



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

May 6, 2018

### Good Shepherd

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.  
He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*  
—Psalm 23

### Praying the Truth of God's Presence with Us

**His Provision:** *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.* The Lord is the unseen reality in our everyday lives. The truth is always that we never lack anything we need, no matter what, because the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of fallen humanity is always with us. Tell Him all you need.

**His Care and Direction:** *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.* God's plans for us are good and sure. He is the Lord of our refreshment. He gives rest and renewal. Cast your cares on Him.

**His Correction:** *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.* Our Shepherd knows the path we should take and leads us without fail. When we stray, He faithfully and lovingly turns us back to the right path. See God's good purpose in whatever happens. Trust Him to lead you well.

**His Protection:** *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.* Life is filled with difficulties and dangers. Our Father does not cause them but He guides us through them and keeps us safe. Learn to receive His peace in every circumstance.

**His Authority:** *your rod and your staff, they comfort me.* We are fallen creatures in a broken world. The Lord provides the correction we need, even when we don't want it. Our safety is in His strength when He corrects us as well as when He protects us. Accept the Father's discipline as an expression of His love.

**His Abundance in Adversity:** *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.* This world is not our home. Whether we realize it or not, we live out our lives in hostile territory. The threat of those who hate God and oppose us serves only to remind us of that fact. But they can never separate us from the Shepherd's loving care (Romans 8:38-39). Notice what God does for you in good times and bad, and give Him thanks.

**His Anointing:** *you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.* God has chosen us to be His people and called us to proclaim the Gospel. He will accomplish His purpose through His people. Trust Him to *comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.* (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:17).

**His Unfailing Goodness:** *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.* Nothing will ever separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus. Be confident in His goodness to you. Receive His constant forgiveness. Rest in His perfect intention to perfect His plan in you (Philippians 1:6).

**Our Eternal Home:** *and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.* This world is not our home, but our eternal home with our Lord and Savior is our certain destination. *Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:13).

*To the praise of God's glory.*

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. –Hebrews 13:17

### Prayer for Northpoint.

- **For Our Leaders:**
  - **Pastors and Directors:** Brent Whitefield, Scott Williams, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, and Marty Wiegman; **Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah; **Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Jacob Williams, Carolee Jefferson, Josh Figureoa, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn
  - **Pray:** For strength to lead our church and their homes. Pray for their kids to know their love and that it really is God’s love, passed on through their parents. Pray for that same family dynamic to flow through our church—God’s love, the central reality in our leaders’ lives flowing through the Body of Northpoint.
- **For Our Body:**
  - Pray that God will move in us, as individuals and as a body, to seek Him with all of our heart and soul and strength, through reading His Word and in prayer. Pray for a hunger to know Christ and make Him known.
- Please continue to pray for God’s grace and guidance for **John Sloan and his family**. Ask God to equip and empower John for ministry and bless his family with concrete evidence of His great love.

### 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 thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me. –John 10:10-11, 14*