



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

April 1, 2018

Alive

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

—1st Corinthians 15:3-6

... he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. —Hebrews 7:25

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. —Romans 8:34

Jesus is alive!

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, there's no point in being a Christian. If He only died and stayed in the grave like everybody else, why pray? Christians worship and serve a living Savior who's in the world today. He listens and responds to our prayers—today.

The great lie of our age is that faith is the opposite of fact—that science is objective and real, while faith is subjective and personal. The lie thrives on catch phrases like, "My faith" or "My truth" or "That may be true for you, but for me ..." and "As long as it meets your needs, that's fine, but don't expect others to believe it." The strange thing is, everyone expects others to act as if the lie is true, but it's impossible to live that way. You can't give directions to the mall by assuming that whatever works for you is fine. Reality doesn't work that way.

The fact is that Jesus is alive. When we pray, He's there listening. God does not lie, so we can trust Jesus when He says, *where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them* (Matthew 18:20). How can that be if Jesus stayed in the tomb? The reality of the resurrection is the foundation of prayer.

Our faith is in fact. Jesus lived, died, was buried for three days, and then came alive. Eyewitnesses confirmed it, and their testimony was no easy lie that was "good for them." The apostles proclaimed the Gospel as good news for everyone and were so convinced it was factually true and experientially important that they willingly died for proclaiming it.

Our prayers proclaim that same truth. When need drives prayer, a sense of lack grows in the heart like an insatiable "black whole." But God uses our need to draw us to Him, so Christ in all His fullness—not our need—determines how we pray. When the living Christ inspires prayer, we participate through prayer in His triumph in our daily lives. Resurrection is the power of Christian prayer.

And we never pray alone. Whether praying privately in a "prayer closet" or corporately in a worship service, the Christian never prays alone. Jesus helps our prayer, by praying with us and for us. *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God* (Romans 8:16-27).

By God's grace, we can leave behind the lie that prayer is nothing more than expressing our wishes into thin air and hoping for the best. Faith is more than a diffuse notion that things will all work out, if we only just believe. Faith is confidence that the God who works all things according to the counsel of His will has brought us to the point of prayer, guides our prayer, listens as we pray, and is invested in establishing our faith in His faithfulness.

He proved it, when He died for our sins and rose from the grave to make us His own.

To the praise of His glory.

Prayer for the Week

Sunday (Church): Pray for Josh Figueroa: (Piano Accompanist) to have a heart of worship, so the quality of his work exalts Christ and leads us to do the same.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for your church family (friends and prospective friends at Northpoint): May they know and share the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge.

Tuesday (Job/School): Pray for the needs and concerns of your neighbors. Ask God to help them with their concerns and to use them to reveal Himself to them.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray that Northpoint Church will thrive and be an influence for Christ in Corona. Ask God to send His Spirit to empower our evangelism.

Thursday (Our Nation): Ask God to create a renewed desire in the Church in America for holiness, purity, righteousness, love, and boldness in spreading the Gospel.

Friday (The World and God's Kingdom): Pray for strength and protection for Christians in the Muslim world. Ask God to enable them to keep the faith. Pray for the salvation of their persecutors.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): *Rejoice!* The King of Creation came to be with us. Our rejection did not stop Him and death could not defeat Him. Jesus Christ is Lord!

Faith Is ...

Faith in the Great I Am, who was and is and is to come, *the first and the last, who died and came to life and who will never leave you nor forsake you* ... *So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"* –Revelation 3:8; cf. Hebrews 13:5-6

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

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. –Psalm 34:15