



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

January 13, 2018

Road to Joy

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. —Philippians 4:4-9

The road to joy begins with praise, is walked in prayer and steeped in reflection. It starts by knowing how infinitely rich we are, because we belong to Christ, our Maker and Redeemer.

A seemingly simple man, Brother Lawrence worked in the kitchen of a monastery and later repaired their sandals. Over time, he developed a remarkable joy and sweetness, depth and wisdom, by “practicing the presence of God.” In everything he did and everything that happened, he recognized that God’s presence was what truly mattered, and every event factored into God’s plan. To Lawrence, nothing happened that was outside God’s *good and acceptable and perfect* will (Romans 12:2).

Christ Himself is our treasure, the wellspring of joy. And He’s right here with us—all the time, wherever we may be. Joy flows from walking with Jesus wherever we go—an infinite treasure who will never leave or forsake us.

We also have completely open communication with the Father. In Jesus name, we can ask God for anything, tell Him everything, and trust Him in all things. He listens, He cares, and He will answer. Access to the Almighty brings confidence. His wisdom gives peace. His love fosters rest.

Tell God everything you need, and expect Him to provide. When He answers “no,” He has something better. Make thanks a habit, so you can keep the connection between what you receive and the good Lord who gave it. Let His omnipotence replace your weakness and His enabling allay your fears.

But, believe it or not, joy is an acquired taste. It doesn’t just happen. We need to cultivate an appetite for the true riches in Christ. What holds your attention? What occupies your mind? Let God direct your focus to things of eternal value—things that satisfy and nourish the soul. Let God turn your eyes to what is ...

- True and verifiable, not false and deceitful
- Honorable and fitting, not demeaning or degrading
- Righteous and consistent with God’s standards
- Pure, without moral defect
- Pleasing, winsome, and attractive
- Deserving of approval and praise
- Of outstanding quality and worth telling to others

Joy isn’t earned or bought. We have nothing to give God but everything to receive from Him. The Road to joy is the path of walking with the Good Shepherd—following His guidance, learning from His wisdom, receiving His provision, basking in his goodness, and delighting in His glory.

Prayer for The New Year

Pray for the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. Christ did not leave His people on earth to fix problems but to bring redemption. Pray to be aware of opportunities to tell others of God’s love in Christ Jesus. Ask for sensitivity to needs around you and to God’s prompting to share His love.

Pray also for faith to believe what God can do through you. Let Him shift your confidence from yourself—your strength, knowledge, skill, or gifts—to His might, sure guidance, and omnipotent enabling. Pray to receive a track record of God’s provision, so you can learn confidence in Him and no one else.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. –Matthew 7:7

Again, ask God to do His work in you, everyone at Northpoint, and in our leaders.

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.

Praise 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

Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” –Nehemiah 8:9-10