



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

January 12, 2020

The Path of Blessing

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

—Psalm 1

God's Word clearly lays out the path of blessing. God blesses those who obey His will and do what is right. Disobedience and doing wrong result in a curse. The way of obedience and blessing is the way of wisdom, and Psalm 1—wisdom psalm—expresses God's wisdom clearly and succinctly.

The first step down the path of wisdom is carefully choosing the company we keep. People act like the people they're with and reflect the ideas of those who surround them. *The counsel of the wicked*, leads to wicked behavior, *the way of sinners* ends in sin, and *the seat of scoffers* is the place where righteousness is mocked to justify ungodly behavior. Observing the behavior of others and choosing godly companions supports godly character and ensures the blessings of righteous living. It's not complicated.

Turning from evil influences means turning to the influence of God's truth, and walking down the path of blessing involves a change of affection. A righteous person is more than someone who dutifully does what's right and doggedly denies the pleasures of sin. Godliness cultivates the desire for goodness, learns to *delight in the law of the LORD*, and values divine approval. Constant exposure to God's Word and the habit of meditating on His truth *day and night* develops a taste for what is good and wholesome and right. Godly appetites produce godly behavior that brings positive results.

These blessings include stability and abundance. Delighting in God's Word makes us *like a tree planted by streams of water*. The habit of going God's way develops deep roots and a refreshing supply of every need, because God is the source of all there is. And this connection to God brings *fruit in its season*, as His plan unfolds in the life of His obedient child, who *prosperes ... in all that he does*.

A good look around us in life makes the advantages of godliness clear. Although the ungodly often prosper, their lives display the instability and dysfunction of self-seeking disobedience. They *are like chaff that the wind drives away*—here today and gone tomorrow. They lack the stability that deep roots bring and the nourishment that a taproot draws from deep soil.

Life has a way of judging individual lives. The narratives of God's Word and the testimony of history show that human goodness always ultimately fails. Righteous strength drawn from God, our Creator and Lawgiver, matures into genuine character that brings personal stability and shines before others the blessings that come from going God's way.

Only one person was ever completely Godly in His life. Christ alone walked the full length of the path of wisdom. But before He received God's blessing, He took on the curse of our sin. The path of wisdom leads to Christ and receives the righteousness He bought for us on the cross.

Wisdom understands that every quest for godliness ends in failure. Jesus followed the path of blessing from heaven to earth, to the cross and the grave, then back to heaven through the resurrection, so we can receive God's righteousness and blessing by faith in Him.

To the praise of His Glory.

Prayer for the Week

Faith Is: Understanding that everything happens in the light of God's purposes and walking through all of life with Him right beside us.

Sunday (Church): Pray for our search for a Lead Pastor, to feed us from God's Word and lead us in His will, doing God's work, God's way, by God's power.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for your church family (friends and prospective friends at Northpoint) to grow in God's grace and display it to others.

Tuesday (Job/School): Pray that your leaders, coworkers, and friends at work to come to know Christ and His love.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for the neighbors you interact with most regularly: Ask God to create moments when you can tell them of your hope in Christ Jesus.

Thursday (Our Nation): Ask God to transform our education system, media, and businesses, so they honor Christ and uphold the truth.

Friday (The World): Ask God to raise up new generations of missionaries to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Give God thanks. List five things in your life that God has given you, then thank Him for each one.

Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray that God's hand will be on our leaders, to give them His strength and protection.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Terilyn Brown, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Vinoj Zechariah, and new elders who will soon come onto the board.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Tamene Menna, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, Karen Sherwood, and Dani Tiqui.

Prayer Record

Record specific prayers you have below. 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 LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. –Proverbs 3:19-20

By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. –Proverbs 24:3-4

There's a difference between knowledge and wisdom. For example, knowledge is aware that an avocado's a fruit not a vegetable, but wisdom knows better than to put an avocado in a fruit salad. Wisdom also knows the different between being right and being righteous, and between winning an argument and winning a person. Wisdom knows how to build others up without getting puffed up with pride.

Seeking to know God by reading His Word is wise. Seeking to know the Bible, just to know it, is dangerous. Make time with God a habit, so you can get to know Him personally. Knowledge of God isn't about theology. It's about relationship—a relationship with God.

And God is SO GOOD!

Dave Dussault
Northpoint Prayer Ministries

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will. —Ephesians 1:11

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. —John 1:16-18

If you're not paralyzed by panic, you obviously don't understand the situation.

??? Do you hear what I hear? ???? ??”**Do You Know What I know?**” ?title?

God's judgment is of our making, He uses the devices and artifices of our own sin to contain and judge sin on earth.

??Pray for peace people everywhere ?? Humanity's destructive capacity ought to evoke panic. But we can't function with the level of panic requisite to our situation. So we delude ourselves with false hope. Instead, the Church should pray for peace and proclaim

The cumulative weight of the evils of all humanity of all time—the German holocaust, the horrors of 50 to 75 million people slaughtered in 2 world wars, the bloodiest regimes of the 20th and 21st centuries, and the world-scale death and destruction predicted in the last days.

Pray for peace and proclaim the eternal peace that Jesus offers by His perfect life, atoning death, and triumphant resurrection for all who put their trust in Him

—the German holocaust, the horrors of 50 to 75 million people slaughtered in 2 world wars, the bloodiest regimes of the 20th and 21st centuries, and the world-scale death and destruction predicted in the last days.

who was born of the virgin, so He could be one of us and cleanse us from sin by His blood.

Gloria en excelcis Deo!