



Kelham Korner

KELHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
3400 North Meridian
Mail: P.O. Box 12605
Oklahoma City, OK 73157
(405) 946-9826
kelham.org

Wednesday, April 2, 2025



God is Faithful

Newer Requests

- Shelley & Allen Cloud—health
- Joan Cox—continued healing/strength
- Steve Daniel (Justine Hoel's son-in-law)—cancer
- Betty Decker—cancer
- Gary Goree—full recuperation
- Mitzi and Roger Hembree—health (cancer of tongue)
- Wayne Hendricks—strength
- Floyd & Twila Howard—health
- Julia Huntley
- Toni Huntley
- Littleton family—*unspoken*
- Chris McEver
- Chris, brother of Ginger Montgomery—*health*
- Billye Murrell—*strength*
- Pam Sherrod
- Del Wilburn (Kathy Rattan's father)—*declining health*

Ongoing Prayer Needs

- Glenda Anderson—health
- Beverly & Mike Beardain—health/memory; Chad Bette Fehrle—health
- Mark Handley's son & his brother, Tracy
- Brady Hurd—nephew of Julia Huntley, *stage 4 cancer*
- Danny Imhoff—*health*
- Margaret Keillor, wife of pastor's friend—*radiation*
- David Smith—friend of Mark Handley, heart issues
- Sawyer Vincent—Danny and Tina's grandson—health
- Becca Rocco's sister-in-law, Kathy Ketter
- New leaders and representatives

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM Military

Heather Riggins; Floyd Howard's grandson

Our Homebound

- Sam Castleberry
- Lloyd and Joan Dickerson (Burlson, TX)
- Billye Murrell (assisted living, Texas)
- Donna Shick, Carol Kimberlin's mother (Grace, Bethany)
- Justine Hoel (Bellevue, Room 446A)

Our College Students

- Hallie Benedict—Southwest Baptist
- Madi Montgomery—Wichita State University
- Donavon Pietzsch—North Texas State University
- Mieka Pietzsch—University of Oklahoma

Makenna Vess—OCCC

For addresses and phone numbers call the office.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:13)

April Birthdays

- 3 Remi Rocco
- 4 Barry Parks
- Noah Cole
- 6 Brad Cole
- 16 Cecil Elliott
- 29 Shirley McEver

Week of Prayer for North American Missions

March 2—9

Our Goal: \$2000

STEP INTO THE STORY



Stewardship for Morning **3/30/2025**
NO COUNTS AVAILABLE
AT TIME OF PRINTING

COMING EVENTS

April 1—Preparation for Easter Egg distribution at Senior Center

April 6—all-church fellowship after evening service

April 11—Parents Event at Hope Pregnancy Center (we provide meal)



April 13, Morning Service

Guess Who!

This photo, which Claudia Montgomery provided, is from Children's Camp at Falls Creek in 1988. Claudia is on the front row.



Pre-Vacation Ponderings—Part 2

I have been a pastor since 1976. All those years, I have studied the Bible, just as I did when I was a Sunday School literature editor. I think I learned more as an editor than in seminary. Seminary, however, gave me the tools (Greek and Hebrew) I needed to study the Bible. I remember my first class in New Testament Greek. Our professor taught us Greek vocabulary and grammar while studying the Book of First John in Greek. The Greek John used is rudimentary, not at all like some of the complex sentences the Apostle Paul penned—I think of Ephesians 4:11-16, a favorite. It is one sentence. English teachers would say, “That’s a run-on sentence.” New Testament Greek did not have punctuation but depended on key words to signal relationships of the words. In Ephesians 4:11-16, we can see that fine breakdown in words like “for” in verse 12 (three times), “till” in verse 13, “unto” (two times) in verse 13, “that” in verse 14, “but” in verse 15, “from” and “unto” in verse 16. How can you track those connections to make sense of what Paul meant? The only way is step by step.

Diagramming sentences is the best way to see Paul’s main subject and verb, along with the various adjectival and adverbial modifiers. When I was first taught diagramming in elementary school, I absolutely hated it and saw no point. Only when I met New Testament Greek did I see the point. If we were to diagram that one sentence, we would see that the main point is that God gave certain individuals (apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers) “for” the “perfecting of the saints.” “For” is the Greek word “*προς*,” to face something. “Perfecting” is a Greek word used for outfitting a ship with supplies before a journey, of a doctor repairing a broken bone or of furnishing a house in which to live. The next “for” is not the same word, though the King James Translators used the same English word. The word Paul indicates a goal and signifies the ultimate goal of the gift of these individuals—*εις*. God gave these individuals to equip Christians so that we can all do the work of ministry, or service. The result of that work is given by the third “for” (the same as the previous “for”) “for the edifying of the body of Christ.” We get the word “edifice,” or building, from the word; it means to construct. These individuals equip; every Christian does ministry; that results in the church growing and becoming stronger.

Paul did not stop there. He gave a time frame: “Till we all come in the unity of the faith.” The goal we are pointed toward (the meaning of “come”) is oneness of faith—the same faith, equal faith. This is not ecumenism, sacrificing basic truth so we all agree. The oneness of faith consists in the “knowledge of the Son of God.” “Knowledge” refers to knowledge by experience, and Paul added a prefix to the word that adds intensity—full knowledge, complete knowledge. That is “a perfect man,” a mature, complete, full-grown adult. Paul expanded on that idea, explaining it is “the measure of the stature of Christ.” Those three ideas

—unity of the faith, knowledge of the Son of God, perfect man—are “the measure of the stature of Christ.” We are to become like Jesus in our maturity.

Paul explained the growth of the church results from all believers exercising our gifts and Christians doing our work of ministry—“that we henceforth be no more children.” What are children like? They are mercurial. One day they want to be a fireman or model; the next day they want to be a garbage truck driver or beautician. They are “tossed to and fro.” Immature Christians vacillate from one thing to another. Paul described that as “carried about by every wind of doctrine.” These are nautical images Paul’s readers understood well (he had experienced shipwreck at three times, according to 2 Corinthians 11:25). Christian immaturity is exploited by false teachers, philosophers, and thinkers—“by the sleight of men,” a term used of throwing dice, which were often loaded to cheat. This is “cunning craftiness,” subtle trickery, a methodical (“lie in wait”) attempt at deception. Either by lying about the Word of God (which Satan has done since the Garden of Eden) or tricks of logic and false reasoning, certain individuals seek to wreck the faith of new or immature Christians.

The contrast is “speaking the truth in love.” Literally, the Greek is “truing in love,” not just speech but a whole way of living. As we do that we grow into Him (Christ) in all things (full-grown adult), the Head of the church, which Paul pictured as a human body. He ties everything back to the Head, Christ, who together harmonizes (“fitly joined together”) the parts of the body, which are “compacted,” or knitted together, by what every part supplies (every member of the body of Christ is necessary), as each part energizes (“effectual working”), functioning as Christ assigned. Everybody is necessary, and every one of us must be tuned into the Head, Jesus, for the church to function as Christ designed it.

The result of this whole process is growth of the body of Christ, which, in turn, builds up the body, and all this takes place in the atmosphere of love. It is no accident that 1 Corinthians 13, the so-called “love chapter,” is placed right smack-dab in the middle of a discussion of spiritual gifts. We truth in love; we live in love; we grow in love. Without love, the kind of love God has for the world, nothing works correctly. The church, the body of Christ, flourishes in an atmosphere of self-giving love. Apart from that, to paraphrase J. B. Phillips’s translation of First Corinthians 13, we are “blaring brass” or a “crashing cymbal.” We amount to nothing at all. We achieve nothing at all. When we function properly in love, we make beautiful music that delights our Father in heaven. Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35).



Brother Gary