



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

September 16, 2018

### Made New

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* –Romans 12:1-2

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.* –2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:17-18

*Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.* –Philippians 2:13

Are Christians better than other people? Humility, reality, and the clear teaching of Scripture tell us no. We're sinners like anyone else. Christians have no right God's blessing. No virtue of our own sets us apart from the rest. We have no cause to brag. God doesn't love us because we're somehow special.

So, what makes a Christian different?

Christ.

By faith, we have Jesus Christ, who is someone like no other. Because of Christ, the Spirit of the Living God lives inside those who believe in Him. There is more to the Christian life than a distinct world view and moral system. Christian worship is more than training our emotions to embrace Biblical truth. Christian life and worship is transformational. Jesus is making us new.

Christian worship starts with presenting ourselves to God as a living sacrifice and letting Him make us into what He wants us to be. God's Word does more than inform us. It changes us—miraculously.

The process begins with changed motivation. God's Word renews our minds. Pangs of guilt that sting the conscience spur us to deeper dependence, more than they drive us to more fervent action. God works in those who worship Him, and cause us *to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose* (Philippians 2:13). In other words, He gives us new wants and desires—the “seedlings” of new life in Christ.

As transformation unfolds, God changes our actions. Forgiveness in Christ brings cleansing to our unholy lives. John's familiar words assure us that *if we confess our sins* (when we admit that our sin is sin) *He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness* (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9). Forgiveness doesn't make sin okay. It makes us different—pure and holy.

Christians don't conform to the image of Christ. Christ transforms us and makes us like Him. And He does the work. We simply live it out.

Christ also frees us to live in His presence. It's a dreadful thing to stand in the presence of the living, holy God, who is a *consuming fire* (Hebrews 12:29). Sinners fall before Him, begging the rocks to hide them, but because of Christ's sacrifice for sin, we stand before almighty God unveiled, unprotected, unhidden. An encounter that used to bring instant death is the daily privilege of the believer. That's prayer.

And Christ puts us on display before the world. As Christians live openly for the whole world to see, we display the holiness, beauty, and glory of Christ. God makes His appeal to the world through us. Who in the world is adequate to enter into God's presence then represent Him to the world? In Christ, we are.

Prayer operates in this transformational reality. It recognizes that the Christian life is a miracle that takes place day after day in those who look to Christ in faith. Prayer expects God to answer in ways that shape us into His image *to the praise of His glory*.

## The Work of God's Spirit

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. –Acts 1:8*

Seek God to renew the transformational reality of the Christian faith in us as a church. Pray for the entire body of Northpoint, and especially for those who are called to minister to us professionally.

Pray for ...

- An increased sensitivity to God's truth as we read and study His Word
- A deeper awareness of the work of the Holy Spirit and attentiveness to His voice
- Openness to the Spirit's conviction that sets us free from sin
- Confidence in the power of God working in and through us
- Infectious joy in our life and service, no matter the circumstance
- More and more opportunities to proclaim Christ and meet the needs of those around us

## Prayer for Northpoint

Ask God to be everything 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.

Ask God to show them the reality that He *is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us* (Ephesians 3:20).

## 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

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. –2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:7*