



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

January 21, 2018

The Divine Investment

But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." –Luke 18:16-17

I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children. –Isaiah 49:25b

The chain of authority in the Bible begins with God the Father then continues down to us through Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit. Human authority is vested in the husband, as head of the home, and in his wife, whom children are to obey. Authority is essential in God's order in heaven and on earth.

God is love, and love flows from Him in the person of His Son, whom He gave for the sins of the world. God has *poured His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us* (Romans 5:5). Love is an essential quality in everything God does and the characteristic mark of His children.

With faith in God's authority and trust in His love, people come to Northpoint Church, bringing their children to learn about God in our Sunday Schools, youth groups, AWANA, and more. These children are a stewardship from God, who has committed them into our care to learn from us to follow His ways and rely in His love. The stewardship of our children is the most precious and significant responsibility we have.

In all we do, in all our service as a church, God alone is the One who accomplishes the results. His power overcame sin as Jesus perfectly obeyed His Father's authority all His life. Divine love held Jesus to the cross to pay the awful cost of all sin. Holy omnipotence broke the bars of death when Jesus rose from the grave, and omnipotent love filled the Church with the Holy Spirit. God's people accomplish everything only by God's power.

So God's people accomplish everything through persevering and persistent prayer. Prayer is not part of the ministry of the Church, it is the engine of all God does through us—especially in the children God has entrusted to us.

When children are being cute, we smile, wink, give them a pat or an affectionate word that shows the affection of divine love that flows to them through us. When they're unruly, we gently correct them or inform their parents, so they can learn godly behavior. But in all things, we entrust our efforts to God, so that He will produce the fruit of righteousness in their lives.

Sunday School teachers follow curriculum and prepare their lessons so they can teach students about God through His Word. They're not there to entertain the kids, so their parents can go to "grown up" church without being distracted. These teachers are investing in the unfolding work of God in growing lives. Youth leaders teach, plan lively activities, and direct small groups, not just to help adolescents burn off steam, but to maintain the connection between them and God, so the faith they grew up with will become their own.

Divine power is what shapes the future of God's people by building Christ into young lives. That is why we pray. These activities shine the "light of the world" into growing lives, as the "salt of the earth" sinks into needy hearts. Prayer accesses God's power to accomplish His work. It is the "sap" of new life flowing through the Church, producing new growth.

Pray for our Sunday Schools and youth groups. Ask the Holy Spirit to enable teachers to communicate God's truth clearly and effectively. Pray for receptive hearts as the students receive instruction. Ask God to remove the internal and external distractions that Satan sends to disrupt the flow of truth. Pray that His truth will be clear and His love undeniable in every classroom where God's holy Word is taught.

Pray in faith believing that God is present and active where His word is taught and that He will build His Church just as He promised. Ask God to accomplish great things in His children, *to the praise of His glory.*

Prayer for the Week

Sunday (Church): Ask God to use Scott Williams, Adult and Family Pastor, to equip us for service and cultivate our fellowship as Christians.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for God’s eternal blessing for your extended family: uncles, aunts, cousins, and their families.

Tuesday (Job/School): Ask Christ to reveal Himself through you to your fellow students or those you serve through your job.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for Spiritual, physical, and emotional safety for local community workers, city leaders, teachers, police and fire departments.

Thursday (Our Nation): Ask God to use His blessings on our nation to serve others and glorify Himself, so that our wealth and freedom serve others and honor Him.

Friday (The World): Ask God to protect and build His Church in Middle East and to establish liberty, stability, and peace in that region.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Thank God for Your family and friends. They are special gifts from Him to you.

Faith Is ...

Accepting that God’s ways are best, expecting Him to supply all you need, and believing He is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

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

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. –Luke 8:25