

LIFE SPEAKS TO US!

By Bill C. Dotson

PILLARS...mean different things to different people. And I don't mean just Southern slang for "pillows!" The dictionary defines them this way. "*An upright shaft or structure, of stone, brick, or other material, relatively slender in proportion to its height, and of any shape in section, used as a building support, or standing alone, as for a monument.*"

Synonyms come to mind; colonnade, mast, pedestal, pier, pilaster, piling, post, shaft, support, tower or upright. And each of us has witnessed pillars of billowing smoke from some major fire.

I have not been to Rome or Athens, but most of us have seen photos of the gothic pillars there, many in ruins. While in Israel, we visited ancient cities that have been discovered by archaeologists. We saw numerous pillars, some still standing and others collapsed by earthquakes. Having grown up in Middle Tennessee, we often visited the replica of the Parthenon in Nashville.



We also have men and women in society that are considered 'pillars' of the community, or the church. Rock-solid people who stand out from the crowd, dedicated and contributing over and above the norm in many ways! In [Galatians 2:9](#), Paul referred to James, Peter and John as

pillars of the early church.

The Jewish and Christian faiths have underlying tenets that can be defined as the *pillars of their faith*. Muslims have their '*Five Pillars of Islam*' (five basic acts considered mandatory by believers and are the foundation for Muslim life).

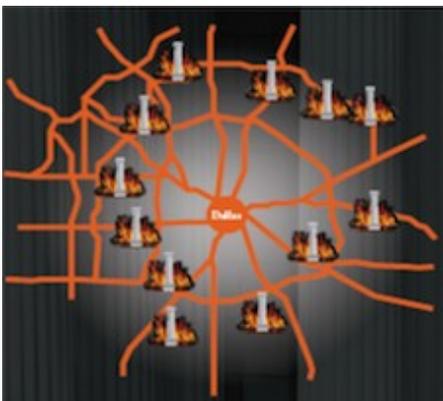
The Bible has many references to pillars, both structural and in worship. My research discovered 124 in the Old Testament and 4 in the New Testament. Paul again told Timothy that the church of the living God is the **"pillar and ground of the truth"** ([I Tim. 3:15b](#)).

Recently, I have been prompted by the Holy Spirit to address the need for revival in the church in America. Having written **Revival of Repentance** based on [II Chronicles 7:14](#), I continue to be troubled by the moral and spiritual decay in our country. After some time in prayer and listening to Him, I was given a vision that I started trying to understand and unpack. It involves *pillars of prayer* and an image of a circle surrounding Dallas County. So, I headed to scripture and references to pillars. None seemed to be particularly relevant until the Lord led me to [Exodus 24:1-8](#). Confusion turned to clarity.

"And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and 12 pillars according to the 12 tribes of Israel" ([vs. 4](#)). God was calling the people of Israel to a covenant relationship. The people agreed and obeyed. Then they made sacrifices and worshipped. The 12 pillars encompassed all of Israel. Today, our sacrifices and worship are prayer and praise. **"Therefore by Him let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name"** ([Heb. 13:15](#)). Both then and now, obedience is required.

At this point, the vision took shape. He showed me 12 pillars of prayer encircling Dallas County. Each pillar comprised of 12 intercessors praying daily for 12 segments of our community that touch all of our lives and the activities of our county.

Fathers and the family	Arts and Entertainment
Religion	Legal and judicial
Government	Fire and police
Education	Penal
Healthcare	Media
Sports	Business and financial



It is a call to prayer, and pray we must; to invoke God's hand of guidance, blessing, power and protection!

Four churches in Carrollton, DeSoto, Cedar Hill and Mesquite are the first four

pillars. We are praying for the other eight, and for someone

12 churches, 12 cities
Surrounding Dallas County

to step forward to direct this. Since we started praying for these 12 community segments a few months ago, I have seen some God-ordained evidence that He is listening and acting.

While praying for our nation in D. C. last year, a pastor told me that God runs His universe through the prayers of His people. I believe it. And can you imagine every county in America having 12 intercessor churches praying daily, in unison, for these 12 segments of their communities?

A Puritan pastor once said; "If prayer is anything, then it is everything." What all of us long to see is: REPENTANCE-REVIVAL-RESTORATION! [II Chronicles 7:14](#) states:

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land."

Do you believe that? Enough to pray, really pray? God is waiting to hear your decision. It starts with 'If'. The alternative is not a pretty picture. Read the rest of [II Chronicles 7](#) and see for yourself. Maybe your church is in Grand Prairie, Richardson, Duncanville, Garland, Irving, Rowlett, Balch Springs or elsewhere. Pray about joining us.

One last piece in this vision puzzle! The pastor of Love City Church in Cedar Hill, one of the 4 current pillars, just gave me a copy of **The Circle Maker** by Mark Batterson, pastor in Washington D.C. Incredibly, it confirms what God has shown me. No further questions! Let's encircle Dallas County and start watching God be God in our communities! A website has just been established, anticipating God's completion of the vision. www.revivalofrepentance.org

Let's storm the gates of hell; on our knees, in our prayer closets. God is as near as a spoken prayer! **Be a 'pillar' in God's community!**

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Scriptures taken from the New King James Version

Definition taken from Dictionary.com