

Praying Scripture

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Sources:

Sermon On The Mount, R. T. Kendall
Internet search
The Holy Spirit

Billy Graham: I wish I had spent more time reading the Bible, and more time praying.

Outline

- **What is “praying scripture?”**
- **Why pray scripture**
- **Practical tips**
- **Practice**
- **Homework**

What is praying scripture?

Quite simply: using the Word of God to advise our prayer.

- Praying scripture is simply taking a passage, verse, or concept in scripture and using it for specific prayers for your life or community. Instead of forming a prayer from your own heart and mind, you’d pray what’s already written in the word.

Praying with Jesus

- The German martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that when we pray Scripture, we are praying with Jesus: All prayers of the Bible are such prayers which we pray together with Jesus Christ, in which he accompanies us, and through which he brings us into the presence of God. Otherwise there are no true prayers, for only in and with Jesus Christ can we truly pray. If we want to read and to pray the prayers of the Bible and especially the Psalms, therefore, we must not ask first what they have to do with us, but what they have to do with Jesus Christ.
- John 1:1-3, Romans 8:34

Cooperation with the Holy Spirit to pray God's will

- Praying the Word means reading (or reciting) Scripture in a spirit of prayer and letting the meaning of the verses inspire our thoughts and become our prayer.
- Romans 8:26

Why pray scripture?

- When we don't know what or how to pray

- Aligns us with God's Will

Not every prayer in this world is inspired by the Holy Spirit, including too many of my own prayers. It is possible to ask "amiss" (James 4: 3, kjv), or ask "wrongly" when you pray (esv). Praying wrongly is when we don't pray in God's will, either from wrong motives or ignorance. A prayer prayed outside the will of God may or may not be answered, but the only guarantee of answered prayer is to pray in God's will. We know this because God promises to hear us when we pray in His will. "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" (1 John 5: 14, tniv). (R.T. Kendall)

=> Lord's Prayer. This then is how you ought to pray...

- Six petitions:
- Hallowed by thy name
- Thy kingdom come
- Thy will be done
- Meet our daily needs
- Forgive us as we forgive others
- Deliver us from evil

- The people of God, both Old and New Testament, prayed scripture

- Acts 4:24-30

- God is a Promise Maker, a promise keeper, and can only say what is true.

=> Luke 1:37, Isaiah 55:8-11 God's word comes with the power for its accomplishment!

— Do you believe? Faith, Hebrews 11:1

Practical tips (how do you pray scripture)

1. Read the Bible - it is God's revealed word to us
2. Cooperate with the Holy Spirit - He will teach you and help you remember John 14:26 (Be sure to know and understand how to use discernment questions) (use a word/topic devotional book, or internet search)
3. Use the three R's method: Rejoice, Repent, Request. Ask the following three questions:
 - What about a passage gives you reason to rejoice, to give thanks and praise?
 - Is there something about this passage that reveals sin in my own life that should lead me to repentance?
 - Does the passage lead me to make a request of God for myself or others?
4. Use the prayers that are in the Bible (Psalms, Paul's written prayers in letter to the early churches)
 - Ephesians 1:16-23, 3:14-19
 - Philippians 1:9-11
 - Colossians 1:9-14
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
 - Hebrews 13:20-21
 - Revelation 4:8,11, 5:9-10, 12-14

=> My testimony regarding healing from pain

=> My testimony regarding Afghanistan deployment

=> My testimony regarding recovery from Covid

Practice praying scripture

- break into groups of 3 or 4 and pray for each other.

Homework

Take a bath! (You're kidding, right?)

- Our life should be soaked in God's Word, so it is only natural that our prayers be filled with it too.
- Pray Matthew 7:7-12 and Romans 12:1-2 over yourself
- Meditate on Psalm 34:8 and 1 Peter 2:2-3 (contemplate, dwell upon, consider, ponder, let the Holy Spirit breath its meaning on your heart)
- Let fear, awe, wonder, and trembling be part of your experience

Read your bible!

- John 14:26 - The Spirit will teach you and will help you remember!

Closing Prayer

(This prayer is adapted from Pss 25:4-7; 31:3, 15; Rom 15:13; and Phil 1:9-11):

Show us your ways, Yahweh,
teach us your paths.

Guide us in your truth and teach us,
for you are God our Savior,
and our hope is in you all day long.

Remember, Yahweh, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

Do not remember the sins of our youth
and our rebellious ways;

according to your love remember us,
for you, Yahweh, are good.

Since you are our rock and our fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide us. . . .

Our times are in your hands. Our future in is your hands.

May you, the God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is our prayer: that our love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that we may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.