



# prayer *life!*

## Bible Reading Plan and Prayer Guide

(Year **THREE**) July 2018

*If these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

—2 Peter 1:8

### Christian Character

There is a reason for spending time with God. We don't just read the Bible for mental stimulation or to get acquainted with the world's all-time bestseller. The purpose of prayer goes beyond inner reflection or getting God to give what we ask. The purpose is growth—the development of solid Christian character that endures the stresses of life and takes on the challenges of spiritual battle.

We spend time with Christ so we can know Him and be more like Him. In other words, to cultivate virtue. A complete list of all the qualities that reflect our Savior would be as infinite as He is, but there are several passages in Scripture that delineate essential virtues of the Christian life. One of the most famous lists is in Galatians 5: The Fruit of the Spirit. According to this list, here's what Christian character looks like.

- **Love:** Love is an unrelenting commitment to the good of another. It puts God above anything or anyone else and as a result puts the good of others first (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 13; Phil. 2:1-8).
- **Joy:** Joy is an unquenchable positive outlook in every circumstance. The Holy Spirit creates joy in the believer when we trust that the good will of God will ultimately triumph, while we pursue the good of others (1 Thessalonians 5:15-16).
- **Peace:** Peace springs when we internally accept whatever happens as part of the process God uses to perfect His children. It is far from resignation to the unavoidable. Instead, peace accepts what God allows to happen and values the character God produces in us as a result (Rom. 5:1-5; 8:28-30).
- **Patience:** Patience waits for desired outcomes without complaining. It endures difficulty calmly, without letting negative emotions take control, trusting God with the ultimate outcome (James 5:7-11).

- **Kindness:** Deliberate action for the benefit of another is kindness. Kindness intentionally does others good, not harm (Acts 9:36, 39).
- **Goodness:** We call general positive moral quality, "goodness," and often notice it when it is shown by generous giving (Acts 11:22-24; Romans 5:7).
- **Faithfulness:** A faithful person is someone you can trust completely. They will never let you down (Psalm 100:5; 119:89-91). You can bet your life on it.
- **Gentleness:** The opposite of gentle is harsh. Gentleness seeks a positive effect from its actions. Although gentleness may cause pain at times—in the process of discipline for example—it never inflicts harm (Matthew 11:28-30).
- **Self-Control:** Exactly as the term implies, self-control is the ability to have complete control over one's spirit, attitudes, actions, impulses, and desires (Acts 24:25; 2 Peter 1:5-9).

The world knows virtue when it sees it but refuses to turn to God, the only source of true moral character. As a result, human attempts at virtue inevitably sour, become proud, competitive, and resentful. By nature, man exalts one virtue and neglects others. We turn the pursuit of character into a competition with winners and losers. Seeking virtue without God's enabling ultimately brings resentment toward God and conflict between one person and another. The quest for virtue apart from God is what led devout religious men to cry, "Crucify Him!" at the trial of the only virtuous man who ever lived.

True virtue is a rare commodity. It doesn't come naturally. It's a miracle of God. As the fruit of God's Spirit blossoms in His people, others notice genuine Christian character and cannot deny there is a God—and that He is at work in His people.

### Prayer for ...

- **Northpoint:** Pray for dynasties of faith in the families at Northpoint, so they serve His kingdom for generations.
- **Local Outreach:** Steve and Karen Hydanus (AWANA California Golden West)
- **Missions:** Doug and Cynthia Peters: Los Angeles, CA

### Need to pray with someone?

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

- By email at [prayer@northpointcorona.org](mailto: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.

# Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year THREE)

July 2018

<b>Sunday:</b> Church & Ministry	<b>Monday:</b> Home & Family	<b>Tuesday:</b> School or Job	<b>Wednesday:</b> Neighbors & Community	<b>Thursday:</b> Nation	<b>Friday:</b> World & Kingdom	<b>Saturday:</b> Praise for God's Blessings
<p><b>1) Read:</b> Song of Songs 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> Taylor Mendoza, Director of Student Ministries, to lead our youth to know, love, &amp; follow Jesus, so student ministries grows deeper &amp; larger.</p>	<p><b>2) Read:</b> Song of Songs 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your parents and brothers and sisters: Pray that holiness, love, and joy will define your relationships.</p>	<p><b>3) Read:</b> Song of Songs 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to reveal His character in you, so others will see His grace, love, integrity, &amp; humility and be drawn to Him.</p>	<p><b>4) Read:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to be known and exalted in our local schools, districts, and school boards. Pray for the Christian clubs at our local schools.</p>	<p><b>5) Read:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to give our leaders wisdom that begins with "the fear of the Lord." Pray for God's guidance &amp; provision in choosing a new Supreme Court justice.</p>	<p><b>6) Read:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> Divine protection over those who suffer for their faith in Christ. Seek the comfort of His presence and assurance of their certain hope in Christ.</p>	<p><b>7) Read:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4-5 <i>Bless the Lord ...</i> He has blessed us with abundance, security, &amp; freedom in the United States &amp; dealt patiently with our sin. May God keep blessing America.</p>
<p><b>8) Read:</b> Jeremiah 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> The people of Northpoint to look to God in faith to bring friends, neighbors, &amp; loved ones to saving faith in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p><b>9) Read:</b> Jeremiah 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> Take refuge in this reality: "Unless the Lord builds a house, those who build it labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1).</p>	<p><b>10) Read:</b> Jeremiah 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to meet the needs of your colleagues and use their struggles to draw them to Himself.</p>	<p><b>11) Read:</b> Jeremiah 4 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to use VBS this week to reach our community. Ask God to fill our leaders with His Spirit &amp; prepare hearts to receive His Word.</p>	<p><b>12) Read:</b> Jeremiah 5 <i>Pray for ...</i> A movement of the Spirit among our lawmakers, so they honor &amp; Him &amp; follow His Word. Seek spiritual protection &amp; moral integrity for Congress.</p>	<p><b>13) Read:</b> Jeremiah 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> Christ to be honored as Lord in all denominations of the Church, so they define right &amp; wrong, true &amp; false according to God's Word.</p>	<p><b>14) Read:</b> Jeremiah 7 <i>Praise God ...</i> For the beauty of His creation and His sovereign goodness in your life.</p>
<p><b>15) Read:</b> Jeremiah 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> Our search for a new Missions Pastor. Ask God for wisdom &amp; clear direction to a man who will lead us in reaching our community, nation, &amp; world for Christ.</p>	<p><b>16) Read:</b> Jeremiah 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> A dynasty of faith to come from your home that will influence people to turn to Christ for generations.</p>	<p><b>17) Read:</b> Jeremiah 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> The quality and effectiveness of your work to exalt Christ.</p>	<p><b>18) Read:</b> Jeremiah 11 <i>Pray for ...</i> Integrity in the elected officials of our community. May Christ reign in their hearts, control their minds, &amp; influence their conduct.</p>	<p><b>19) Read:</b> Jeremiah 12 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to help, comfort, &amp; care for victims of violent crime and social unrest in our nation, so they seek the presence of Christ in their lives.</p>	<p><b>20) Read:</b> Jeremiah 13 <i>Pray for ...</i> Boldness &amp; protection for Christians in the Muslim world. Ask God to bring stability &amp; hope to those regions &amp; to put down terrorist regimes.</p>	<p><b>21) Read:</b> Jeremiah 14 <i>Rejoice ...</i> In the miracle of nourishment, God's abundant provision, and the enjoyment of the sustenance we need.</p>
<p><b>22) Read:</b> Jeremiah 15 <i>Pray for ...</i> Mark Kiker: Non-staff Elder. Ask God to deepen his devotion to Christ, protect him &amp; his family from sin &amp; harm. Pray for wisdom &amp; direction to lead our church.</p>	<p><b>23) Read:</b> Jeremiah 16 <i>Pray for ...</i> Holiness, love, &amp; joy to define your family relationships. Ask God to help you model His character and love to others.</p>	<p><b>24) Read:</b> Jeremiah 17 <i>Pray for ...</i> The colleague or friend you work most closely with or whom God has put on your heart. Bring their concerns to Christ.</p>	<p><b>25) Read:</b> Jeremiah 18 <i>Pray for ...</i> The churches of Corona to be united in purpose &amp; committed to know Jesus Christ &amp; make Him known in our community.</p>	<p><b>26) Read:</b> Jeremiah 19 <i>Pray for ...</i> The spiritual, physical, and personal safety of our military and their families. Pray for the success in their missions.</p>	<p><b>27) Read:</b> Jeremiah 20 <i>Pray for ...</i> Our bond to grow stronger with the Akaki church in Ethiopia. Seek protection from terrorist groups such as Boko Haram.</p>	<p><b>28) Read:</b> Jeremiah 21 <i>Rejoice!</i> The Lord our God is king of all creation! His glory is our joy.</p>
<p><b>29) Read:</b> Jeremiah 22 <i>Pray for ...</i> Tim East: Non-staff Elder. Ask God use him to spread the love of Christ to others in all he does with his family, at work &amp; at Northpoint Church.</p>	<p><b>30) Read:</b> Jeremiah 23 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your spouse and children or your closest friends: Pray that holiness, love, and joy will define your relationships.</p>	<p><b>31) Read:</b> Jeremiah 24 <i>Pray for ...</i> Leaders, coworkers and friends at work or school to come to know Christ &amp; His love.</p>	<p><i>And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.</i> -Jeremiah 32:38-39</p>			