



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

May 5, 2019

Living the Difference

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. –1st Peter 1:1-3

Living life is a lot like driving a car. It's a stream of decisions—of ongoing course corrections—to keep us going in the right direction. Left to ourselves, we veer off course. We only get to our destination by habitually steering back onto the road and purposefully navigating to where we want to go.

As Christians, our “navigator” is the Word of God, and our “destination” is life with God. Every day we live offers a practicum in living like a citizen of heaven, where a good God reigns and richly provides everything we need. Every choice we make steers us either closer to Him or further away.

And God makes all the difference. In a world cut off from its Maker and Sustainer, life is essentially a competition, where evil reigns. Malice and harmful motives create suspicion and destroy trust, as fallen people deceive their way to what they want or think they need. In desperate attempts to convince others—and ourselves—that we're basically good, we pretend to have good motives and intentions, while we're really motivated by the need to get ahead, no matter how we harm others. Put-downs and gossip become our modus operandi, as we scramble to gain an advantage.

But believers in Jesus Christ have tasted and seen that *the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8). We live in His eternal abundance and infinite supply. God's Word tells us that God *did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all*, and the Holy Spirit assures us that He will *graciously give us all things* (Romans 8:32). Steering toward God frees us to turn away from the earthly scramble, trusting in the One who freely gives us all things.

So as Christians, we have a new desire for God's truth. We take nourishment from God's Word and feed on *pure spiritual milk*. Cultivating an appetite for things that make us grow into our salvation, we come to look and act like the God who came from heaven to earth for our sake.

How could Christ have done that for us, if He weren't completely confident in His Father's goodness and certain of a positive outcome? The prayer, *not as I will, but as you will*, expresses more that surrender to the Almighty. Submission means trust—rest in the God of perfect love who can turn anything—absolutely anything—into good for the one who loves and trusts in Him.

Living as a Christian means steering toward Christ in every decision, feeding on God's truth, trusting in His goodness, and growing to the place where we look and live like His Son. To this world, that makes us odd, but from heaven's point of view, it makes us right at home, even while we live on earth.

To the praise of God's glory!

Living Faith

We are the remedy this world needs. It's not arrogance to think so. It's reality. God has made us new through faith in Christ Jesus. The reality is that those who believe in Jesus model life as God intends it to be. This truth calls us to humility, not pride.

That's what prayer is all about. God's call on our lives is far too high to live up to on our own. We need God's enabling. Every challenge we face calls for God's power. The perfect standard laid out in God's Word overwhelms us in our weakness, so we'll rely on divine power. The first thing we learn from God's Word is our absolute need of His help.

And help is available through prayer. Ask God to move among us as a congregation to seek Him through prayer as a habit, until regular dependent prayer becomes the culture of Northpoint.

Pray for our leaders as they lead us as body of dependent believers.

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 |
|------|---------|------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. —Ephesians 4:20-24