

PRAY THE WORD

The Bible can be a prayer book for it commands us to pray over 250 times and speaks of prayer and praying an additional 280 times. We see how many Bible characters talked to God about his word. The book of Psalms is a good example. To pray God's Word is one of the most practical and powerful practices for a Christian; to let the written Word of God be part of our daily prayer life, for Jesus told us so.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you can ask whatever you desire and it will be given you. / John 15:7

Time spent in God's Word reveals His desires, pleasures and purposes. This puts our heart and mind in tune with His as we bring our requests to God. The Bible helps us understand the person we are praying to, Almighty God.

This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 John 5:14

God answers our prayers in various ways. Sometimes it is better not to receive an answer we want because it is not the best for us. At other times, the time may not be right or we are not ready for the answer yet. The following slogan sums it up quite well.

**When the idea is not right, God says, NO.
When the time is not right, God says, SLOW.
When you are not right, God says, GROW.
When everything is right, God says, GO!
- Robert H. Schuller**

When we let the Bible become our prayer, we are praying an inspired vocabulary. - Judson Cornwall

Praying Scripture:

- **Keeps prayer God centered not man centered**
- **Gives variety and freshness in our prayer time**
- **Provides the best and most efficient tool for our prayer experience**
- **Keeps prayer as an interactive dialogue and not a monologue**
- **Prayer is more than asking but also listening, thanking, praising**
- **Take time to respond to God's Word and express your emotions to God**
- **Observe the example of David in the Psalms**

The following 'prayer agent message' was sent to our prayer group in September 2014 at the end of the most wonderful summer together in God's presence at our weekly Tuesday prayer gatherings. Part of the power of those times was that most everyone brought their Bible and we were all led at times to spontaneously read some scripture which inspired many responses in prayer. Sometimes a few would pour out their heart to God openly, like some of us would only do in our private quiet times. Their transparency to God was so real and precious.

As you read the following e-mail I sent to them, I hope you sense the love and passion that I was sharing with our special group.

Hello friends,

September 2014

Recently I was telling one of my customers about what God was doing in our prayer group and how He speaks to us. She said: 'I wish God would speak to me like that'.

In her book: *Forever Ruined For the Ordinary*, Joy Dawson speaks of the adventure of hearing and obeying God's Voice. She describes 24 ways in which God speaks to us. She says that when we are born again and enter into a relationship with our Heavenly Father, we have every reason to believe that He wants to speak to us. When a new child is born it is the parent who naturally wants to initiate communication with their child. How much more does our Heavenly Father want to speak with us. Listening to God is one key aspect of prayer.

If you are born again in Christ, more than likely you heard that still small voice inside that beckoned you to give your life to Christ. That is one way that God still speaks to us and the primary way is through the Word of God, the Holy Bible.

If you are reading a passage or chapter of the Bible, you can look for ways that God will speak to you. I call it the **SPACE program**. Make a column for each letter and then note the different ways that God is speaking to you. Here's how it works.

S = Sin to forsake

During this time of refreshing this summer, God convicted me through the message in 1 John 2:15. "Do not love the world (system) or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him". The last sentence in the letter of 1 John warns us: "Dear children, keep yourselves from idols".

Deep down I have known for years that I was addicted to sports and talk radio etc. Somehow I let it pass because they were not sinful in and of themselves. In reality, I was sending a message to God that I would rather listen to worldly voices instead of Him. Consequently, I was not hearing much from God. But now... what a difference. God is giving me creative ideas to bless others. Wahoo!!

P = Promise to claim

Earlier this summer I was thinking of the lifetime verse I got from God back in Jan. 1985. "For without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." At times I like to remind the Lord of that promise. "God.... you are a rewarder of those who diligently seek you!" (God can do this in various areas) This time He chose to bless me financially.

By this past July, God gave me such a hunger to seek Him, that I was lingering in His presence when it was long overdue for me to get to work. (being self-employed does have a few advantages at times). When I finished painting this large house at the time, the lady surprised me when she gave me \$700 more than I had asked to be paid for the job! Thank you Jesus!

A = Attribute of God to acclaim

During one of our prayer meetings, God reminded us of His greatest attribute based on Rev. 4:8 Those around the throne of God never stop saying: HOLY.....HOLY.....HOLY

Every attribute of God is laced with His Holiness. Holy love....Holy power.....Holy wisdom....Holy Spirit etc. Every person or object of His becomes Holy. His bride.... born from above ones.....are called Saints or Holy Ones. His heavenly city is called: The Holy City. Holiness denotes purity and totally set apart from being common or ordinary. Holiness is described in the Bible as beautiful. A holy person is attractive from the inside out. There is an inner beauty that shines through. How much more is this true of Almighty God!!! He is awesome in His beauty and Holiness.

C = Command to obey

Earlier this summer God gave me a great desire to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He commands us to "follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts"/1 Corinth. 14:1 In our prayer gathering it has been seen how valuable 'words of knowledge' are in setting people free. Also, God has used gifts of healing, discernment, prophecy etc. We seek these gifts to bless others and demonstrate our Father's love for them.

E = Example to follow

About 4 to 5 years ago I could not get Matthew 3 out of my mind. I even photocopied the pages from the Bible so I could carry them around and meditate on the passage. Over time, God showed me some key principles of the kingdom. These came right at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. God is bringing them to pass now in our midst.

Key attitude of the Kingdom: Humility and submission to the Father's will (Jesus lowers himself in baptism at the lowest point on the planet at the Jordan river valley. The word Jordan = descender). God has been teaching us the importance of humbling ourselves under God's mighty hand. God has used so many of us as we obey His voice in humility.

Key adversaries of the Kingdom: Religious spirits of the Pharisees (of their father the devil - John 8:44)

Key agent / activator of the Kingdom: Holy Spirit He is moving and we are enjoying the ride!

Key affirmation of the Kingdom: Father God's words.....This is my Son whom I love, with him I am well pleased. As we head into enemy territory, we need to know that God loves us! Jesus headed right into the desert to face Satan, but He was not alone! The Father and the Holy Spirit were there with Him every step of the way.

Key activity of the Kingdom: Prayer In Luke 3 we read that the heavens opened when Jesus prayed. The same is true with us. God opens the heavens to let His Son light shine through the darkness that covers the earth and blinds the people to the goodness of God.

All of these are taking place amongst us now. The devil is mad..... but we can rejoice and be glad, for the Kingdom of God is advancing around us. We are learning to love our King more and more. And we are glad to fight for the cause of our King!

Making SPACE for God,

John