



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

August 26, 2018

### Prayer's Purpose and Power

*If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. —1<sup>st</sup> John 5:9-15*

Prayer is not wishing and faith is not imagining. Our purpose as Christians is to believe what God reveals in His Word and lead others to believe it too. That's why we pray.

Prayer is the nexus between our daily lives in this physical world and the God who dwells in the vast spiritual world of eternity. When we read the Bible, we hear God's voice. When we pray, He hears ours.

As we bear testimony about who God is and what He has done, we bridge the gap between our dying world and the world that will never pass away. That's why God hears our prayers.

### The Testimony of God: What He reveals to us and through us

- **Jesus is God's Son.** God the Father Himself testified to this fact. *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 3:16-17).
- **God is present within us.** The Holy Spirit dwells within each believer and testifies to the truth of who Jesus is and what He did on the cross. *Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive* (John 7:37-39a).
- **God gives eternal life in His Son Jesus Christ.** This is the Christian message. Believing in Jesus, the Son of God, is how we receive eternal life, and the Christian life is lived by faith in Him. *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him* (John 3:36).
- **God hears and answers His people when we pray.** We have the promise of Jesus Himself, *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours* (Mark 11:24).
- **Answered prayer is evidence of God's presence in His people.** Since we have eternal life through Jesus, we know He hears and answers our prayers. *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you* (John 15:16).

Keeping our faith in Christ throughout our lives requires the work of God in our hearts, which we receive through prayer. Leading people to faith in Christ requires the power of God working through us. We receive that power through prayer. Trusting Christ and revealing Him to the world is our call from God, our purpose as His Church, and the reason why prayer is indispensable to the believer.

Daily prayer enables our faith and empowers our witness, *to the praise of God's glory.*

## Praying for Our Pastor

*Those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.* –1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:30b

Let's pray for the pastor God is leading us to, as Tony Chute suggested last Sunday.

1. Pray for a pastor who fears the Lord in such a way that he would never use his position to sinfully benefit himself or take advantage of others.
2. Pray for a pastor who preaches the Word of God faithfully because he knows it is the primary instrument the Holy Spirit use to change lives.
3. Pray for a pastor who is humble enough to know that he doesn't have all the answers and eagerly receives advice from other godly people.
4. Pray for a pastor who is bold enough to speak hard things when necessary but still has a heart for people.
5. Pray for a pastor whose overall ministry points everyone to the chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
6. And pray for a pastor who makes prayer an essential part of his ministry.

## Praying for Northpoint

And let's pray in the same way for the entire church ministry staff.

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:** Seek God's direction for us as a local Body. Ask God to define us as a church and use us for His purposes and not our own.

## Praying for Our Time

As scandal rocks the Church, Christians need to be in prayer. When one part of the Church sins, it reflects on the entire Body, and the failings of Christians taint the Name of Christ. Pray that Christ will be glorified in all things and use all things to turn people to Him.

It is appropriate to seek God's judgment and purification from sin. But as we seek judgment for the sins of others, we pray for God's mercy as well. Grace is the only hope in judgment and the only path to purity and holiness.

## 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

*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.* –John 14:12