
There is a pitfall in prayer. In our petitions, our sinful souls change the pronouns to fit our priorities. “Your will, not mine be done,” so easily becomes “My will, not yours be done.” Like many a sincere believer, Hezekiah fell into this trap.

Late in life, Hezekiah became sick, and God told him to prepare for death. The righteous have every right to implore God for healing. In His love and wisdom, God allows our requests to affect His actions. Hezekiah pleaded to the Lord to prolong his life, citing all he had done to honor Him, and God graciously, miraculously, and immediately healed the king and gave him fifteen more years of life.

In response, though, Hezekiah used those years to pursue his will and abandon God’s. Two things stand out in his last years. First, apparently flattered when the king of Babylon sent messengers to congratulate him on his recovery, Hezekiah gave them a grand tour of his kingdom, showing them everything—armories, treasuries, silver, gold, spices—everything. He dangled Jerusalem’s wealth like bait before a shark, never considering the voracious appetite of Mesopotamian kings. In time, Isaiah warned him, Babylon would come and devour all the domains God had given him.

Hezekiah’s response betrayed his shortsighted priorities. “The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good,” he thought. “Is it not so, if there will be peace and truth in my days” (2 Kings 20:19)? Hezekiah was fine with the outcome, as long as it fit his plans.

Second, like so many Godly leaders, Hezekiah failed to pass his faith on to the next generation. His son Manasseh was born after his miraculous healing. As thorough as Hezekiah’s revival was, Manasseh undid it. He brought back all the idols his father banished from the land, even filling the Lord’s temple with statues of these impotent deities. It was Manasseh’s evil reign that sealed Judah’s fate and brought Babylon back to Jerusalem, not as friends but as conquerors and instruments of God’s judgment.

Like every king in Israel’s history, Hezekiah proves that the law is inadequate to produce righteousness, being weak through the flesh (Romans 8:3). Lesson number two: This weakness will always undermine our prayer, unless we follow in the example of the only perfect King, who prayed, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will” (Mark 14:36).

The true power of prayer is in surrender to God’s will. Only one Person ever truly put God first in His prayers, and we can only accomplish such perfect surrender by praying His way in His name.

Prayer for ...

- **Northpoint:** Confess Jesus Christ as Lord, our sinful tendency to stray from His will, and the salvation found in Christ alone.
- **Local Outreach:** Ask God to bring spiritual growth to Gaborone Chapel, a new church plant in the capital of Botswana, Africa.
- **Missions:** Rick & Brenda Eisemann: Evangelizing in Ethiopia

Need to pray with someone?

It is our privilege to pray for you personally. Share your prayer requests

- By email at prayer@northpointcorona.org
- By phone, at 951.734.1335
- On a Response Card in the pew during the worship service

Prayer Team members are available after every worship service.



prayer *life!*

Bible Reading Plan and Prayer Guide

(Year TWO) March 2018

Not My will, but Yours be done. –Luke 22:42

The True Power of Prayer

Hezekiah was a good king—one of the best in the history of Judah. Three books of the Bible tell his story: 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, and Isaiah. All three cover essentially the same facts, telling about the revival he led, a deliverance God provided, and his prayer for healing late in life. This powerful story of a good man provides some profound lessons about prayer.

Hezekiah led a revival that was the greatest in history. He purged the land of idols and followed the Lord alone. “He clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments” (2 Kings 18:6).

More than any king before him, Hezekiah tore down all the high places of worship, so Judah would worship only in the Lord’s temple, as God intended. And God blessed his obedience. But God’s blessing didn’t exempt Judah from trouble. As the brutal Assyrian Empire swept south to destroy the wicked Northern kingdom, Jerusalem was surrounded as if by a flood. Hezekiah’s initial response was not trust but bribery.

It didn’t work. After he emptied the temple and his own house of gold and silver to give to Assyria’s king, Hezekiah still faced an ultimatum. Surrender or be conquered. Whatever he hoped to gain from his political maneuverings did not materialize. Hezekiah was in trouble. Except for one thing.

God was on his side, and God plus one equals a majority. In challenging Hezekiah, Assyria’s king made the fatal mistake of defying the God of Israel. “Do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you, saying, ‘The LORD will deliver us!’” (18:32).

God’s name was at stake. This arrogant Assyrian had defied the living God and told Him what He could not do, as if a mere mortal could establish limits for the God of the universe. Hezekiah knew God would not let such defiance stand. “Now, O LORD our God, I pray, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O LORD, are God” (19:19).

God acted decisively to defend Jerusalem and “save it for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake” (19:34). He sent an angel and destroyed 185,000 in Assyria’s army. When God decides to act, it’s good to be on His side! Lesson number one: The true power of prayer is its ability to align us with God’s will and make us participants in His plans. Thus, when God triumphs, we triumph with Him.

But we must be careful about our priorities. God’s plans are for His purposes, not ours. As His creatures, our prayers are for His will, not our own. It is God who is good, not us. Good comes from prayer that pursues and accepts His perfect will.

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Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year TWO)

March 2018

Sunday: Church & Ministry	Monday: Home & Family	Tuesday: School or Job	Wednesday: Neighbors & Community	Thursday: Nation	Friday: World & Kingdom	Saturday: Praise for God's Blessings
<i>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. —Psalm 51:17</i>				1) Read: Luke 12 <i>Pray for ...</i> Revival of the Church in America, so we shine the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ to those around us who need Him.	2) Read: Luke 13 <i>Pray for ...</i> Boldness, protection, & strength for Christians in areas troubled by violence and unrest.	3) Read: Luke 14 <i>Praise the Lord ...</i> For the freedom and plenty we still enjoy in America.
4) Read: Luke 15 <i>Pray for ...</i> Mike Russell (Lay Elder) to have wisdom for a Godly life and to lead Northpoint to raise up disciples who make disciples of Jesus.	5) Read: Luke 16 <i>Pray for ...</i> Ask God to lead future generations of your family to Himself. May God establish a dynasty of faith that seeks His will.	6) Read: Luke 17 <i>Pray for ...</i> The movement of God's Spirit among your school or employer. Ask God to use you for His purposes.	7) Read: Luke 18 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to be known & exalted in our local schools, the district, & school board. Ask God to accomplish His will in their plans and dealings.	8) Read: Luke 19 <i>Confess ...</i> Christ as the true Lord and Leader of this great country, so His truth shines through His people to the ends of the earth.	9) Read: Luke 20 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to lift up Jesus Christ and draw all men to Himself throughout all the world, from East to West and North to South.	10) Read: Luke 21 <i>Rejoice ...</i> That God created music and every form of beauty (Psalm 104).
11) Read: Luke 22 <i>Pray for ...</i> Terilyn Brown (Children's Ministry Director). Seek God's power for ministry & protection from all harm for Terilyn & her family.	12) Read: Luke 23 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your family and close friends who do not know Christ: May God save them from their sins and lead them in His will.	13) Read: Luke 24 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to reveal Himself through you to your fellow workers. Ask God's help you love Him with all your heart, soul, & strength, & your neighbor as yourself.	14) Read: 1 st Samuel 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> The safety, integrity, and effectiveness of the local police, sheriff and fire departments.	15) Read: 1 st Samuel 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to turn America's heart to honor Him and our wills to obey His Word.	16) Read: 1 st Samuel 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> Spiritual transformation and physical healing for those suffering in the AIDS epidemics in Africa and across the globe.	17) Read: 1 st Samuel 4 <i>List ten things ...</i> That you enjoy. Tell the Giver how much you appreciate Him, as well as the gifts He gives.
18) Read: 1 st Samuel 5 <i>Pray for ...</i> Revival at Northpoint to humble ourselves before the Lord and surrender our wills, plans, and desires to Him.	19) Read: 1 st Samuel 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> "I love You, O LORD, my strength" (Psalm 18:1). Admit your inclination to rely on yourself rather than God. Rejoice in His unfailing provision.	20) Read: 1 st Samuel 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> The needs and concerns of others that you are aware of: May God meet their needs and use those needs to draw them to Himself.	21) Read: 1 st Samuel 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> Corona Life Services: May God redeem the lives of unwed mothers and their children.	22) Read: 1 st Samuel 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> Repentance & revival in the American Church. Implore God to send His Holy Spirit to renew our love for Christ & zeal to serve Him.	23) Read: 1 st Samuel 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> God's dear presence with those who follow Christ in suffering. May God assure them of the joy set before all who endure to the end.	24) Read: 1 st Samuel 11 <i>Give praise ...</i> For the certain hope of the resurrection and eternal life with Christ.
25) Read: 1 st Samuel 12 <i>Pray for ...</i> Robert Brown: Ministry Support, Communications. Ask God to use him to keep people informed of opportunities for worship, learn, and serve.	26) Read: 1 st Samuel 13 <i>Pray for ...</i> Family members and loved ones who do not know Christ: May God give life to their souls and enable them to receive Christ as Savior and honor Him as Lord.	27) Read: 1 st Samuel 14 <i>Pray for ...</i> The person with whom you work most closely. Pray for their salvation from sin, and that they will know the love of God in Christ Jesus.	28) Read: 1 st Samuel 15 <i>Pray for ...</i> Godly leaders in Corona, who will model integrity and excellence in our city. Pray for the free spread of the Gospel.	29) Read: 1 st Samuel 16 <i>Pray for ...</i> Ask God to raise up godly leaders in the legislative branch of our government, so our laws reflect His holy standards.	30) Read: 1 st Samuel 17 <i>Pray for ...</i> The truth of Christ's death for sin to pierce hearts & bring repentance, by the power of the Holy Spirit.	31) Read: 1 st Samuel 18 <i>Give Thanks!</i> The Lord is King! He rules the world with perfect justice, everlasting love, and infinite wisdom to a glorious future