



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

November 4, 2018

They Bear Witness about Me

For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. —John 5:36b-40

Sheep go astray because they follow their noses. Humans go astray for much the same reason. We're enamored with what attracts us—whatever seems desirable—and lose sight of what matters—what nourishes, protects, and sustains us. The “things of earth” dominate our focus and run our lives far more than we suspect. *All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned—every one—to his own way* (Isaiah 53:6). We don't know much about sheep, but we're more like them than we like to think.

Especially in this day, we cannot read the New Testament the right way unless we see the Pharisee and the Sadducee inside ourselves. These ancient men of God's Law and His Word started out faithful, loyal, and earnest for the truth. But one way and another, even in their sincere and earnest fight for truth, they went astray. So far astray that they crucified their own Messiah. Our eternal souls are in danger if we fail to discern the pattern of our own straying from our Good Shepherd.

Christ's words to the Pharisees and Sadducees were very direct. His words of life fell on deaf ears. Around us, we see a similar pattern. We've separated God from truth, and now we're feverishly distilling truth from knowledge. Even in the Church, the “principles of Scripture” become formulas for success, tools in our own hands—things under our own control that we manipulate for our own purposes and idols we cling to instead of Christ.

More than we know, the Church is in a desperate state, and what the world needs now more than anything else is the work of God's Church—the message of eternal life through Christ. His Church needs to repent—to return to the path where our Shepherd is leading and not stray from it.

Christ's words show the way back. We turn back to the right path when we ...

- seek God's will above our own (5:30)
- believe God's testimony about His Son (5:32)
- rejoice in the light of God's truth (5:35)
- believe that the miracles Jesus did are from the Father (5:36)
- believe what God's Word says about Jesus (5:38-39)
- come to Christ for life (5:40)
- do not receive glory from people (5:41)
- have the love of God (as He describes Himself in Scripture) within us (5:42)
- receive those who come in the name of Christ and no one else (5:43)
- receive Jesus Christ through faith (5:43)
- exclusively seek the glory that comes from God (5:44a)
- relinquish the glory that comes from other men (5:44b)
- believe the whole Bible's testimony about Jesus (5:45-47)

We live in a culture led by the popular vote and dominated by celebrity—what Jesus described as the *glory from one another* (John 5:44). Glory is a strong “scent” that tends to lead us humans astray, as we “follow our noses.”

That's why everything we do and say needs to be for the praise of God's glory.

The Power of Christ's Prayer

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ... For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. —1s Corinthians 2:13, 16

Prayer for Northpoint

Prayer matters, because the power of the Church is not human but divine. Spiritual gifts are gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to believers so He can use them to accomplish His work in and through us. The giftedness of our leaders at Northpoint is not what will build our church. It is God working through them.

Ask God to anoint our church with the Holy Spirit and with power from on high to discern the truth of His Word, receive His direction for our body, and accomplish His work effectively. Ask God to make Northpoint the miracle that His Church is meant to be.

Pray for ...

- 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.

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, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. —1st Corinthians 2:9-10