



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

February 16, 2020

Joy Abounding

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. –Philippians 4:4-7

There's an old church saying. "To dwell above with the saints we love, oh that will be glory! But to dwell below with the saints we know, well ... that's another story." Take the little Baptist church I grew up in. It split off from one across town because of conflict over the pastor. And of course, it was "their" fault! Even the church Paul planted in Philippi had its conflicts.

But conflict is more than a church problem. It's a human problem—the backstory of every life. Conflict fills the news and haunts every relationship. It's as old as Cain and Able and as near as your next-door neighbor—maybe nearer. Clearly the answer to the famous question is, "No! We can't all just get along."

According to James 4:1, what troubles us is that our *passions are at war* within us. And two questions deeply unsettle us. "Who's in control?" and "How can I be sure I'll get what I want?" The answer is very simple in essence. Resting and rejoicing in the Lord brings peace and unity. But the process of receiving God's peace in our struggles requires the power of Almighty God.

Joy and peace involve releasing as well as receiving. When we let our *reasonableness be known to everyone*, we let go of our personal demands on God and others. We're *anxious about nothing*, when we turn fears and anxieties into prayer and trust God to help. The process involves ...

- *Prayer* addressing God directly and telling Him all we need,
- *Supplication* that seeks Him earnestly to meet our urgent needs,
- *Thanksgiving*, which looks to Him gratefully, knowing that God owes us nothing but graciously gives us all things (Romans 8:32),
- *Letting our requests be known to God*, by entrusting our specific needs into His hands, confident that He will meet them all.

These habits connect us with the divine realities that direct the events of this world and of our lives. They bring peace, not so much from the assurance we'll get what we want, but from the confidence that God is good and is sure to bring about what is good for us.

Confidence like Abraham had when he walked up Mount Moriah with his son Isaac, a bundle of wood, a small fire, and a knife to make his sacrifice. Or the awesome, mysterious, agonizing peace that enabled Jesus to submit to His Father's will, knowing what His agony would accomplish and looking to the glory His obedience would bring (Hebrews 12:1-2). And the confidence that's taking Northpoint through an extended time of growth, challenge, difficulty, and loss.

Too often, we tie peace to an expectation that we'll get exactly what we ask for. But the peace prayer brings comes from realizing God's actual presence with us and resting in the certainty that He will accomplish His purposes, which are always good.

And are always to the praise of His glory.

Prayer for the Week

Tony Chute: Pray for God’s hand to be upon Him, so that all he says and does aligns with God’s will, displays His power, and honors His name. Seek God’s guidance and provision for him and our elders in his transition to a full-time role with Northpoint.

Sunday (Church): Pray for our search for Northpoint's next pastor to Adults who build us up in Christ as a community of strong believers and families who know God as His Word reveals Him.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for your household to honor Christ as Lord. “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

Tuesday (Job/School): Pray for opportunities to express God’s love for those you serve through your job.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for your relationships and Christian influence in your neighborhood. Acknowledge God’s right to command you to, “Go and make disciples.”

Thursday (Our Nation): Pray for the love of God to spread throughout His Church in America, so that we are “filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:18).

Friday (The World): Pray for the triumph of the Gospel throughout Latin America. May the Gospel be the “power of God to salvation for all who believe.”

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Praise your Creator for His glorious creation and for giving you life. “Of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.”

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

And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. –Luke 12:29-32