

PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1997 Pleasant Ridge Road

State Road, N.C. 28676

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Daily Bread

“Give us this day our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11

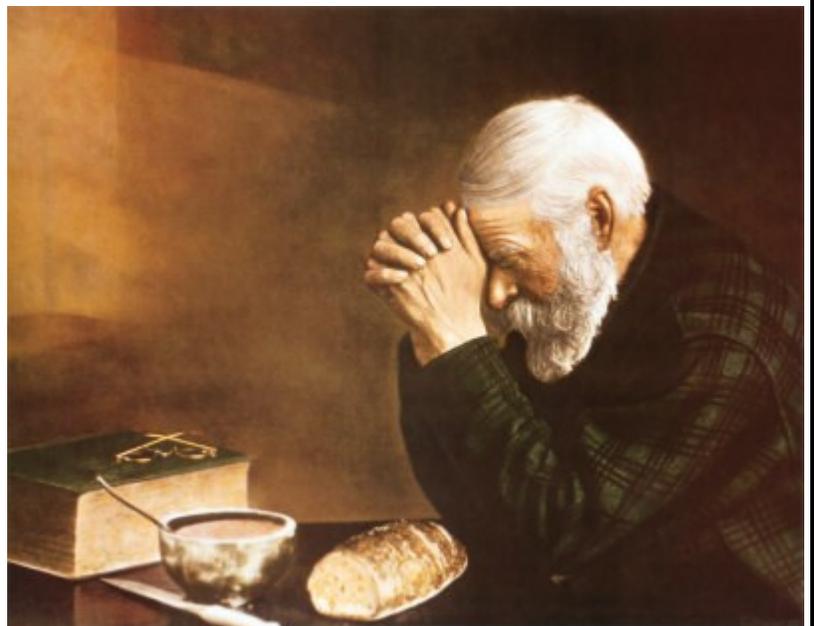
“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.” (Exodus 16:4) When Jesus taught us to pray for our daily bread, one would have to think that He was remembering Moses and the children of Israel as they received their daily manna in the dew. During the night God would rain down manna from Heaven, the bread of angels, (*Psalms 78:25*) and they would go out each day and get what they needed. Never were they to accumulate more than a days worth, never were they to store a surplus. Each day God would give them what was needed for that day.

How wonderful it would be to have God bring home your groceries every day! To have Him ring your doorbell and say, *“Good morning! Here is your breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as snacks.”* To know no need yet to need no surplus. But why would you need the surplus unless there were days God did not deliver? One of Jesus’ lessons on prayer was to pray that the Father, Who is in Heaven, Who is holy, and Who we are to submit too, would once again put us on His grocery route. But do we trust Him to provide our daily bread? Would we keep a surplus hiding in the cabinets just in case? Would we be content eating manna everyday? After we have known the convenience of aisle after aisle of food at the grocery store, from which we pick and choose what we eat, would we want God’s provision each day? Daily bread brings security but it requires surrender. Yet if we are not willing to surrender then there is no security. The Father simply asks us to trust Him to bring manna in the dew. Daily He pours out Heaven’s finest yet we complain because we want more of what the world has put together. Daily security, Heaven’s best, no surplus yet total surrender. Jesus teaches, if this is what you want, then pray for it.

I’m praying for y’all today! Walking in Jesus’ shadow is not easy, so praise God for His presence and love!

Jason

Eph. 5:1



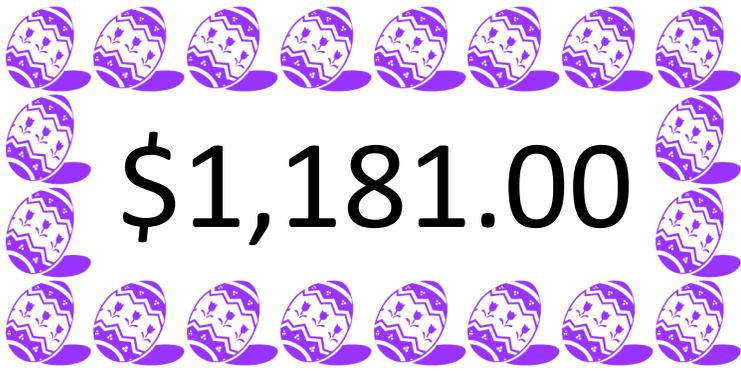
God's Blessings April 19, 2020

Budget Needs:	\$6,796.32
Budget Receipt:	\$5,086.00
Annie Armstrong:	\$200.00
Baptist Men in Memory Of Cyrus Smith	\$75.00

God's Blessings April 26, 2020

Budget Needs:	\$6,796.32
Budget Receipt:	\$5,280.00
Baptist Men in Memory Of Cyrus Smith	\$71.00

YTD Annie Armstrong



Successful Blood Drive: The High Spirits would like to thank all donors who came out to the blood drive to donate in spite of these difficult times. American Red Cross took every precaution possible to make it a safe place to be. We collected 46 pints that day with our goal being 38 pints. It just seemed like a time when people wanted to do something and giving blood is such an essential to help heal these patients. Again thank you so very much. Remember you can donate every 56 days. There is a drive every 3rd Monday of each month at the Elkin Rescue Squad.

The Ark Meals: Time to sign up for 2020! There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule. See Debbie Garner for details and inquires.

Blessing Box Supplies: The blessing box outside the church is being utilized a lot and PRBC is having a hard time keeping it full. Would you please consider donating non-perishable foods, canned foods, small personal care items. While PRBC is closed, please put items directly into the box. Please contact Keely Tharpe for donation suggestions and more information.

PRBC Credit Card Holders: Just a reminder that credit card receipts need to be into the office by the 23rd of each month. Thank you!

Question: "What does the Bible say about pandemic diseases/sicknesses?"

Answer: Various outbreaks of pandemic diseases, such as the coronavirus, have prompted many to ask why God allows—or even causes—pandemic diseases and whether such illnesses are a sign of the end times. The Bible, particularly the Old Testament, describes numerous occasions when God brought plagues and diseases on His people and on His enemies “to make you see my power” ([Exodus 9:14, 16](#)). He used [plagues on Egypt](#) to force Pharaoh to free the Israelites from bondage, while sparing His people from being affected by them ([Exodus 12:13; 15:26](#)), thus indicating His sovereign control over diseases and other afflictions.

It's sometimes hard to imagine our loving and merciful God displaying such wrath and anger toward His people. But God's punishments always have the goal of repentance and restoration. In [2 Chronicles 7:13–14](#), God said to Solomon, “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Here we see God using disaster to draw His people to Himself, to bring about [repentance](#) and the desire to come to Him as children to their heavenly Father.

In the New Testament, Jesus healed “every disease and every sickness,” as well as plagues in the areas He visited ([Matthew 9:35; 10:1; Mark 3:10](#)). Just as God chose to use plagues and disease to show His power to the Israelites, Jesus healed as an exhibition of the same power to verify that He was truly the Son of God. He gave the same healing power to the disciples to verify their ministry ([Luke 9:1](#)). God still allows sickness for His own purposes, but sometimes disease, even worldwide pandemics, are simply the result of living in a fallen world. There is no way to determine whether or not a pandemic has a specific spiritual cause, but we do know that God has sovereign control over all things ([Romans 11:36](#)) and will work all things together for the good of those who know and love Him ([Romans 8:28](#)).

The appearance of pandemic diseases may or may not be tied to God's specific judgment of sin. It could also simply be the result of living in a fallen world. Since no one knows the time of Jesus' return, we must be careful about saying global pandemics are proof that we are living in the end times. For those who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior, disease should be a reminder that life on this earth is tenuous and can be lost at any moment. As bad as pandemics are, hell will be worse. The Christian, however, has the assurance of salvation and the hope of eternity because of the blood of Christ shed on the cross for us ([Isaiah 53:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:28](#)).

How should Christians respond to pandemic diseases? First, do not panic. God is in control. The Bible says the equivalent of "[do not fear](#)" over 300 times. Second, be wise. Take reasonable steps to avoid exposure to the disease and to protect and provide for your family. Third, look for opportunities for ministry. Often when people are fearful for their lives, they are more willing to have conversations about eternity. Be bold and compassionate in your sharing of the Gospel, always speaking the truth in love ([Ephesians 4:15](#)).

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