



The God Who Hears

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. –Psalm 116:1-2

The Bible is full of instances of answered prayer. God brings about His plan of redemption through His people, so He pays attention when we pray. Since God's people play a key role in His plans, our prayers have a special place in His heart. At times, though, God brings us into desperate situations to show us how desperately we need Him. When we ask Him, *Teach us to pray*, He takes it seriously (Luke 11:1b).

For example, God called David from being a shepherd to become king of Israel, but also to be the ancestor of Jesus, *the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29). And so God guarded His chosen one through all circumstances of life—even when he was suffering the consequences of his sin.

Late in his life, David found himself in a desperate situation—again. His son Absalom stole his throne and forced him to flee for his life. He was on the run. Weeping and straggling along in his bare feet, David slipped away into hiding. As he encountered different people along the way, David came across both loyalists, who still supported him, and rebels who followed Absalom.

The plot against David was deep. For years, Absalom had courted a following, until he led a growing number in sedition against Israel's true and Godly king. He also gained the support of a skilled advisor named Ahithophel. His name sounds a little like a sneeze, but Ahithophel had a reputation for being able to get things done. He had a knack for aligning himself with the winning side—though not always with the right side. He was a man of skill more than principle.

When David received the grave the news that Ahithophel supported Absalom, his first response was prayer. *O LORD, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness* (2nd Samuel 15:31). And immediately, God provided the answer. A friend came up to David, who was just the right person to undermine the plans of Absalom and Ahithophel.

His name was Hushai the Arkite. Promising complete loyalty to David, Hushai agreed to go back to Jerusalem and pretend to support Absalom. After Hushai won Absalom's confidence, the usurper included Hushai in his plans and asked his advice. "Ahithophel says we should attack David now, before he can set up a defense. What do you say?"

"I don't know," Hushai cautioned. "David is pretty cagey. You'd better take time to gather your forces and get ready." When Absalom took Hushai's advice and his, Ahithophel knew the delay would bring certain defeat. As Absalom took time to prepare, his renown but devious counselor withdrew to take his own life. The deception worked. David won in the battle against his own son, and his throne was preserved. At great cost, David's prayer was answered.

Prayer is so much more than sanctified wishful thinking. Whoever trusts Christ for salvation is a child of God. Christians are more than just another religious group. *[We] are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that [we] may proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light* (1 Peter 2:9).

So much of what happens in our lives is God's way of testing our faith and showing us what He is able to do for His people. God has a way of teaching us to pray in faith, believing that He will answer.

And He will answer. *For the praise of His Glory.*

Our Plan Moving Forward

Keep praying! As Northpoint continues moving forward as a church, ask God to help us ...
Rediscover (Phase 2)

- 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.

Prayer for Northpoint

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

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Tony Chute, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, 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, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn
4. **Northpoint as a Body of Believers:** Pray for unity and our focus on Christ at Northpoint. Pray that Jesus Christ will be our focus as we study Scripture and our bond as we live out our lives as Christians. *Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity* (Psalm 133:1).

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

I sought the LORD and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. ... Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! –1st Peter 4:7