

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

"For the word of God is living and active. . . ." —Hebrews 4:12

"All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." —2Tim 3:16-17

Our prayers can sometimes get repetitive, selfish and narrow minded, or sometimes we just don't know what to pray for. When we pray the scriptures, we allow the Word of God to shape and direct our prayer life and align our hearts and purpose with God's.

Pray Truths about God back to him (Praise Him!)

For example, taken from 1 Chronicles 16:25-27: *For great are you LORD and most worthy of praise; You are to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the You LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before You; strength and joy are in your dwelling place.*

Personalize scripture into a 1st, 2nd or 3rd person prayer:

For example, taken from Philippians 2: *God, I pray that I would do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility that I would value others above myself -, not looking to my own interests but to the interests of the others.*

Praying Scripture as supplication/intercession:

Pray for biblical truths, commands, and promises to become earthly realities for you (supplication), or others (intercession).

For example: *God you say in Isaiah 58:6 "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people." I pray this over my friend caught in addiction. I pray that you would break the chain of addiction in his life and remove the power that alcohol has over him!*

Imagination prayer

Another way to pray Scripture is to use your imagination to place yourself within the text. This is easiest to do when reading a story or narrative text. Enter into the story using your imagination.

For example, put yourself in the shoes of Paul in Acts 22. You have just been beaten by the raging crowd, but the Spirit stirs you to go before them and share your testimony. What would you ask God for in that moment? What emotions are you experiencing as he tells his story? How can you relate? How can Paul's thoughts and actions direct your conversation with God? What insights into yourself, into God, or into your relationships can you take from this passage?

Other questions you can ask are: What is God's heart in this scripture passage? How can I pray to align my heart with God's?

PRAYERS IN SCRIPTURE

There are prayers already recorded in scripture that we can pray too!

PRAYERS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- ***The Patriarchs***
 - Prayer of Moses for Israel (Exodus 32:11-14, Numbers 14:13-20)
 - Prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10)
 - The prayers of David (2 Samuel 7:18-29//1 Chronicles 17:16-27)
 - The prayers of Solomon: for wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-14//2 Chronicles 1:7-12), dedication of the temple (1 Kings 8:22)
- ***In the Psalms*** (51, 86, 139, et. al.)
- ***Prayers of the Prophets***
 - Prayer of Elijah (1 Kings 18:36-37)
 - The prayer of Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:14- 20//Isaiah 37:14-20)
 - The prayer of Ezra (Ezra 9:5-15)
 - The prayer of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:4-11)
 - The renewal of covenant (Nehemiah 9:4-38)
 - The prayer of Job (Job 42:1-6)
 - The prayer of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 32:16-25)
 - The prayer of Daniel (Daniel 9:1-19)
 - The prayer of Jonah in the whale (Jonah 2)

PRAYERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ***The Prayers of Christ***
 - Matthew 6:9-13 / Luke 11:2-4
 - John 17
 - Matthew 26:36-44 / Mark 14:32-39 / Luke 22:39-46
- ***The Prayer of the Jerusalem Church*** (Acts 4:24-31)
- ***The Prayers of Paul***
 - Romans 1:9-13
 - Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-19
 - Philippians 1:9-11
 - Colossians 1:9-14
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 and 2:16-17
 - Philemon 4-7
- ***The Prayers for Paul***
 - By the Romans (Romans 15:30-32)
 - By the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:18-20)
 - By the Colossians (Colossians 4:2-4)
 - By the Thessalonians (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2)
- ***The Prayer of Epaphras for the Colossians*** (Colossians 4:12)