

Praying The Scriptures

Using God's inspired and authoritative words as the basis for your prayer and intercession

A Couple Of Websites

- <http://www.pray-the-scriptures.com/>
- <http://www.prayingscriptures.com/>

Inspiration & Authority

Hebrews 4:12 HCSB *For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints, and marrow; it is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 HCSB *All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, (17) so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Spirit & Scripture

The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible and it is His textbook, His divine Word. As we use the Bible rightly we find ourselves in agreement with God's Holy Spirit, and therefore praying powerfully and effectively.

2 Peter 1:20-21 Webster *(20) Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. (21) For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

Faith In The Word

Faith is believing what God says. Faith 'activates' the promise so that all things become possible to him who believes (Mark 9:23). Faith is essential because without faith activating the promise we cannot even be saved!

Faith is believing, with our spirit, with our inner being, that what God said is really true and will come to pass despite all external evidence to the contrary:

Romans 4:16-22 HCSB *This is why the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace, to guarantee it to all the descendants--not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of Abraham's faith. He is the father of us all (17) in God's sight. As it is written: **I have made you the father of many nations.** He believed in God, who gives life to the dead and calls things into existence that do not exist. (18) Against hope, with hope he believed, so that he became **the father of many nations,** according to what had been spoken: **So will your descendants be.** (19) He considered his own body to be already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb, without weakening in the faith. (20) He did not waver in unbelief at God's promise, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, (21) because he was fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. (22) Therefore, **it was credited to him for righteousness.***

Persistence In The Process

Abraham waited 25 years between promise and fulfillment and Noah spent 120 years building the Ark without a drop of rain! Faith hangs on and believes the Word of God based on the clear inner witness of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the believer.

Luke 8:15 HCSB *But the seed in the good ground--these are the ones who, having heard the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it and by enduring, bear fruit.*

Luke 21:19 HCSB By your endurance gain your lives.

Romans 15:4 HCSB *For whatever was written before was written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we may have hope.*

Hebrews 10:36 HCSB *For you need endurance, so that after you have done God's will, you may receive what was promised.*

The Power Of Words

Hebrews 11:3 HCSB *By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen has been made from things that are not visible.*

Matthew 8:8-9 HCSB *"Lord," the centurion replied, "I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. But only say the word, and my servant will be cured. (9) For I too am a man under authority, having soldiers under my command. I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes; and to another, 'Come!' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."*

Mark 4:39 HCSB *He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "**Silence! Be still!**" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

Agreeing With God

When we pray the Scriptures (in context) we are agreeing with God about the matter and enforcing His will and bringing in His Kingdom.

We are also demonstrating our faith by calling on His covenant promises and upon His faithfulness, rather than ignoring these things and going our own way and trying to solve our own problems.

Knowing That God Hears You!

1 John 5:14-15 HCSB *Now this is the confidence we have before Him: whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for.*

When we pray the Scriptures we can be sure that God is hearing us because we are praying His Word back to Him, in faith and applying it to our situation.

An Example From Psalm 23

Psalms 23:2-3 HCSB *He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. (3) He renews my life; He leads me along the right paths for His name's sake.*

Lord you are my Shepherd, indeed Jesus is my Good Shepherd who has come that I might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10), Lord please lead me to the green pastures, and quiet waters so that my life may be renewed and so that I might serve you in righteousness and truth. Lead my life into the right paths, the blessed paths and the peaceful paths O Lord for this is Your Word and Your will. Because this is Your Will I know that according to 1 John 5:14,15 You are hearing this prayer and will soon answer it, therefore I give You thanks and praise for Your mercy to me in Jesus' Name, Amen.

An Example From John's Gospel

John 10:27-30 HCSB *My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. (28) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish--ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (30) The Father and I are one."*

Lord I thank You that you have given me eternal life and that I will never perish . I thank You that I am guarded by the Father's hand and no one can snatch me away from Your love. I thank You that You are teaching me to hear Your voice and to follow You. O Lord open my spiritual eyes and ears so that I can follow You fully and obediently every single day. O Lord in Jesus' name I claim my security and eternal life in You and I claim all the divine guidance that I need in order to live as a Christian. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Precautions

Be careful regarding:

- Claiming verses meant for a specific individual e.g. Cyrus, David or Solomon
- Claiming Proverbs (which are insights for living rather than actual promises from God)
- Claiming something 'out of its time'
- Claiming an End Time prophecy or something meant for the Millennium
- Claiming something meant for national Israel (e.g. the land)

The Inner Witness

The Holy Spirit will often bring a Scripture to your consciousness, so that you can pray it back to God, and claim it for your situation. You may even sense 'a light bulb going on' as the Spirit applies the Scripture to your situation. When this happens write out the Scripture for further reference and keep praying it each day until you feel that it is 'done'.

Praying For Divine Possibilities

1 Chronicles 29:10-12 HCSB (10) *Then David praised the LORD in the sight of all the assembly. David said, "May You be praised, LORD God of our father Israel, from eternity to eternity. (11) Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to You. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom, and You are exalted as head over all. (12) Riches and honor come from You, and You are the ruler of everything. In Your hand are power and might, and it is in Your hand to make great and to give strength to all.*

God is Sovereign and riches, honor, power, might, greatness and strength come from Him. Indeed He gives 'strength to all' – who ask for it. You can claim strength to handle life from God, from the God to whom nothing is impossible! Indeed all things are possible with God (Matthew 19:26) and all things are possible to him who believes (Mark 9:23)

Taking Authority!

John 10:10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly*

Pray The Scripture And Bind The Thief!

Lord You have given us authority over the full strength of the enemy (Luke 10:19) . So we exercise our authority now. We bind you, foul thief! (Matthew 16:19) Drop what you have taken and leave here at once in Jesus mighty name. (John 14:13)

Renewing The Mind -1

Romans 12:1-2 HCSB *Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 HCSB *(14) But the natural man does not welcome what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to know it since it is evaluated spiritually. (15) The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. (16) For: **who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct Him?** But we have the mind of Christ.*

Renewing The Mind - 2

As we pray the Scriptures our mind starts to agree with God's mind and we develop the mind of Christ (literally the mental framework of Christ)

As we pray and affirm and believe the Scriptures they work in us so that our mind is renewed and so we become able to discern and understand spiritual truth.

Adams' mind – perfect framework but not yet filled with truth

Natural man / fallen Mind – distorted framework cannot absorb spiritual truth

Renewed Mind – framework of Christ, restored spiritual thinking, is being filled with God's truth from His Word via the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-16)

As our mind becomes more believing and more biblical so our renewal goes from strength to strength and we gain a far deeper understanding of God.