiences as a circle maker, Batterson will teach you how to pray a new way by drawing prayer circles around your dreams, your family, your problems, and most importantly, God's promises. In the process, you'll discover this simple yet life-changing truth:

### **GOD HONORS BOLD PRAYERS AND BOLD PRAYERS HONOR GOD.**

What better way to start the New Year off than by learning to pray boldly. We encourage you to purchase you a copy and join us as we Circle the Ministry, our Prodigals, the Prisoners we minister to, and their families. We are excited for 2016 and how we will see the answers to our Bold Prayers.

