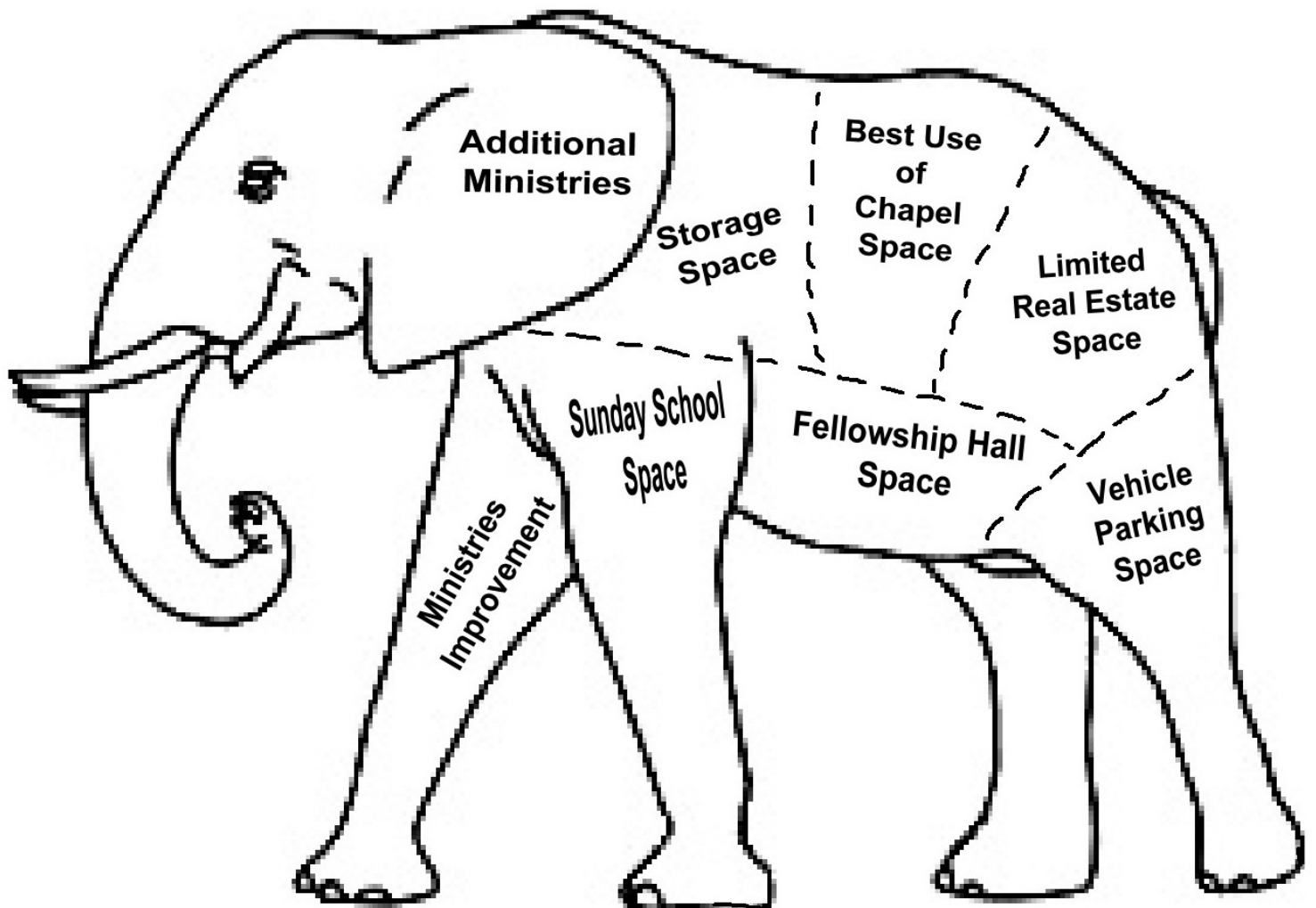


Mt. Vernon's



'Big & Heavy' Issues

Seven Laps of Prayer in Finding GOD's Plans for Mt. Vernon

Lap 1

"Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in." Joshua 6:1

TRUTH:

Realize that these are GOD-sized issues that He has to answer.

O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

"Sacrifice and meal offering Thou hast not desired. My ears Thou hast opened; burnt offering and sin offering Thou hast not required." Psalm 40:6

We are facing a problem as the Israelites did, for which neither they nor we can see the resolution. It is a GOD-sized problem. Realize that the space needs which are recognized today are GOD-sized issues that **HE** has to answer. **Pray for GOD to open our ears and to speak us.**

Psalm 115 (NIV)

¹ *Not to us, LORD, not to us
but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.*

² *Why do the nations say,
"Where is their GOD?"*

³ *Our GOD is in heaven;
he does whatever pleases him.*

PRAYER:

Thank GOD for His love and faithfulness He has demonstrated to you personally and to our church. Acknowledge that GOD has a plan and He will do what pleases Him concerning the future of our church. Ask Him to show us His will, realizing that GOD can make happen events that we never thought possible.

Lap 2

"And the LORD said to Joshua, 'See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors'." Joshua 6:2

TRUTH:

Realize GOD's power in answering prayer.

Great is the LORD, He is holy and just;
By His power we trust in His love.
Great is the LORD, He is faithful and true;
By His mercy He proves He is love.

"He shall then sprinkle seven times the one who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the live bird go free over the open field."

Leviticus 14:7

GOD has the power to deliver the answer to us. Pray knowing that GOD will reveal the answers we seek in a way we recognize His power and majesty.

Proverbs 3 (KJV)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

PRAYER:

"GOD, I trust you. Help me to keep my mind on You rather than what doubters may say."

Lap 3

"And you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days." Joshua 6:3

TRUTH:

Realize that GOD can instruct us in the details of His plans.

If you will only let GOD guide you,
And hope in Him thro' all your ways,
Whatever comes, He'll stand beside you,
To bear you thro' the evil days;
Who trusts in GOD's unchanging love
Builds on the Rock that cannot move.

"Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his GOD, as he had been doing previously." Daniel 6:10

GOD WILL instruct us in the details of His plans.

"I will instruct you and show you the way to go; with My eye on you, I will give counsel." Psalm 32:8 (HCSB)

PRAYER:

Ask GOD to forgive your worrying. He will show the next step and the next and the next, in time.

Lap 4

*"So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them,
Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests carry
seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."*

Joshua 6:6

TRUTH:

Realize GOD wants us to be bold.

Be strong in the LORD, and be of good courage;
Your mighty Defender is always the same.
Mount up with wings, as the eagle ascending;
Vict'ry is sure when you call on His name.

*"For where two or three have gathered together in My name,
there I am in their midst."*

Matthew 18:20

GOD desires us to be bold. Boldly pray as a group of believers seeking GOD's will.

*"In your unfailing love you will lead
the people you have redeemed.
In your strength you will guide them
to your holy dwelling."*

Exodus 15:13 (NIV)

PRAYER:

"And let me leave the outcomes to You, LORD."

Lap 5

"And it was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward and blew the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them." Joshua 6:8

TRUTH:

Realize the need of boldness to be obedient.

When my wav'ring faith, in trials, falters,
When His guiding hand I cannot see,
Then in wondrous love and tender mercy,
Thro' His Word He says to me, My child, just
Trust Me, try Me, prove Me,
saith the LORD of hosts, and see
If a blessing, unmeasured blessing,
I will not pour out on thee.

**Joshua and the people followed GOD's instructions with boldness.
Pray for boldness to be obedient.**

Psalm 119 (HCSB)

⁷² Instruction from Your lips is better for me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

⁷³ Your hands made me and formed me;
give me understanding
so that I can learn Your commands.

⁷⁴ Those who fear You will see me and rejoice,
for I put my hope in Your word.

PRAYER:

Through GOD's Word, there is hope. Meditate on GOD's promises.

Lap 6

"Then it came about on the seventh day that they rose early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same manner seven times; only on that day they marched around the city seven times." Joshua 6:15

TRUTH:

Realize the importance of unity in the church body.

We are one in the bond of love;
We are one in the bond of love.
We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of GOD;
We are one in the bond of love.

"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 18:19

Unity is important to GOD. Pray for unity in the church body.

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." Psalm 118:22 (KJV)

PRAYER:

Remember that GOD is the cornerstone, the focus, the foundation of everything we do.

Lap 7

"So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and it came about, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, that the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city." Joshua 6:20

TRUTH:

Realize GOD can and will answer our prayers.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless:
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer.

"It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear." Isaiah 65:24

GOD knows and answers the prayers of His people who pray humbly to Him.

Ephesians 3 (HCSB)

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think – according to the power that works in us –

²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER:

Pray expectantly and confidently about these GOD-sized issues (big and heavy ones), trusting that GOD will, in His wisdom and good timing, reveal all that we need in order to be a light in the community and world.