



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

July 21, 2019

Not of This World

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. –1st John 2:15-17

It's been said that Satan fell by the force of gravity. The world has tremendous pull. After all, it's everything we see. We're made from the stuff of earth and live in it all our days. Being made by a perfect God, it's a beautiful place, filled with many beautiful and desirable things—things we enjoy and even need. And making our way in the world—meeting our needs, finding our place, making our mark—occupies so much of our time, effort, attention, and prayer. It's so easy to overlook one important fact. This world is dying—just like we are.

Prayer shifts our focus from our dying world to the Lord of life. Prayer isn't just about getting what we want from God. It's about getting what God has for us. It teaches us to want what truly matters. The habit of prayer trains our hearts to desire what lasts forever. In Paul's words, prayer releases our control to the *God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure* (Philippians 2:13).

Prayer overcomes gravity and the pull of earthly things by training us to desire heavenly things. Through prayer, God lifts us and uses us to lift others by the power of Christ. In a world that is passing away, prayer pursues the eternal plan of our eternal Father and embraces everlasting hope in a world where all other hopes die. Prayer makes us heavenly minded, so we can be of earthly and everlasting good.

The world lives only for what it can see. The earth's passing pleasures are the only good it knows. Its finite resources are the only supply it can imagine. The people surrounding us are lost in darkness. They're trapped between scarcity and longing, because they believe only in what's visible and know nothing better than what they want. The threat of anything that might deny an immediate want or take away a felt need simply cannot be tolerated.

We bring the light of hope to this dark world—the hope of Jesus Christ. We don't see Him, but by faith we know that everything comes from Him, and that *in His right hand are pleasures forever* (Psalm 16:11). We worship Him and go to Him in prayer, because we believe that He is God and that He is good.

Spend time with God in prayer today. Go to the eternal, invisible God and seek all your good from Him. The grace of God flows from One who spoke the world into being, then shaped and filled it by His word. Receive all you need from His hand. Imbibe eternal joys right now, right where you are.

To the praise of God's glory!

Summer Prayer

- *Student Summer Camps:* Ask God to “hit reset” on their relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - Senior High camp at El Capitán State Beach (July 22-27)
 - Revolve summer ministries: 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 in selecting 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

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. –Hebrews 11:6