



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

July 1, 2018

If My People ...

When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time. –2nd Chronicles 7:13-15

We are God's people. Not the United States of America, but the Church of Jesus Christ. All who put their trust in Him—His death as a sacrifice for our sins, His burial in the tomb for three days, His resurrection in triumph over sin and death—all who are made righteous through faith in Christ are the people of the living God. This promise applies to us. It is ours to receive in Jesus' name.

What has made America great is the place the Church has always had in the United States and the place God has within the Church. The words "God Bless America" express a prayer, and we—the Church in the United States—are God's answer to that prayer. When we the people of Jesus Christ honor our Lord and Savior, He blesses us and makes us a blessing to those around us.

Whether or not we enjoy the good will of our fellow countrymen, we are blessed by God and a blessing to this land. The key to blessing comes from our relationship with God—not the latest political philosophy, current social trends, or some new approach in church ministry. So let's go to God.

When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people ...

- **Remember:** God judges a people who turn from honoring Him. It is His right to so.

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves,

- **Confess:** Whether we ignore God, rebel against Him, or deny His existence, humans are by nature children of wrath. Grace begins when we acknowledge His authority and confess our sin.

and pray

- **Requests:** The greatest untapped source of power on earth is the prayer of Church. We are more than a force for good on earth. We are the people of the living God, filled with His Spirit, wielding the power of His Truth, bringing down the strongholds of darkness. Prayer gives us the instant access to God so essential to accomplishing our mission. Call on Him constantly.

and seek my face

- **The Word of God:** So many things attract or distract us but only one thing is necessary—knowing God. Reading the Bible is far more than an academic exercise. It is the pursuit of our God and Savior. It is living in relationship with Him, hearing what He has to say, submitting humbly to His truth and faithfully obeying His commands in all things.

and turn from their wicked ways

- **Repent:** Turning back to the Lord who made us and redeemed us is our first essential step.

then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

- **God Listens:** We have God's assurance that He is listening for our prayers. We have the promise that the living God is paying attention when we pray, and He will answer.

For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

- **God's Call:** We pray because God has called us to be His people. God's call always comes with His promise to be with us, wherever He leads and whatever we do in His Name.

Our Plan Moving Forward

After seeking God’s guidance through prayer, reading God’s Word, and speaking with His people, our Elders have established a plan for Northpoint to move forward as a church. It is essential to keep seeking God as we pursue this plan. Here is a summary of how we’ll move forward.

Phase 1: Restore

- Relationships with people who have been hurt or alienated
- Staff confidence in their call from Christ, their connection to the elders, and their leadership role in our body
- Our health as a body of believers in open, loving communication, both listening and speaking

Phase 2: Rediscover

- Who we are as a body: Our uniqueness. Our call for the community.
- Who God would have us to be: Qualities we can build on. Things we need to change.
- The drives, passions, and priorities God is calling us to

Phase 3: Rebuild

- Own, embrace, and communicate who we are as a local church
- Define, refine, and extend our vision for serving Christ
- Follow God’s call on us as a congregation, as our passions become our priorities and determine our direction.

Prayer for Northpoint

Ask God to speak in our hearts and help us to hear and to heed His voice leading us forward. Pray for ...

- 1. Our Pastors and Directors:** Brent Whitefield, Scott Williams, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, and Marti Wiegman.
 - to receive God’s enabling to feed, lead, and tend Northpoint as a congregation
- 2. Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah.
 - to seek God and follow His leading through every avenue in which He speaks.
- 3. Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Jacob Williams, Carolee Jefferson, Josh Figureoa, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn
 - to exalt Christ, love Him as Savior, and honor Him as Lord
- 4. Our Church Body:** Ask God to draw us close to Him as individuals and as a body. Pray that He will speak to us as a congregation and lead us at all levels.
- 5. John Sloan, Brent Whitefield and their families:** Seek God’s Grace and guidance and blessing as they serve Him in the churches where God is calling them.

Prayer Record

Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. –Psalm 100