



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

April 7, 2019

### Muffled Voices

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.* –Matthew 18:20

Great things often make a small impression. The tiny sound of a baby's cry announces a new life full of an impact yet to be determined. A choice that leaves one road not taken can define a person's life and shape their significance. A quiet conversation among grown-ups often shapes the future of a family.

Memories of thirty-five plus years of visits to the home of my in-laws include times when I heard the muffled voices of my wife's parents praying in their living room. It was a habit they pursued in earnest once retirement finally spared them the time to pray together regularly. Topics of prayer no doubt varied depending on the need at the time, but family was always a primary subject.

Their prayers laid hold of God and made Him the decisive factor in regular events. God played a major role in the unfolding daily drama of their family's development. As husband and wife, Dad and Mom, Grandma and Granddad, even Great-Grandma and Great-granddad, they brought family members before the throne of grace.

God used those prayers to overcome challenges big and small.

- School assignments were successfully completed.
- Straying family members returned to the fold.
- Major financial losses were patiently reversed.
- Strength grew out of weakness.
- Families worked through miscarriages and unplanned pregnancies.
- Nineteen grandchildren and 29+ great grandchildren received a loving welcome into the world.
- Sins were confessed and forgiven, as prayer laid hold of God's grace.
- Family members and friends were prayed into God's kingdom forever.
- Wrong choices were reversed, and a new, healthy direction was established.
- Wounds were healed, diseases abated, relationships restored.
- A legacy of prayer passed down from one generation to the next.

Faithful prayer is powerful beyond comprehension. So easily neglected, prayer fills life with untold riches. Coming together in prayer brings heaven to earth and applies Divine omnipotence to everyday life.

A recent look at the financial records left in my mother-in-law's desk painted a picture of God at work. Receipts from missionaries and mission agencies were mingled with statements from the bank accounts that provided the funds. Thank you notes from recipients around the world bore testimony to the God who hears muffled voices directed to Him in prayer.

As God provided for my mother-in-law's seventeen years as a widow, those prayers in the other room bore fruit that traveled around the world, touching lives beyond all reckoning. God used her prayers and gifts to sponsor orphans and to support gospel preaching, church planting, and Bible translation. He turned faithful prayer to faithful giving that provided faithfully for many who trusted the Lord for life and service to His kingdom—including my family and me.

Lay hold of God's blessing for yourself and for others. Go to God with every need or desire. Bring the sum of all your fears before Him and watch what God Almighty does in response. Pour out your hurts and anxieties to the God of all mercies and receive His tender care. Take confidence from the King of Kings and take part in His reign and the extension of His kingdom into your life and throughout the world.

To the praise of His glory!

## The Church's True Power

*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ. –2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:4-5*

*Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. –Zechariah 4:7a*

Excellence has always characterized ministry at Northpoint. The preaching demonstrates careful study, delivered with consummate skill. Worship expresses our deepening love for Christ, led by excellent, well-prepared musicians. We do church well, and we do it on purpose. Our Lord deserves the best!

But the success of a church depends on the power of God, not the skill of people. It's not how well we do things that builds Christ's Church. It's the work of God's Spirit. Our reliance on God is more the measure of our effectiveness than the quality of our efforts. Faithfully pursuing Christ is the stuff of ministry—asking and receiving, seeking and finding, knocking and watching the Lord open.

That's what we plan to do this Thursday night. We will gather to rejoice in the church God has given us and ask Him to empower our ministry during the Good Friday and Easter services. God's power enabled Jesus to endure the cross and conquer sin. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proves His victory over death and power to save.

Pray for resurrection power in your life and on our church. Seek the Lord with us on Thursday at 7:00. Ask God to meet with us and teach us to seek and find Him, so we can minister as a church by His power and not our own.

### 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

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

–Matthew 7:7-8