

October 17/18, 2026

“The Temple”

Pastor Aaron Buer



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

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | October: Surrender

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

Day 1 [Genesis 2:8–17](#) | The Garden Temple

Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.
Genesis 2:8

God speaks the earth into existence. It teems with life and beauty. In the beginning, God dwells with Adam and Eve in the garden, and heaven and earth meet in perfect union. Though God gives Adam and Eve work to do, their first responsibility is to know him and walk with him. They are to enjoy God and rest in him. This garden temple represents the core calling of life—to know and enjoy God. God also tasks Adam and Eve with extending the blessings and beauty of their life with him in the garden outward to the rest of creation.

We were made for God. This theme runs throughout the Bible’s story. The psalmists ache to know God, crying out, “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God” ([Psalm 42:1](#)). Knowing and enjoying God is the highest calling of our lives. We can stay busy with many things and miss the heart of what life is all about. Like Adam and Eve, we fall short in this pursuit. Yet each day gives us an opportunity to know God more deeply and walk with him more faithfully.

TODAY: Embrace opportunities to think about and pursue God. Change the lock screen on your phone or set alarms to remind you of God’s presence. Challenge yourself every hour to slow down and reflect on the goodness of God. We were made to know and enjoy him in the ordinary moments of each day.

Day 2 [Exodus 25:1–9](#) | The Temple Buildings

“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.” Exodus 25:8–9

God rescues his people from Egypt in dramatic fashion. Now the Israelites wander in the wilderness. Here, God meets them and reveals his plan to dwell among them. He gives Moses plans for a tabernacle—a portable temple fit for people on the move in the wilderness. Later, God instructs his people to build a temple in Jerusalem, which becomes the center of Israel’s religious life and worship. Both the tabernacle and the temple reveal God’s heart: to “dwell among them” ([Exodus 25:8](#)).

God desires to dwell with us. Right living starts with a right view of God. If we see God as distant, cold, or harsh, we will not approach him or know him as he really is. But the tabernacle reveals God’s heart toward us. He loves us and wants to be with us. His love should draw us closer to him and empower our own eager pursuit of him. If God went to such great lengths to dwell with us—especially through the coming and work of Jesus—how much more should we seek to dwell with him?

TODAY: Spend some time journaling about your view of God. Be honest with yourself as you describe how you think about him. Then praise God for his character and ask him to help you align your view of him with what is true.

Day 3 [Mark 15:37–39](#) | The Walking Temple

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” Mark 15:37–39

Mark’s Gospel tells the story of Jesus’s coming as the long-awaited Savior and Son of God. Mark’s purpose is clear from its opening verse: to present Jesus as “the Messiah, the Son of God” ([Mark 1:1](#)). Yet the first person in the book to call Jesus the Son of God doesn’t appear until the end—and it’s by a Roman centurion! This soldier watches how Jesus dies and affirms Jesus’s identity as the Son of God. At Jesus’s death, the temple curtain tears in two “from top to bottom,” a sign of God opening the gates of heaven through Jesus’s work on the cross.

Our sin and rebellion separate us from God. Though we were made to dwell with God and enjoy him forever, we have turned away from him through our sin. Ever since God banished Adam and Eve from the garden, the message to humanity has been “access denied” ([Genesis 3:23–24](#)). But through the work of Jesus, the message is now “access granted.” We can know and dwell with God through what Jesus accomplished in his death and resurrection. God has made a way for our salvation through Jesus’s victory over sin and death.

TODAY: Jesus died so that we might live. If you have never received his gift of life, make today the day you put your faith in Jesus. If you have, celebrate the goodness of God revealed in Jesus by singing “[King of All the Nations](#)” with our worship team.

For more encouragement, listen to the *Beyond the Weekend Podcast* as the team discusses last weekend’s sermon—find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on YouTube [HERE](#).

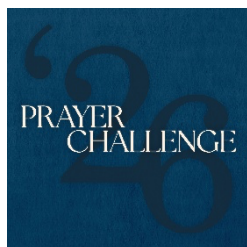
Day 4 [2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1](#) | Growing in Holiness

What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” 2 Corinthians 6:16

Paul writes a series of passionate letters to the church in Corinth. He pleads with these believers to align their lives with Jesus’s better way. A wide range of cultural pressures pull the church away from Jesus, so Paul offers a loving rebuke. After the church begins to turn back to Christ and his ways, Paul reminds them of their identity and how belonging to Jesus should shape the way they live. Drawing from Old Testament teaching, he reminds them that God’s people in Jesus are now the temple of God. As God’s temple, they must live pure lives that reflect the work he has done in them ([2 Corinthians 7:1](#)).

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are the temple of God. God’s Spirit dwells among us. This truth should transform how we think about ourselves, how we view fellow believers, and how we live. We must purify our lives to reflect our new identity, turning from anything that does not reflect who we now are. This could mean cutting off impure relationships, stepping away from destructive habits, or even putting off speech patterns that don’t belong in the temple of God.

TODAY: Ask God to reveal whether your life reflects your identity as his dwelling place. Confess anything he brings to mind, and thank him for the gift of his Spirit living in you.



Day 5 [Philippians 4:11–13](#) | The Secret of Contentment

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. October's focus is Prayers of Surrender: yielding our will to God's will.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

Philippians 4:12

Paul writes a passionate letter to fellow believers in Philippi while chained in prison. He knows these believers personally. He started the church there during his second missionary journey, about a decade earlier ([Acts 16](#)). His letter of joy calls them to fix their hearts on Jesus and follow Jesus's example of self-giving love. Paul also points to his own experience of finding supernatural joy and contentment in Jesus, whatever his circumstances. He knows both prosperity and poverty. Yet through both, he learned that Jesus is enough. This truth grounds his heart and steadies his joy in the best and worst of times.

We often tie our satisfaction in life directly to our circumstances. If life goes well, we are well. If life is rocky, so are our faith and joy. But Paul's example points to a more joyful and stable way to live. Rather than anchoring our joy to turbulent circumstances, we can pray and ask for supernatural contentment in Jesus. Knowing him is abundant life, whether we have earthly riches or not. This is the secret to lasting contentment: Jesus is enough.

TODAY: Thank God for the gift of Jesus. As you praise him, ask him for strength to resist the lie that life comes from anything else. Then, as you go through your day, pray this simple, life-changing truth: Thank you that Jesus is enough.