

August 29/30, 2026

"I Am Being Saved"

Pastor Jeff Manion



Beyond the
Weekend

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY, + ACT.

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | **September:** Corporate Prayer

Each month, journey through a different biblical model of prayer.

Day 1 [Romans 6:11–18](#) | Sanctification Is About Freedom

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. Romans 6:18

Paul opens [Romans 6](#) by reminding his readers what's already true: they're sinners who need a Savior, made right with God through faith, and joined with Christ in his death and resurrection. Then in [verse 11](#), everything shifts. "In the same way," Paul writes, "count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." From here on, everything flows from that one idea: sin no longer has a hold on them. Later in the passage, Paul pictures this as a change of ownership: set free from sin, they now belong to righteousness ([Romans 6:18](#)). They were justified in the past, but they're also being saved right now from sin's ongoing pull.

Jesus wants to free us, day by day, from sin and the habits that keep us from flourishing. Maybe that's freedom from bitterness, wounds from the past, the need to always be right, simmering anger, lust, or the illusion that more money will fill the ache in our hearts. But freedom isn't only freedom from—it's freedom to: love people who are hard to love, remembering Jesus loved us in our mess, and letting go of an offense instead of carrying it. It's the freedom to trust God with tomorrow, rather than anxiety stealing today's joy, and to find contentment instead of needing to impress or control everything around us. This isn't a one-time fix—it's a daily process of walking with Jesus in freedom. He wants us to be free, and that process of sanctification continues throughout our whole lives.

TODAY: Pray and ask God where he wants you to be free. Confess the places where you feel stuck, and ask him to bring freedom.

Day 2 [Ephesians 2:8–10](#) | Sanctification Is A Response

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Paul writes to the Ephesians to strengthen their faith and help them grasp their new life in Christ. Paul doesn't open with commands, but with their identity in Christ ([Ephesians 1:1–14](#)). Before they could learn how to live for Christ, they needed to see how desperate their situation had been without him. They were spiritually dead in their sin. But because of his great love and mercy, God made them alive in Christ. They were already forgiven, already adopted, already chosen. The order matters: their good works aren't the price for what Jesus has done for them—they're the fruit of it. They were saved from sin and saved for good works. That's sanctification: the response to a justification already given.

We often get this order backward. We assume that if we're good enough or work hard enough, God will love us. But it's actually the other way around. Our faith in Jesus doesn't combine with our good works to make us right with God—faith alone does that, and good works flow out of it. It was never about earning God's grace,

but simply responding to it. A good life doesn't cause our salvation; it's the result of it. When we forget that order, obedience turns into an exhausting performance instead of a grateful response. But when we remember it, we're free to obey out of love instead of fear, resting in a grace we could never have earned.

TODAY: Before a hard task or conversation, pause and pray: "I'm yours—not to earn you, but because you're already mine." Let that truth carry you instead of the pressure to perform.

Day 3 [Philippians 2:12–13](#) | Sanctification Is God's Work and Yours

Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:12b–13

Paul writes this letter from a prison cell, yet his words overflow with unexpected joy. He thanks God for the Philippians and their partnership in the gospel, even as they face real pressure for their faith in Jesus. Paul points them back to their union with Christ, and then urges them to keep working out their salvation with fear and trembling. He isn't asking them to work for their salvation — Jesus's death and resurrection already secured that gift. Instead, Paul calls them to keep asking God to continue what he's already begun in them, cooperating with his Holy Spirit.

Sanctification, becoming more like Jesus, is something God does in us, not for us. We have to cooperate, and that takes work. It takes work to forgive someone who wounded us. It takes work to let go of bitterness and resentment. It takes work to break free from an addiction that has a grip on our lives. None of this happens on our own strength, and none of it happens without our participation either. As we submit to him daily, he slowly shapes our desires, our reactions, and our character to look more like Jesus.

TODAY: Reflect on one area where you need to cooperate with God's work in you. Consider what a good first step would look like. For many, that step is joining a small group, a place to grow and find real accountability. Sign up for a group [HERE](#).

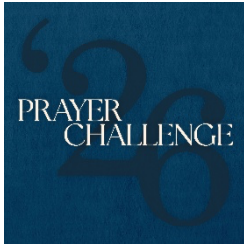
Day 4 [1 John 4:7–8](#) | Sanctification Will Happen

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. 1 John 4:7a

John is one of Jesus's closest friends. He walks with him, eats with him, lives life with him. Years later, as an older man writing to the early church, John's letters reveal one theme that rises above the rest: love. John teaches that one of the clearest outward signs of sanctification—someone truly growing in following Jesus—is loving God and loving others. Once someone grasps the great love of God, they're able to turn around and love others in return. It flows out of them, not because they're trying hard, but because it's the evidence that they are being sanctified.

Here's the good news: if we have been saved and justified, sanctification will happen. Growth doesn't happen evenly—some seasons will feel intense, and others will feel quiet. But if we've truly been justified, we will grow over the course of our lives to look more and more like Jesus. Often, we don't see the growth day to day, but we see it when we look back over years of following him. We may notice we're quicker to forgive, that love flows more easily, that we complain less, or that we don't get angry as fast. This means the fruit is growing. And if there's no fruit in our lives at all, that's worth paying attention to. It may be time to ask Jesus to do that work in us, and to surrender to whatever it requires.

TODAY: Listen to our worship team sing "[This Is Our God](#)," and let it lead you to a simple response: "I'm back in," or "I'm still in." Then thank God for who he is and for the growth you can look back on in your own life.



Day 5 [Acts 4:23–31](#) | Praying Together

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. September's focus is Corporate Prayer: praying together as the church.

When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. Acts 4:24a

Peter and John still feel the sting of a jail cell as they walk free. Religious leaders threatened them, commanding them to stop speaking about Jesus. But the Holy Spirit filled them with a boldness no threat could silence. Released, they return to the gathered believers and tell them everything. The church doesn't scatter in fear—they gather closer and lift their voices together in prayer. They don't ask God to remove the danger or make life easier. Instead, they worship him as the sovereign Lord who made heaven and earth, remember his faithfulness, and ask him to give them bold witness and stretch out his hand in power. As they pray, the room shakes, and God fills them again with his Spirit.

Like the early church, we have the same Holy Spirit living in us today. The room may not shake when we pray, but the same power is present whenever believers lift their voices together. This is corporate prayer—praying together as the church. We do this every weekend as we gather for service, in groups, and with friends and family throughout the week. Corporate prayer reminds us that we don't face hard circumstances by ourselves. As we worship God together and ask him to move in our lives, our city, our neighborhoods, and our families, we align our hearts as one before him. What might God do if we lifted our voices together and asked him to move in power among us?

TODAY: Pray with someone this week—a friend, a small group, or someone from church. Pray out loud together, and don't worry about having the right words. You can even pray the words of [Acts 4:24–30](#) together.