



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

September 30, 2018

### For the Souls of Men

*Thus says the Lord GOD: This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them: to increase their people like a flock –Ezekiel 36:37*

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever wins souls is wise. –Proverbs 11:30*

*And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. –Daniel 12:3*

When Roberta arrived late to work after her doctor's appointment, she spoke with her friends through quiet tears. "They say it's most likely cancer" was her concise summary. Then she went about her day.

Her words are a call to a friend and believer like me. Roberta needs encouragement and comfort at what could be, at best, a long physical ordeal. But she also needs hope and confidence in the spiritual challenge that ultimate issues like cancer brings. Roberta needs Christ, and I'm called to tell her about Him.

Living as a Christian means listening for God's call in daily life. Prayer connects us with God so we can receive what we need, but we need Him before anything else. We need to learn to hear His voice and His Spirit's direction, so we can obey Him and live out His Word. Scripture reveals His will in principle, but to do the work of the Church, we need to hear Him speak in specific situations in life. Human need cries for news of the personal comfort and eternal hope only God can supply. And we are His delivery service.

So now I have a very specific way to pray for Roberta. She needs to receive genuine love from God through me—a fellow traveler on earth who shares a common humanity. But her great need—her infinite need—is the everlasting arms of Almighty God who commands her eternal future.

God didn't create His Church just to exist. From its inception, the Lord has *added to [its] number day by day those who were being saved* (Acts 2:47b). The Gospel speaks to a world that knows it's in need but has no idea what its need really is. His Church gives the bad news of a terminal illness to lead people to the only eternal cure—Jesus saves from sin.

Being the people of God on earth lends itself to an earthly focus and earthly thinking. It's only natural get as comfortable as possible in the only world we know. It's so easy to blend in and not make waves. Before long, the Church is nothing more than a subculture that's forgotten all about saving the world—like God called us to do. God made us to grow, and if we don't, we'll atrophy and die—along with countless friends and acquaintances who need the salt of truth and the light of grace.

Who is adequate to stand at this juncture, between heaven and hell, and minister eternal hope. Not us, apart from Christ. *Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:5-6).

The reason Northpoint has multiple weekly prayer times is because God's call is so significant. We are more than heavenly decorations in this world. 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<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9).

God has called us to call others to Him. We pray, not just so God will hear our needs but so we can hear His voice, calling us and leading us to minister His love and truth to those in need.

*To the praise of His glory.*

## The Work of God's Spirit

Pray for an awareness of God's presence in you life, *for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5b). Ask Him to use you to bring Christ to others who don't know Him.

1. Pray for wisdom to connect with others and words that will connect them with God through Christ Jesus.
2. Pray for faith to believe that God is with you and working through you in the lives of others.
3. Pray for God's power to work through you as you bring Christ into your conversations. Only He can save a lost soul.

Remember, since the Holy Spirit is in you, wherever you go, God is there. When people see you, they see a manifestation of Him.

## Prayer for Northpoint

Pray for strength and wisdom for our leaders. Pray for God's power to be at work in their daily efforts.

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 us 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

*My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. —James 5:19-20*