

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



**HOPE**  
CHURCH | RALEIGH  
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 822

February 12, 2025

## “The Spiritual Discipline of Prayer”

In Reformed theology, prayer holds a significant place in the life of a believer, viewed not only as a duty but as a vital means of grace and a vital expression of a believer's relationship with God. Here are several key aspects that highlight the importance of prayer, supported by Scripture:

### 1. A Means of Communion with God

Prayer is fundamentally about communion and relationship with God. It's a way for believers to converse with their Creator, expressing their dependence, adoration, confession, and supplication. The Apostle Paul encourages believers, saying:

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

This verse highlights the continual nature of prayer, emphasizing its role in fostering a constant relationship with God.

### 2. Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Prayer is essential for confession of sin and assurance of pardon. In Reformed theology, understanding one's sinfulness and seeking God's forgiveness are crucial aspects of a believer's life. John writes:

1 John 1:9 (ESV): "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

This assurance of God's faithfulness to forgive gives believers encouragement to confess freely and often, deepening their reliance on Christ's finished work.

### 3. An Expression of Dependence

In prayer, believers acknowledge their dependence on God for all things, both spiritual and material. The Lord Jesus Himself models this in the Gospels, especially in the Lord's Prayer, where He instructs His followers to pray for daily needs:

Matthew 6:11 (ESV): "Give us this day our daily bread."

This request signifies a humble acknowledgment that all provision comes from God.

### 4. A Means of Spiritual Growth

Prayer is instrumental in the believer's sanctification process. It is through prayer that hearts are transformed, desires aligned with God's will, and faith deepened. Paul writes to the Philippians:

Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV): "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."

Here, prayer is linked with peace and a guarding of one's heart, indicating its role in spiritual maturity and emotional wellbeing.

### 5. Part of God's Sovereign Plan

In Reformed theology, prayer is understood within the framework of God's sovereignty. While God is sovereign and His plans will come to pass, He has ordained prayer as a means to accomplish His purposes. James encourages believers:

James 5:16 (ESV): "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

This verse affirms that prayer is potent and effective, functioning within God's providential will.

### 6. Intercession

Prayer is also a means by which believers can intercede for others. This is exemplified in the life of Christ, who intercedes for His people, as noted in:

Romans 8:34 (ESV): "Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."

Believers are called to model this intercession, praying for family, friends, and the broader community of faith, which demonstrates love and care for others.

### Conclusion

In summary, prayer is essential in the Reformed believer's life as it nurtures communion with God, facilitates confession and growth, acknowledges dependence, and functions as a powerful means in the context of God's sovereign will. Therefore, prayer is not merely a duty but a profound privilege that underscores the believer's relationship with God and others, underscoring the believer's reliance on God's grace.

# HOPE Calendar

**Wednesday, January 12**

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6pm  
Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 13**

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 16**

Worship Team Run Through  
@ 8:00 a.m.

**Worship @ 9:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday, January 19**

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6pm  
Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 20**

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

**Helping Hands for  
FEBRUARY 16, 2024**

ProPresenter

*Elizabeth Floyd*

Soundboard

*Bill Joyner*

Live Streaming

*Al Floyd*

Communion

*Kathy Jo Duckett*

Greeter

*Diane Mack*

**Scripture Text and Sermon  
This Coming Sunday**

**Spiritual Disciplines for the  
Christian Life:  
"Worship"**

**Matthew 4:10 / Psalm 95:6**

**Prophecies O.T.**

**Revealed.... N.T.**

Feb 9 Lu 1:72

Feb 10 Lev 1:2-9

Feb 11 Ep 5:2

Feb 12 Lev 14:11

Feb 13 Lu 5: 12-14

Feb 14 Lev 16:15-17

## GROW

**Women of HOPE  
Saturdays at 10a.m. at HOPE**

**2/22/25**

**HOW CAN WE BEST USE OUR  
SPIRITUAL GIFTS? HOW ARE  
YOU GIVING BACK TO WHAT  
GOD GAVE YOU?**

**Wednesday Night  
Supper, Study, and Prayer**

Supper @ 6:00 p.m.

**Please let me know you are  
coming**

Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

**"Food of the Month"**  
for the Raleigh Dream Center  
Food Pantry  
**Canned Meats and Meals**  
We have a collection bin in the foyer

**HOPE Meal Ministry**  
Take a meal from the freezer if  
needed for you or someone else.

## **SERVE**

**TLC Devotion**  
4th Wednesday each month  
**@ 11:00 a.m.**  
5124 Departure Dr # 101, Raleigh

**"As the moon influences the  
tides of the sea,  
So prayer influences the  
tides of godliness" - Spurgeon**

Prayer Requests:

Dave Rendall, Dale Herriman, Gene & Becky Hale, Sam and Rachael, Krishana, Joan Rollinson, Ron Clifton, Will Floyd's Fiancé's Mother: Jennifer, Jerry & Alice Kinard, Dianne Reinoso, Janice Worthington, Cindy (Elizabeth), Nancy Hutchens (Positive Cancer), Pastor Search Committee, Barbara(81) Stroke, Joey(18) Crohn's, Ebo (Glioblastoma #3/4)-family has 4 children, Youth Ministry, Kathy Jo and her family, Donna Williams & Family, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho (Kathy H), Patty Moyer's son Brandon, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, The Mallory family, Carol & Colin (Kathy H), Loretta (Sandi U), Joan Summers, Shelley Riggelman (Bruce), Jordan Stevens (Lynn J.), Ellie Tappan, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin, our Military, Police, Fire, and EMS, Missionaries, our Nation.

**"Wickedness and sin separate  
us from God and cause Him not  
to hear us; (Isa. 59:2)  
until, we repent and come to Him  
through faith in Jesus Christ.  
(John 14:6)" - Whitney.**

**UPCOMING WOMEN OF  
HOPE GATHERING AT THE  
CHURCH**

**2/22/25**

**HOW CAN WE BEST USE OUR  
SPIRITUAL GIFTS? HOW ARE  
YOU GIVING BACK TO WHAT  
GOD GAVE YOU?**

**3/08/25**

**TIME MANAGEMENT: HOW DO  
YOU DO IT ALL?**

**HOPE Church Raleigh  
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
4911 Green Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
919-508-6827  
Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

**www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org  
www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh  
Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh  
YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"  
in the search box)**