



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
**O'FALLON**  
ILLINOIS

## Adult Ministries' Vision Statement

**We envision ministries that help our adults become fully devoted followers of Christ that honor Him with their hearts and not just their lips. Ministries that help adults **know and live God's Word**. Adults who **make a difference for Him**.**

"These people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me." -- Matthew 15:8

"Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding." -- Proverbs 3:5

### KNOW the WORD

- **Do You Know the Word, Jesus Christ and Have A Personal Relationship With Him? Are you introducing others to Jesus?**

"The Word became flesh  
and took up residence among us.  
We observed His glory,  
the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth." John 1:14

- **Are You Making Reading and Studying Your Bible a Priority?**

"The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom; his tongue speaks what is just. 31 The instruction of his God is in his heart; his steps do not falter." -- Psalms 37:30-31

We should read and study the Bible because it is God's Word to us. The Bible is literally "God-breathed" ([2 Timothy 3:16](#))

Nehemiah 8:1-3

I love the picture the Scripture gives us of the revival that broke out when Nehemiah and Ezra gathered God's people to celebrate the completion of Jerusalem's walls. Ezra began to read from the Law, and the Bible says, "The ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law" (Nehemiah 8:3). Isn't that great?! In verse 1 of this story, we're told that the people *asked* Ezra to bring the Law and read from it! There was a famine in the land for the Word of God, and a deep hunger in their hearts to hear from Him.

Can the same thing be said of you today? Do you have a passion and a hunger that cannot be satisfied by anything but Him? If we ever want to see true revival break out in our country, it must begin with personal revival in each of our lives.

It cannot be emphasized strongly enough just how important the Bible is to our lives. Studying the Bible can be compared to mining for gold. If we make little effort and merely "sift through the pebbles in a stream," we will only find a little gold dust. But the more we make an effort to really dig into it, the more reward we will gain for our effort.

Three reasons why we should read and study the Bible:

1. We should read and study the Bible because it is totally reliable and without error
2. We should read and study the Bible because God does not change and because mankind's nature does not change; it is as relevant for us as it was when it was written
3. We should read and study the Bible because there is so much false teaching. The Bible gives us the measuring stick by which we can distinguish truth from error.

The Bible is God's Word. As such, it is as binding as the laws of nature. We can ignore it, but we do so to our own detriment, just as we would if we ignored the law of gravity.

## **LIVE the WORD**

The Bible is a book that is not merely for reading. It is a book for studying so that it can be applied. Otherwise, it is like swallowing food without chewing and then spitting it back out again—no nutritional value is gained by it.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you." -- Psalm 32:8

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light and find out what pleases the Lord." -- Ephesians 5:8–10

- **Are You Abiding in Christ?**

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." -- John 15:5

The Christian life really is very simple...it's not the complicated thing we often try to make it. Jesus reduced the Christian life down to one simple word in the verse above: *abide*.

Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest? He (Jesus) said to him, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' -- Matthew 22:36-37

## **MAKE a DIFFERENCE**

- **Do People See Jesus In You?**

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” -- Matthew 5:14–15

Love your neighbor as yourself. -- Matthew 22:39

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus” -- Philippians 2:3-5

First Corinthians 15:58 tells us to “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord....”

And what exactly does “abounding in the work of the Lord” mean? For one, it means we're actively looking for ways to serve God and serve others. It means we're so busy thinking about what we can do next for the Kingdom that we have little time to think about ourselves, worry, and become discouraged!

Trust in the Lord and do what is good;  
dwell in the land and live securely.  
Take delight in the Lord,  
and He will give you your heart's desires.  
Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in Him, and He will act,  
making your righteousness shine like the dawn,  
your justice like the noonday. -- Psalms 37:3-6