



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

May 5, 2024

### Walk in the Spirit

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. –Galatians 5:16-26*

There's a war going on. We see it on the outside, in Ukraine and Israel and on more and more college campuses, but the war is inside as well. We experience it between people, in conflicts at home, at work, and with our neighborhoods. Most profoundly, though, this war rages within each of us, as we desire to do good, yet persistently lapse into behaviors that destroy the very good we seek. We're all engaged in this battle but what we see is only the surface tension in a war between titanic spiritual forces.

The societal, moral, and spiritual chaos we're experiencing these days are a current manifestation of the ages-old war of angels and principalities and powers, in rebellion against our God and Creator. Satan and His hordes refuse to bow and they've drawn humanity onto their side in the conflict. We each carry the conflict of the ages inside of us. There's no avoiding this war. We're helplessly locked in its death grip.

But God has put a choice inside Christian believers. Christ gave us His Spirit, and we have a choice to follow either Him or the desires of our flesh. The life of Christ that we received by faith when we first believed makes it possible to *walk by the Spirit* (Galatians 5:16) and be free from the power of the sin that's within us as humans. It's a matter of walking in step with the Spirit of God. It works like this.

We keep in step with the Spirit by ...

- **Receiving God's forgiveness and cleansing:** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9).*
- **Imitating Christ's character:** *Be imitators of me as I am of Christ (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:1).*
  - *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:1-2).*
  - *Imitating Christ prays along with Paul that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11).*
- **Relying on God's power:** We don't imitate Christ by strength of will or in our own effort.
  - *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 (Ephesians 6:10-12).*
  - *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13).*
- **Receiving God's direction:** *And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them (Isaiah 42:16). He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake (Psalm 23:2b-3).*

To the Praise of His Glory!

## Continued Daily Bible Reading

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Bible in 1 Year</b>	Joshua 16-19	Joshua 20-24	Judges 1-5	Judges 6-9	Judges 10-12	Judges 13-16	Judges 17-20
<b>Year 1</b>	Leviticus 8	Leviticus 9	Leviticus 10	Leviticus 11	Leviticus 12	Leviticus 13	Leviticus 14
<b>Year 2</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Samuel 23	2 <sup>nd</sup> Samuel 24	1st Corinthians 1	1st Corinthians 2	1st Corinthians 3	1st Corinthians 4	1st Corinthians 5
<b>Year 3</b>	Esther 5-6	Esther 7-8	Esther 9-10; Philemon	Psalms 101	Psalms 102	Psalms 103	Psalms 104

### Prayer for This Week

Ask God to cause our faith at Northpoint to abound for God's glory.

**Sunday (Church):** Pray that the proclamation of God's Word will produce saving and sanctifying faith within us as a congregation, so we will be saved by God's power for God's Work.

**Monday (Home and Family):** Ask God to increase faith in your home, so that the reality of Jesus' active presence within you is clear to all.

**Tuesday (Job/School):** Ask God to reveal Himself through you as the way and the truth and the life (John 14:6), so the world can understand how to behave, what to believe, and how to live life now, and for eternity.

**Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community):** Pray for a growing awareness of the ways each of your neighbors senses their need for God, and ask for guidance in how to speak to that need.

**Thursday (Our Nation):** Pray for God's protection, mercy, and guidance during this time of increasing turmoil in our land. Pray for the Church to be a shining light of God's truth and righteousness in our land.

**Friday (The World):** Ask God to guide us as His witnesses to the lost world in which we're living, making His specific call on each of our lives clear and effective.

**Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing):** Rejoice in the reality of God's enabling in your life. *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3).

### Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray for our leaders to be keenly aware of God's presence with us and His power to accomplish what He's called us to do.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, Terilyn Brown, Steve Dahlgren, Amber McEwen, and Tyler Van Horsen.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Woody Armstrong, Steve Flood, Craig Hawkins, Perry Schaefer, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Analiese Alfonzie, Michele Balga, Bob Brown, John Cordill, Carolee Jefferson, Corie Saunders, Dani Tiqui, Micah Valdez, Christina Vasquez, and Holli Worthington.