



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

April 28, 2019

Many Infallible Proofs

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

—1st Corinthians 15:3-8

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. —Acts 1:3

When the cynical Roman governor Festus accused Paul of being crazy for believing that Jesus' rose from the dead, the chained but unshakable apostle replied with respectful defiance, *I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner* (Acts 26:25-26).

Paul was no starry-eyed idealist. He based the faith he proclaimed in verifiable evidence. Jesus' life, ministry, death, burial, and resurrection were widely known in His day. Eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection were still around. Paul was one of them.

The New Testament is full of first-hand accounts that testify to the facts on which our faith rests. These facts were reported so far and wide that the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread throughout the civilized world. While the New Testament is the only place where we find the repeated testimony of eyewitnesses to the resurrection, secular writings from the time corroborate Jesus' death and resurrection. Here are a few.*

"Now there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to Him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned Him to the cross, those that loved Him at the first did not forsake Him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct to this day." Josephus (c. A.D. 100): *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 18, chapter 3 part 3 (William Whiston's translation)

"Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome." *Cornelius Tacitus (55-120 AD), Ancient Roman historian.*

The fact is, Jesus was crucified and then came alive from the dead. That fact is the foundation of our faith. But the Christian faith is about more than historical facts. Jesus is alive today. We pray—not just because we have needs and believe God will help us. We pray, because Jesus is Alive and Listening. When we pray, we enter into His victory over sin and death and evil. By faith, we overwhelmingly conquer to the praise of God's glory.

* Taken from Extra-Biblical Historical Evidence for the LIFE, DEATH, and RESURRECTION of JESUS: ANCIENT NON-CHRISTIAN SOURCES. <http://www.westarkchurchofchrist.org/library/extrabiblical.htm>

Living Faith

The fact that Jesus rose from the dead is established history with present-day implications. Since Jesus Christ is crucified and risen, we know He's alive and listening. Ask God to cause that fact impact your daily life. Pray that the truth of the Risen Christ will ...

- Live in your heart, guide your thinking, and influence your actions
- Make you aware of His presence with you at All Times
- Lead you to follow His guidance and rely on His power
- Help you trust the truth of Scripture and sound doctrine
- Teach you to receive the Holy Spirit's help and grow in fellowship with other believers

Ask God to do the same thing with all of us at Northpoint. We are a body of believers, who live and grow together by faith in the Risen Christ, trusting in His Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray also for God's wisdom, strength, and protection for our leaders.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, Vinoj Zechariah, and new elders who come onto the board.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Chelsae Grant, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Tamene Menna, 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

I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

—Psalm 16:8-11

God is good all the time. All the time, God is good. Take time often this week to spend time with the God of all goodness. Let Him teach you true rejoicing—rejoicing in God, the fountain of our eternal celebration.

Dave Dussault
Northpoint Prayer Ministries

Lent Subjects 3/17/19, 3/24/19, 3/31/19, 4/7/19, 4/14/19

April 19 = Good Friday

April 20 = Easter

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! –Psalm 139:23-24

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. –Psalm 130:1-8

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. –Psalm 23:1-4

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. –Hebrews 12:1-2

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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 1:5-10

“Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” – Augustine of Hippo

YHWH: Cf. *I am the Alpha and the Omega,*” says the Lord God, “*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty* (Revelation 1:8). “The “is-ness” of God is expressive both of his presence and his existence. Neither concept can be said to be more important than the other” (TWOT, v. 1, pg. 214; see no. 484a). YHWH either is or sounds like an ancient verb meaning “be” (lexical form = “he is”). In Exodus 3, God introduces Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Lord is that and more, and He introduces Himself to Moses as, “I Am who I Am.” He is about to demonstrate through Moses, to Israel, and to all the world just what that means. He is far more than an ancient God of an ancient people. He is who He is. All that is and all that will be (such as the Exodus that is about to happen and the redemption brought through Christ) come from Him. The LORD, the God we worship, is self-existent and the very ground of all that exists and all existence.

And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all

the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

--Mark 9:14-29

All Things: *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)*

Supply Our Daily Needs: *Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase (Psalm 85:12).*

Become Like Him: *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is (1st John 3:2).*

- **Supply All Our Needs:** *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's (Psalm 103:2-5). And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2nd Corinthians 9:8).*

- **Answer Our Prayers:** *Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours (Mark 11:23-24).*
- **Escape Corruption:** *I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more (Jeremiah 31:33b-34).*
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Here is a small sampling of God's promises that we can lay hold of.

What God the Father is doing ...

What the Holy Spirit does

?Son / Word? ?Expresses and effects the Father's will?

Our role in the process

Creation and the events of life