



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

August 11, 2019

Praying in Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. ... 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 11:1-2, 6

There is more power in prayer than we know. Praying in faith is not a wish list we dangle in front of God, hoping He'll bite. Praying in faith is how we lay hold of God and obtain what we ask for. There are things that exist that didn't used to be, because people asked and received. There are situations in place that were not there until people prayed then into being.

One vivid example is nestled in a valley in the local San Bernardino Mountains—the product of the faith and prayers of Henrietta Mears and a few Christian leaders some 80 years ago. A visionary leader in Christian Education during the last century, Ms. Mears began praying about founding a Christian camp where churches from southern California could send people for retreats to learn from God's Word and be equipped for Christian service.

When she and a few leaders from the Hollywood Presbyterian Church drove up Highway 38 and turned up the valley to Forest Falls, they passed the Forest Home camp, which was for sale. Seeing that is cost \$350,000, a fortune in 1937, Henrietta declared, "Don't even bother to stop ... we can't afford all this."

God had other ideas—ideas relating to His mission to rescue the lost. And God commands the wind. Shortly thereafter, a mighty storm blew into the valley, bringing winds and pouring rain through the night. Waters rose, trees fell, and boulders rolled. At the camp, four cabins were swept from their foundation. The camp then sold for \$30,000 and Forest Home Christian Conference Center was born.

Two testimonies of the camp's role in God's mission stand out. By the chapel at the lake, a plaque tells Billy Graham's testimony. Near that spot, God lead him to resolve difficulties he had with some things in the Bible and simply preach what it says, without any doubts. That decision marks the beginning of God's profound blessing on his ministry, which He's used to bring tens of thousands to faith in Christ.

Also at the camp is a prayer chapel "filled with books—literally thousands of pages of personal history where guests write out their decisions, prayers, and cries to God."* I've looked at those pages and read about the direct, personal impact God has had on those who have come there to look to Him in prayer.

Hebrews 11 tells us that a Christian is someone who

- looks to an invisible God to receive things we don't see
- is convinced that God exists and is active, right here and right now
- expects to receive what we don't yet have
- knows that God commends our faith in Him
- believes that what God wants for us is best for us

God is on a rescue mission, reaching the lost who refuse to trust Him or even believe He exists, so He can give them life by faith in Him. All of Scripture portrays God's mission and calls His people to take part in it, by reaching out to others in faith that He is working to make them His own.

Northpoint Church is on that same mission. Every Sunday, we gather for a purpose: to praise God, receive instruction from His Word, and to ask Him to equip us for His mission, believing that God is with us and ready to bless us with success.

To the praise of His glory.

Prayer

Follow Pastor Tony's outline for prayer for the man we're looking for as lead pastor.

1. Pray for a pastor whose energy is evident, whose mind is solid, and whose heart is tender.
2. Pray for a pastor who serves the Lord, submits to Scripture, and works well with others.
3. Pray for a pastor who edifies the saints, evangelizes the lost, and recognizes dangers to all.
4. Pray for a pastor whose reputation is above reproach, whose life is accessible, and whose aim is to finish well.

Prayer for our church and a new lead pastor is prayer for God's mission for Northpoint. Ask God to give us a clear sense of His call on us as a congregation. Pray that God will form His call within our leaders, cause it to take shape in us as a congregation, and enable us to recognize the man He calls to us by the "fit" between him and what God is clearly calling us to be.

Prayer for Our Leaders

"O Lord our God, Hear as we pray.
"Lead those who lead To follow your way."

Pray the words from this worship song for the leaders of Northpoint, our staff, 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.

And pray, expecting God to answer.

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

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps. –Proverbs 16:9