



# The big twelve

## The Elders' prayers for the young men of Bear Creek Church

As shepherds of the flock of God, pastors to your families and those responsible for your care (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2), we have high hopes for you young men of Bear Creek Church. As fellow disciples and men who deal with these issues, here are our prayers for you in the most important areas of life, offered in humility and with gratitude for you:

- 1. Bible:** we pray that you will be a man devoted to the daily appreciation, study and application of the word of God, and that you will love its emphasis on the sovereignty of our holy God in redemption and sanctification (Psalm 119:9; II Timothy 2:15; 3:16,17)
- 2. Parents:** we pray that you will always honor your parents with a kind attitude, and obey them with willing hearts for so long as you are a youth (Ephesians 6:1-2)
- 3. Salvation:** we pray that you will receive the gift of God in Christ Jesus, with undiluted grace, and treasure this gospel above all things and persons (Ephesians 2:6-10)
- 4. Sanctification:** we pray that your relationship with the Lord will grow as you walk worthy of the calling you have received, and that your life will produce fruit that makes this obvious (Eph. 4:1; Matt. 3:8)
- 5. Church:** we pray that you might grow to love, serve - and work for the unity and purity of - the Church, local and universal (Ephesians 4:2; 5:25)
- 6. Humility:** we pray that your life in Christ may be characterized by a heart humbled by the sovereign election of God and displayed in your witness by your love and by your preference for the needs of others above your own (Matthew 11:23; Philippians 2:3; Romans 12:10)
- 7. Outreach:** we pray that you might develop a heart of concern for the spiritual and physical needs of all the world's peoples regardless of race, nationality or ideology (Matthew 28:19-20; Galatians 3:28)
- 8. Women:** we pray that you will treat women, especially your mothers and female peers, with the utmost respect and all protective courtesy. We pray that you will not defraud young ladies by demanding or accepting physical contact or inappropriate exchanges with any (I Corinthians 7:1; I Thessalonians 4:4-6; I Peter 3:7)
- 9. Marriage:** we pray that you might carefully consider any marriage commitment, only to another believer, for the main purpose of modeling Christ's love for his church, and without any expectation of divorce apart from biblical grounds (Ephesians 5:25-33; Mark 10:9; II Corinthians 6:14)
- 10. Family:** we pray that you will give yourself to the pastoring and provision of your wife and children, should you marry and be so blessed, ahead of any other responsibilities or pastimes which may keep you from being the spiritual head of your home (Ephesians 5:23; I Timothy 5:8)
- 11. Temptation to sin:** we pray that you will fight against the very pervasive temptations toward lust and sin, depending on the Holy Spirit for strength and enlisting the support and encouragement of your father or other mature Christian men (Romans 13:13-14; Ephesians 5:18; Ecc. 4:12; Proverbs 27:17)
- 12. Vocation:** we pray that you will make it your aim to lead a quiet life, earning the respect of others by your diligent effort and hard work, intentionally discerning how best to use your unique gifts and talents to build God's kingdom in whatever role you may land (I Thessalonians 4:11-12; Col. 3:17)