



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

July 22, 2018

The Bride of Christ

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. —Ephesians 5:15-24

At Northpoint Church these days, we have the perfect opportunity to be the Church and allow God to define who we are as a body, so we can build ourselves up in love. The first thing we need to remember is that we are Christ's Bride—the object of His intense, purposeful love.

All earthly analogies are inadequate to portray just how much Christ loves us, but “doing church” means preparing for the day, when Jesus comes for us. Our Lord has a glorious vision of His bride, and He is committed to see that vision become a reality. We join in His perfecting process through prayer.

Christ's Vision for His Bride

Holy and Pure: *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*

- *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom* (Proverbs 9:10). Seek God first in prayer.
- We are salt and light in this evil world. Pray for our Christ-like character to stand in distinct contrast to the ways of the world.

Wise and Obedient: *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery,*

- God's will is *good and acceptable and perfect* (Romans 12:2). Pray for wisdom to see God's goodness in everything He does and allows.
- Our purpose is holiness, not pleasure. Pray for growing obedience, with joy as a byproduct.

Delightfully Delighting in Him: *but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,*

- Our joy is in Christ, not the world. Take time to delight in the Lord.
- Worship is more than a prelude to a sermon. It's cultivating our joy in the Lord and “rehearsing” for heaven. By every possible means repeat, reflect on, and rejoice in what is true about our Savior.

Abundantly Grateful: *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

- All blessings flow from God. Train your heart to be grateful.
- Gratitude is the bedrock of faith and the fountain of joy. *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you* (1st Thessalonians 5:18).

Trusting and Submissive: *submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*

- The order of God's authority extends into human relationships. Pray that our church and our homes will honor Christ's rule and follow His ways.

Our Plan Moving Forward

Pray as we move into the second phase of our plan moving forward as a church. Ask God to help us ...
Rediscover

- Who we are as a body: Our uniqueness. Our call for our 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

Rebuild (Phase 3)

- 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.

We will have an all-church meeting on July 29 at 4:00 PM. Please pray that it will be well attended, include people of all ages and stages, unite us as a Body, and lead us in the direction God has for us as a church.

Prayer for Northpoint

Ask God to protect, strengthen, and guide our leaders at Northpoint.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah.
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
4. **Northpoint as a Body of Believers:** Pray that God will teach us to hear His voice, discern His direction, and follow Him.

Also pray for **John Sloan, Brent Whitefield, and their families** to receive God's grace and guidance and blessing as they serve God where He has called 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

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. —Ephesians 3:20-21