



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

January 29, 2023

### The LORD Will Provide for Himself the Lamb

*And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ... And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." –Genesis 22:7-8, 13-14*

Like anyone else, Abraham had dreams, desires, longings, and plans for his life. He sprang to life in Scripture when God chose him specifically and committed Himself explicitly to bless him. God promised to provide Abraham all he desired—more than he could possibly imagine.

And God did as He promised. By faith, not knowing where he was going, Abraham entered a land that would one day belong to him and his posterity. All the while, God provided abundantly—goods and livestock, male and female servants, direction, protection, excellent pastureland victory in battle. Abraham lacked nothing. Except a child of his own, from his wife Sarah.

Finally, miraculously, at age 100, after he and Sarah were too old to have children, God enabled them to conceive and give birth to Isaac—their only son, God's promised provision. What triumphant joy! Finally he had a heritage—someone to whom to pass on his name and wealth. Now he would have a posterity. Filled with gratitude, Abraham could well say, "All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided."

Then God said ... *WHAT?!*

*"Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" (Genesis 22:2).* Sometimes God makes no sense—to us at least. That's the point where we learn the secret of trusting in Him.

Trudging up Mount Moriah were a young lad, who had everything to learn about God's faithfulness, and an old man, who had worn out all of his reasons to do things His own way.

Abraham had tried often enough to "help God out" and ended up causing nothing but trouble. To save his own skin, he'd lied twice about being married to Sarah and was thrown out of two major kingdoms as a result. He'd tried to produce his heir with Sarah's handmaid. That scheme didn't end well and created major family tensions—and ultimately national conflicts. Abraham had learned to trust God and take Him at His word.

But Isaac still had questions. *"Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"* to which Abraham simply replied, *"God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."* Then, as Isaac looked on, Abraham built an altar and arranged wood on top of it. With Isaac's trusting compliance, he tied up his only son, laid him on the altar, and took up the knife to kill him.

*But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, ... "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him. ... And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.*

Both father and son trusted God to provide the sacrifice, and He did. God always provides.

To the praise of God's glory.

## Continued Daily Bible Reading

|                        | Sunday       | Monday       | Tuesday      | Wednesday    | Thursday     | Friday       | Saturday     |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Bible in 1 Year</b> | Exodus 10-12 | Exodus 13-15 | Exodus 16-18 | Exodus 19-21 | Exodus 22-24 | Exodus 25-27 | Exodus 28-30 |
| <b>Year 1</b>          | Genesis 29   | Genesis 30   | Genesis 31   | Genesis 32   | Genesis 33   | Genesis 34   | Genesis 35   |
| <b>Year 2</b>          | Judges 6     | Judges 7     | Judges 8     | Judges 9     | Judges 10    | Judges 11    | Judges 12    |
| <b>Year 3</b>          | Mark 9       | Mark 10      | Mark 11      | Mark 12      | Mark 13      | Mark 14      | Mark 15      |

### Trusting God's Provision

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-18).*

In coming days, as tensions and difficulties increase, keep trusting and obeying God and His Word. Keep praying, and as you pray, remember ...

- Wherever you go, God is always there.
- No matter what happens, God is always in control.
- Learn to see God's intentional action in everything that happens.
- Trust Him to be good and faithful in every circumstance.

### Daily Prayer

**Sunday (Church):** Pray for Perry Schaffer, lay elder, to have divine discernment to lead Northpoint in God's will in all things. Pray for God's protection and guidance.

**Monday (Home and Family):** Pray for your household to honor Christ. *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 we're 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. *For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace* (John 1:16).

### Prayer for Our Leaders

Ask God to use our staff to reveal Jesus in their lives, deeds, and words.

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

### God's Provision

*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.*

–1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2: 5-6