



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

July 7, 2019

### Ministering Life

*Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

—2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:4-6

“If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.” —Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

For American believers in Jesus Christ, there is an increasing heartache. Once, Godly men and women, embracing black leather-bound Bibles and attending church multiple times a week, defined our nation's culture. No more. The freedom forged in the Declaration of Independence and outlined in our Constitution once rang with self-evident truth. Not now. As a culture, we are using the very freedom God gave us to deny His Truth and defy His authority. And rightly, Christians mourn.

We want the Ten Commandments back in our courts and classrooms. We desire to see our laws enforce righteousness and not just support those in power. We long to see corruption judged and the corrupt removed from power. We seek for a return to the day when entertainment edified and made us better people and didn't just gratify and tell us we're basically okay. We look for leaders we can trust to make things right. Do we look in vain?

During Jesus' time, there were men who led society on the basis of Scripture. Their job was to look into God's Word, distinguish right from wrong, guide God's people according to His holy standards, and judge between the righteous and the wicked. They took their job seriously and in all sincerity, at least as far as anyone could see. Anyone, that is, except God, who looks on the heart. The ones people looked to for righteous leadership were the Pharisees and Sadducees—the very people who put our Savior to death.

It's with good reason that the Bible warns us to watch over our hearts with all diligence. We instinctively assume that our moral compunctions are good things that lead us to do good. If there's anyone who hungers and thirsts after righteousness, it's us, right? Surely the problem lies with those who see things differently.

As creatures made in the image of God, humans are the highest order of being there is. But as fallen sinners, we're opposed to the God who created us in His image, by our very nature. Rebellion is in our DNA. Words like “submit” and “obey” don't sit well with us at all. The only judgment we like is when we're the ones doing the judging.

As with the leaders in Christ's day, something in us turns our highest ideals into weapons to use on others. Whether it's the Law of Moses or the law of the land, written standards can only point us to what is right. They can never get us there. We pervert the good we long for and bring God's just judgment crashing down on our own heads.

It's grace that ministers life. Law can never make us right before God. Grace doesn't tolerate sin or soothe people with lie about human goodness. What we need in our lives, in each life around us, and in every life on earth is total transformation. Like when a caterpillar turns into a butterfly or an acorn becomes an oak, death needs to happen, for true life to take place. Our sin must be killed and replaced with perfection.

The Church does not peddle a better idea. We don't sell higher standards or superior wisdom. The advantages of righteousness—and according to God's Word, righteousness has many advantages—don't exist to give the Christian world-view credibility. We proclaim Christ, the wisdom of God, who tasted death for everyone and offers life to one and all. He gives His perfection and power to conquer sin.

Proclaiming this fact is our ministry of life to a world that is passing away. To the praise of God's glory!

## Summer Prayer

- **Vacation Bible School** (July 8-12): Ask God to use this week to lead people to Christ and make them grow in Him.
  - Pray for someone you can invite to VBS this year.
  - Pray for the week to be completely staffed with volunteers.
  - Pray for the Holy Spirit's presence to make God's Word come alive in us.
- **Student Summer Camps:** Ask God to "hit reset" on their relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - Junior High camp (July 14-18): Ask God to speak into the lives of our junior high students.
  - Senior High camp (July 22-27): Ask God to speak into the lives of our high school students.
  - Revolve College Group: 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 |
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*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. –John 6:63*