



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

January 18, 2015

Good Company

Moses said to the Lord, *"If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"*—Exodus 33:15-16

It's so important to be right. When we take a trip, we want the right directions. To make the perfect recipe, we want the right ingredients combined in the right way. A visit with the doctor assumes he knows what he is doing, so we get the right diagnosis and the right prescription. We don't want just anybody restoring or repairing our house but someone who will do the job right.

It helps to have directions that show us the right things to do and how to do them, but how much better it is to have someone right there with us to teach and guide us. Like my Mom, who walked me through how to prepare a meal, or my Dad, who took me outside to show me how to cast a line and reel in a fish. Better than having a map or set of directions is to travel with someone who's been there and can show you the way—someone who knows the sights and the best routes around traffic and hazards. There's nothing like personal guidance and support.

Of course, people take up room and have to be dealt with. Company comes with a cost. You have to adapt to their preferences and accommodate their needs. Little things annoy, like when they want to talk when you prefer silence. Or they may insist on doing things their way, when you have other ideas, forcing you to adjust. Sometimes it's simpler just to do things yourself—to go it on our own.

The problem with other people is that—well—they're there. Especially when the other Person is God, who not only has expectations but has the right to expect them. Imagine. The God of perfect wisdom and infinite resources is ready to come at a prayer's call, but we hesitate, preferring to go our way, because it's Our way.

There is a sweetness in prayer, but also a wrestling. The sweetness comes from being in the presence of the One who made us, placed us in a perfect world, filled it with every good thing to enjoy, and desires to meet with us there. Our Lord is good beyond our capacity to take in. But He is God. The way to His abundance is through the door of submission—which goes utterly against our nature. Hence the wrestling.

The Bible's All-Star wrestler is Jacob, who met God by the River Jabbok and had at it. In the end, it seems as if Jacob won. He clung on to the Lord, demanding a blessing, until God said, "Uncle." Only after God dislocated Jacob's hip, did Jacob surrender. And that is when God's true blessing began—after Jacob gave God the right to call the shots in his life.

Prayer makes surrendering to God a daily habit, and frees us up to know and show how great He really is.

Prayer for Northpoint: Seek God's presence in your life and in the life of our church, so we treasure Him above all things.

Prayer for the United States: Sometimes God brings a people through a breaking process to return them to the path of righteousness. America has gone through such a process on many occasions. Ask God to give our nation grace that enables us to respond to Him as He takes us through whatever trials He has for us as a nation. Ask Him to strengthen His Church, so He can use us as salt and light to our culture.

Prayer for the World: More and more, it is becoming clear that seeing our world in a positive light require faith that goes against the evidence. Evidence of human sinfulness abounds, but our humanistic philosophy resolutely denies it. Implore God to open our to see our sin and turn to Him. The need is great.

Prayer Supporting Ministry:

- *Tuba City:* A small team will be going to Tuba City on February 6-8 to connect with pastors and leaders and spend time with them in fellowship and prayer. Ask God for wisdom and direction and an increasing bond with and among our leaders and theirs.
- *Women's Conference:* Ask God to speak peace to the women who attend the upcoming Women's Conference, as they learn to trust God to bear fruit in their lives.
- *Congregational Meeting:* Ask God to lead us in unity as a church body at this next all-church meeting.

Prayer for the Week

Sunday Church & Ministry: Ask God to use Brent Whitefield, our Pastor of Outreach, to lead & equip Northpoint to reach out to our community & grow by adding new believers.

Monday Home & Family: Pray for your church family (friends and prospective friends at Northpoint) to grow in God's grace & display it to others.

Tuesday *School or Job:* Pray for your leaders, coworkers and friends: May they come to know Christ & His love.

Wednesday *Neighbors & Community:* Pray for the neighbors to you interact with most regularly: Ask God to create moments when you can tell them of your hope in Christ Jesus.

Thursday Nation: Ask God to transform our education system, media, & businesses, so they uphold Biblical truth.

Friday World & Kingdom: Pray for God to raise up new generations of missionaries to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Saturday *Praise for God's Blessings:* Thank God. List five things in your life that God has given you, then tell God thanks for each one.

Prayer Record

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