



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

January 20, 2019

Forgive Us Our Debts*

And forgive us our debts ... –Matthew 6:12a

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

–1st John 1:7-10

Holy Father, deliver us from the lie that we are basically okay, only needing minor improvements to be pleasing to you. In your grace, enable us to see our sin and admit it to you. Lead us to despair of our own ability to make ourselves right before you. Make us long for your cleansing, then wash us and make us whiter than snow.

A great lie baits the trap of sin and death. We are lulled by the idea that everyone has some good and some bad, and what really matters is which one we choose. Thank you, Lord, for the frank evaluation you give us in your Word. It's far more harsh than a diagnosis of cancer, but it's true. We are dead in our trespasses and sins. All hope of salvation and cleansing from sin lies—not with us—but with you.

Your sentence of death for sin is just. We can't blame you. We disobeyed your command, knowing the consequences. Our sin cut us off from you—the Source of life—and brought us death. We can't blame you for what we did. But we do. Release us, Father, from the lie that it's not our fault, so we can confess our sin and receive your forgiveness.

You made Man in your image, so human aspirations are huge. By nature, we take on challenges and strive to conquer. We need your light to reveal the fact that all our efforts are hopeless apart from Christ. Of all our sins, the greatest is self-righteousness—our insistence on getting things right on our own. Only your grace can set us free to give up our efforts and receive your forgiveness as a free gift. Sin entangles us every time we try to “be good” on our own.

Pour out your grace, Father. Whet our appetite for you. Make us hunger and thirst for you, O Living God. Make us acutely aware of our lack of connection to you and of the fact that we are responsible for it. Cleanse us of our sins. Set us free to know and enjoy you, through Christ, our God and Savior.

To the praise of your glorious grace! Amen.

The greatest power is not the ability to identify sin and punish sinners. The greatest power is the ability to save sinners. And Jesus saves. That is God's message to us and our message to the world.

Once, a man named Uzzah reached out and touched the Ark of the Covenant and was struck dead. A couple named Annanias and Saphira lied to God and died on the spot. God is frightfully holy and sin brings death. But the earth-shattering, universe-shaking miracles of God's Word are works of grace: when Moses and the elders of Israel went up Mount Sinai and saw the LORD and lived; when God became flesh and dwelt among us. Through Christ, we too see God yet live.

Prayer exerts the miracle of salvation. Every time you pray, you enter boldly into the presence of God, who is holy, holy, holy in a deadly, deadly, deadly way. Yet you live. Hallelujah! God has great plans for His people, and they all center around His power to save. Let us live in that power in order to proclaim that Jesus saves.

* Reprinted from *Prayer Focus*, January 1, 2017

Prayer for Our Day

Friday marked the 46th annual March for Life that was held since abortion was declared legal in 1973. This annual event keeps alive a national conviction of this one sin in particular, but no sin lives in isolation. Systematic abortion is the symptom of a deep system of sin that plagues humanity. Over the past decades, our nation has released its trust in God as He's revealed in the Bible. Now we are doing what is right in our own eyes. The increasing sin and division and conflict in our culture are the inevitable result.

Does the systematic destruction of innocent, unborn babies grieve a holy God? Most emphatically, Yes! Will God hold our culture accountable for this grievous sin? Most frightfully, Yes, as well. Can our holy God deliver our nation and our world from the sinful practice of abortion? Most miraculously yes He can—and He will, by the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Us—His people. So let's pray!

Ask God to equip and use Northpoint to engage in spiritual warfare by His power. Pray for skill in wielding *the weapons of our warfare* [with] *divine power to destroy strongholds* (2nd Corinthians 10:4). Pray that by God's saving power, we will turn from loving the world to overcoming the world in Jesus' name.

Pray for us as a congregation and for our leaders, especially our paid 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, Chelsae Grant, 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

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. —Ephesians 6:10-13