



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

Battle On

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. —Ephesians 6:10-13

As they grew up, my parents watched for a decade as evil encircle the globe. Nazi Germany conquered Europe, North Africa, and encroached into the Middle East. Imperial Japan dominated half of the Pacific, much of China, and threatened India. Democratic powers reeled from the totalitarian onslaught.

In the Inland Empire, life today is deceptively peaceful. Sure, prices are rising, and there are echoes of violence in the United States and abroad, but things seem fine. There's food on our tables and our homes are—for the most part—secure. We need to take a second look, though, before we get too comfortable.

America is ramping up its involvement in Ukraine's war with an aggressive and unpredictable nuclear power. Every political decision against a societal evil is met renewed and fierce opposition, and the integrity of our treasured election process is under assault. But most alarming, America as a nation has dismissed Christ from our culture. Acting as if His existence is of little or no consequence, a near majority seems to be saying, *We do not want this man to rule over us* (Luke 19:14b).

Do God's people truly appreciate how alarming this mentality is? Do we really not understand that all our hope is in God and not the American system? David, the first king of a nation built on God's righteousness, understood the grave danger of spiritual and moral decay. *Behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart; if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do* (Psalm 11:2-3)? The righteous are the world's only hope.

We are the righteous—the Church of the Living God. We are *the light of the world*. Jesus Himself said so, and *a city set on a hill cannot be hidden* (Matthew 5:14). When Christ—who conquered sin and death long ago—confronts evil, He does so through His Church. That's US. It's time for the Church to go on the offensive in the spiritual battle against the darkness of this world.

Ephesians 1-3 give us the "IS" of our salvation and lays out the bedrock truth of our Christian faith. Chapters 4-6 delineate the "Oughts" of our creed and tell us how we are to live in light of what Christ accomplished on the cross—how we do live out who we are in Christ. These three chapters are filled with imperatives that direct our actions. They command us to:

- **Walk worthy** of the calling to which [we] have been called (4:1). Holiness convicts the world.
- **Stay united.** *Maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace* (4:3). Unity stands strong against the onslaughts of the world.
- **Build up Christ's Body**, until we all attain to ... *mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ* (4:12-16). Maturity displays Christ to the world.
- **Speak the truth in love** (4:25). The truth exposes the lies of the world.
- **Be kind to one another**, *tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you* (4:31-32). Kindness and forgiveness reveal God's heart for the world—a heart intent on redemption.
- **Walk in love**, *as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God* (5:2). Love covers the sins of the world.
- **Stay pure.** *Sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints* (5:3). Purity testifies of God's holiness to the world.

We obey these commands and overcome the world, not by our own ability, but by God's power working in us, when we *put on the whole armor of God* (6:7). ... To the praise of God's glory!

Continued Daily Bible Reading

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bible in 1 Year	Joshua 15-17	Joshua 18-20	Joshua 21-23	Joshua 24; Judges 1-2	Judges 3-5	Judges 6-8	Judges 7-9
Year 1	Leviticus 10	Leviticus 11	Leviticus 12	Leviticus 13	Leviticus 14	Leviticus 15	Leviticus 16
Year 2	1 st Corinthians 1	1 st Corinthians 2	1 st Corinthians 3	1 st Corinthians 4	1 st Corinthians 5	1 st Corinthians 6	1 st Corinthians 7
Year 3	Esther 9-10	Philemon 1	Psalms 101-102	Psalms 103	Psalms 104	Psalms 105	Psalms 106

Prayer for Our Time

Pray for God to remove godless leaders and raise up Godly leaders in our local, state, and national governments. Ask God to cultivate an appetite for integrity in us, the American people.

Daily Prayer

Sunday (Church): Pray for Corie Saunders, Administrator and Finance. Ask God to use the management of Northpoint's staff and money to enhance the work of Christ and magnify His name.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for faith, love, holiness, and joy to define your family's relationships within and without.

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

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for Christ to be exalted in Home Gardens, so that many people in that part of Corona come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Thursday (Our Nation): Pray for God to use the Missions Conference to move us to advance the Gospel in our neighborhoods, communities and throughout the world.

Friday (The World): Pray for God's Word to infiltrate and influence Russia, Ukraine, and the former Soviet states, and make the true Church strong to influence those societies.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Praise God for the beauty of God's creation and His goodness to you. The beauty of our world reveals the beauty of our God and Creator.

Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray for God's protection of Northpoint's leaders and their families.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, Terilyn Brown, Steve Dahlgren, and Amber McEwen.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Woody Armstrong, Steve Flood, Craig Hawkins, Perry Schaefer, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, John Cordill, Colin Cordill, Megan Cordill, Laura Flood, Noah Gauderman, Nolan Golightly, Carolee Jefferson, Nick Juarez, Cade MacRitchie, Sam Nguyen, Lauren Sanner, Corie Saunders, Dani Tiqui, Micah Valdez, Tyler Van Horssen, Christina Vasquez, and Holli Worthington.

God's Plans for His People

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life. —Philippians 2:14-15