



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

March 29, 2020

God's Treasure Within

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" —Luke 11:13

Prayer is powerful, because God is powerful, and prayer lays hold of Him. Apparently Jesus' disciples recognized the connection between Jesus' power and His prayer life when they asked Him to teach them to pray. His response to their question includes a sample prayer (the "Lord's Prayer") and two parables. It addresses exactly what we, Jesus' disciples today, need in order to accomplish the work He called us to do.

Jesus' sample prayer (Luke 11:2-4) focuses first on honoring God the Father and serving His kingdom above all things. Then it expresses to our dependence on Him for all our physical and spiritual needs. Our most essential needs—our daily bread, forgiveness for sins, and deliverance from temptation—are supplied by God. Prayer reminds us of our greatest need—the need to realize our need of God. Dependence on Him is the foundation of spiritual power. It was true for Jesus, so it's certainly true for us.

Jesus' parable of the friend at midnight (11:5-8) illustrates this point. When a guest appeared at his door in the middle of the night, this man had nothing to give him. Knowing he had nothing to offer, he implored his neighbor to loan him some bread. In desperation, he refused to give up until he got what he came for.

When we pray, we admit we have nothing to offer. This fact cuts against the grain of our self-confidence and offends our natural pride. But Jesus frankly expressed our utter dependence on Him for everything. *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing* (John 15:5).

By its very nature, prayer is a confession of dependence on God. It's repentance from our essential sin of rebellious self-sufficiency. Prayer admits our need of God, turns from self-direction to submission, and allows God to be God in our lives. Because God alone is our Creator and Provider, prayer reestablishes us in a right relationship with Him. Prayer is about reconnecting before it's about receiving.

And since we have God's promise to provide, we can pray persistently, insistently, and expectantly. *And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened* (Luke 11:9-10).

But we don't pray to an annoyed neighbor who doesn't want to be bothered. God is a good Father, who gives His children *good gifts*. God never pulls a fast one and answers our prayers with something worthless or harmful (11:11-13). We can always trust Him to give what's best, even when it doesn't seem that way.

In fact, He's already given us the best possible gift. We just need to remember to make use of it. Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit to live within His people. The Holy Spirit is God's life flowing through the spiritual veins of His people. He guarantees our salvation (2nd Corinthians 1:22). His presence in us assures us that we belong to Christ (2nd Timothy 2:19). He empowers our ministry (Acts 1:8), reveals the truth of God's Word to us (2nd Corinthians 2:12-13), gives us joy (1st Thessalonians 1:6), and bears righteous fruit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23). And the Holy Spirit is always with us (John 14:18; Hebrews 13:5b).

Prayer is not about what we need. It's about all that God has to supply. It's not about lack. It's about abundance. It's about more than our inability. It's about God's infinite ability—right at our fingertips. So we can pursue the work of His kingdom with utter confidence and joy.

To the praise of His glory.

Prayer for the Week

Ask God to use the coronavirus to lead our nation to repentance. God has an eternal purpose in everything He allows to happen. We are a self-confident and rebellious people, who don't see our need of God. Ask God to change that attitude in our nation, starting with Christians. Ask God to give us faith, compassion, and boldness to share the Good News that Jesus saves wherever we can.

And ask God to ...

- give wisdom to our leaders to stop the spread of coronavirus
- heal the sick and comfort those affected by the virus
- provide for all the ways it will affect our society
- unite and strengthen His people for the work of His kingdom
- bring calm as societies grapple with uncertainty, fear, sickness, and sometimes death

Monday (Home and Sunday (Church)): Pray for Steve Dalgren, our worship leader to lead us to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

Home and Family): Pray for your church family (friends and prospective friends at Northpoint) to know and share the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge.

Tuesday (Job/School): Pray for your neighbors' needs and concerns that you are aware of. Ask God to help them with these concerns and reveal Himself to them.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for Northpoint Church to thrive and be an influence for Christ in Corona. Ask God to send His Spirit to empower our witness.

Thursday (Our Nation): Pray for a renewed desire in the Church in America for holiness, purity, righteousness, love, and boldness in spreading the Gospel.

Friday (The World): Pray for strength and protection for Christians in the Muslim world. Ask God to enable them to keep the faith. Pray for the salvation of their persecutors.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Thank God for His creation and provision, and for bringing you the good news of salvation. God has loved you with an everlasting love.

Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray for wisdom for our church leaders, as they lead us through the demands of this time.

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. –Luke 12:29-31