



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

June 23, 2019

Focused Faith

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. —Philippians 1:27

There comes a time when we have to choose. Living as we do in the land of the free, our freedom to choose is precious to us. Robert Frost's famous poem reflects his choice at a crossroads:

I shall be telling this with a sigh, somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Choice resonates deep in the hearts of a free people, and multiple options are essential, given human diversity. But God is our Rock, and His Word does more than bewilder us with endless options. In His loving wisdom, God informs our freedom and reminds us that there are right paths and wrong ones, and it's crucial which we choose.

Christians choose Christ—the Lord of Life. He makes all the difference. Jesus Himself is the “Perf of Great Price” and the “Treasure Hidden in a Field,” worth selling everything else to gain. With all of our individual preferences, interests, and desires, whatever gifts, focuses, and perspectives we bring to this life, the incomparable Christ commands everyone's attention, like One great Musical Conductor.

One recipient to Paul's letter to the Philippians was a merchant woman named Lydia. Something had been stirring in her heart for a long time. Successful in business, living in a reputable city, and wanting for nothing, Lydia longed for something more. For reasons only she knew, she was drawn out of the city every Sabbath, down to the river, where a few Jews gathered to pray.

When Paul came there and preached the Gospel, a light came on. This Jesus—He was what she'd been looking for all her life. She found full and free forgiveness by believing that He died for her sins on a cross and rose from the grave in victory. Lydia chose Him.

Then there was the slave girl. If anyone knew the darkness, she did. Deeper than the bondage of being owned by others, demonic possession held her in its grip. The great python spirit of the Oracle of Delphi used her voice to speak his words. Her lungs and vocal cavity uttered messages from someone else and told diabolical fortunes that people paid handsomely to hear. And her owners profited tremendously.

One sentence from Paul set her free in the name of Christ. Paul and his companion were arrested and beaten for disrupting business, and her life went on. But now, no demonic influence clutched at her throat and made her say whatever it wanted. She was herself again—completely free to worship her Deliverer and speak His praise.

Paul's prison guard had a completely different background. He knew the marshal life and understood discipline and the need for order. Keeping the prison meant keeping the peace, and he kept it tight and the prisoners secure. Living in the chain of military command, this jail keeper understood the consequences of letting just one escape.

So Paul and Silas were locked in the middle of the prison, with no chance of escape. But for some reason, the savage beating they'd received didn't keep them quiet. At midnight, he heard them praying and singing praise songs. THAT had never happened before! Neither had an earthquake so strong that it shook the prison doors open and broke the stocks holding the captives.

Life was becoming incalculable for this man of order and accountability. Of course all the prisoners must have escaped. The only thing to do was to kill himself before the Romans did. But those two singers

stopped him, just like they had stopped the prisoners from escaping. He found himself washing their wounds with his own rough hands and feeling a deep sense of guilt in his softening heart.

So he asked, *Sirs* (the word meant “Lords”), *what must I do to be saved?* He *believed in the Lord Jesus*, just as they told him, and the Philippian jailer was saved, along with his whole household.

This Jesus, who had made an eternal difference in all these different lives, held the attention of each one. The Spirit of Jesus who had set them free now enabled them to set aside their differences to focus on the Savior. Loving Him enabled them to love each other honor His name.

With eyes fixed on Jesus, they all could tell others how to be free in Jesus’ name and live with joy.

To the praise of His glory!

Summer Prayer

- **VBS:** Pray for someone you can invite to VBS this year (July 8-12)
- **Student Summer Camps:** Ask God to “hit reset” on their relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - Junior High camp at Yucaipa Regional Park (July 14-18)
 - Senior High camp at El Capitán State Beach (July 22-27)
 - Revolve College Camp: Ask God to draw our college students closer to Christ
- **Men’s Ministries:** Ask God to lead the men to take their stand as men of God at the Men’s Breakfasts on July 20 and August 17.
- **Women’s Ministries:** Pray for the Pieces of Love ministry and the Christmas Tea preparations that are under weigh this summer.
- **Prayer Ministries:** Come into Christ’s presence as you pray together with God’s people every Sunday at 8:00 AM and Monday at 6:00 PM.
- **Leadership Search:** Pray for wisdom for the Nominating Committee for new elders to led Northpoint. Pray also for God’s guidance in our search for a new lead pastor to lead us to seek God in His Word and in prayer. Pray for a man who is gifted in effective spiritual leadership.

Continue to pray for our pastors and elders.

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

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
 –Philippians 3:8

“God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.”
—Augustine of Hippo

God calls us to Himself, because He made us for Himself. Prayer is responding to God’s call and participating in the relationship with Him that He has intended since creation. There’s a rightness about prayer.

Go to God in prayer. To make prayer a habit, go to Him with everything: your needs and wants, your joys and sorrows, your fears and concerns, your questions and wonder. God is right there beside you. Make talking with Him something you simply do.

There’s no greater company!

Dave Dussault
Northpoint Prayer Ministries

And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." –Isaiah 6:5-8

Christ is the infinite God in one human body. While He was on earth, He had the same physical limitations any human experiences. But when He returned into heaven, Jesus sent His Spirit to fill everyone who believes in Him.

We receive much from the Holy Spirit: Power, words to speak, boldness in speaking, and guidance to the right opportunities. But He also grants us compassion, a desire to see others saved, and confidence that He is mighty to save.

δεήθητε (beseech, pray earnestly; to ask for with urgency, to plead, to beg— because of presumed need. it can also mean "to pray" Luke 8:28)

ἐσπλαγγνίσθη (had compassion; to experience great affection and compassion for someone – Louw & Nida – deep affection)

ἐσκυλμένοι (troubled, harassed, bothered Luke 7:6).

ἐρριμμένοι (cast down, dejected, implying a loss of hope –Louw & Nida)

Good Shepherd: Love. Selfless. Compassionate. Rescues. Grace loves people just as they are but doesn't leave them that way. Conviction and compassion. Bold and gracious. Pursues. *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly* (John 10:10b)

Contrast

Thieves, robbers, hirelings: Indifference. Self interested. Go along to get along. Tolerant. Accepts people just as they are and leaves them as they are; leaves them to their fate. Accepts. Neglects. *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy* (John 10:10a).

5/12: Counter Culture

5/19: Proclaim the Excelencies

5/26: ??

6/2: ??

6/9: Pentecost Sunday (?Peter: "We are witnesses"?)

Outline:

- Steering away from ungodly behaviors: *all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander*
- Feeding on the truth of God's Word: *long for the pure spiritual milk*
- Growing into our salvation: *that by it you may grow up into salvation*
- Living out God's goodness to us in saving us: *if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*
- Resting in the Lord's goodness (v 3) and not striving for the advantages of this world

κακίαν: malice; a strong dislike that desires to harm

δόλον: deceit; trickery; falsehood

ὑποκρίσεις: Pretense; giving the impression of having one motive or purpose while really having a different one, AND ...

φθόνους: to come or do first or before others; the desire to get ahead (?motives?)

καταλαλιάς: "talking down, speaking evil of;

γάλα: Milk

ἐπιποθήσατε: deeply desire; have a great affection for (?affection?)

τὸ λογικὸν ἄδολον

λογικὸν: true to the real and essential nature of something (Louw and Nida); of or for speaking or speech; of or belonging to the reason, logical (Liddel & Scott). NT: rational, spiritual, pertaining to the mind and soul.

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).*

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