



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

January 14, 2018

### Behold Your God

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us –Ephesians 3:20*

*For nothing will be impossible with God. –Luke 1:37*

*And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief. –Matthew 13:58*

As I write, a Bible teacher at a Christian school fears for his job. He prefers teaching a curriculum he has used to touch young lives for years. His administration prefers something more watered down.

In these days of social, political, and economic uncertainty, Christians bow in prayer with one eye on the daily news and measure spiritual impact by political outcomes. More and more, the Church gauges its effectiveness in terms of social influence, rather than changed lives.

As our culture slips further into spiritual decadence, churches across the country are trying to draw crowds with programs and preaching designed to please people and attract a larger audience.

Like the Gospel, prayer goes against the grain, because it's about God, not us. It's about accessing His power for His purposes, which are always good but not always easy to accept. Prayer is effective when we let God be God, believing that He knows best. Prayer teaches us to expect God to accomplish His good and acceptable and perfect will in us, and not just change our situation.

What limits our prayer is sin, and the fountain of sin is unbelief. What limits prayer is that we limit God.

As you pray, ask God to make you aware of ways in which you limit Him. We limit God when we ...

- **Measure His power according to our ability.** *God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 9:8).*
- **Insist on our desire and refuse what He has for us.** *You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (James 4:2-3).*
- **Don't wait for His timing.** *They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).*
- **Prefer the things of earth to the things of God.** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15-17).*
- **Distrust God's intentions.** *But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food... she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate (Genesis 3:5-6).*
- **Doubt God's love.** *That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge (Ephesians 3:17-19);*
- **Trust our wisdom more than His.** *Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:20b-21).*
- **Quench the Holy Spirit.** *Do not quench the Spirit (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:19; cf. 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 3:1);*
- **Forget the great things God has done.** *They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them (Psalm 78:11).*
- **Fail to honor God as God.** *Those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:31).*

Ask God to reveal hidden recesses in your life, where sins like these are causing you to limit God. In these dark areas of doubt and disbelief, ask Him to shine the light of His Word, reveal His love, demonstrate His power, and display His Glory in you. And He will.

## Prayer for the Week

**Sunday (Church):** Ask God to use Brent Whitefield, Pastor of Outreach, to equip us to reach our community and add new believers.

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

**Tuesday (Job/School):** Pray for your leaders, coworkers and friends at work to come to know Christ and His love.

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

**Thursday (Our Nation):** Ask God to transform our education system, media, and businesses, so they honor Christ and uphold Biblical truth.

**Friday (The World):** Ask God to raise up new generations of missionaries to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

**Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing):** Give Praise! List five things in your life that God has given you, then thank Him for each one.

## Faith Is ...

Praying earnestly for schools, public and private, understanding that they generate the thinking of a society and define the spirit of the age. Who knows what God might do in answer to our prayers?

## Prayer Record

Record specific prayers you have below. Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

*Jesus said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?" –Luke 8:25*