



ROSES *and*
THORNS

PRAYING THE HEART OF GOD

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PRAYING THE HEART OF THE FATHER

means being led by the Spirit in praying the will, the Word, and the wisdom of God. It's praying what God wants us to pray instead of what we want to pray. It's getting our hearts in alignment with wanting what God wants.

When we talk about the heart of someone, we're referring to their nature, their character, feelings, their inclinations and who they are at their core.

PROVERBS 4:23 ERV & EXB

ERV - Above all, be careful what you think because your thoughts control your life.

EXB ·Be careful what you think [L Above all that you guard, protect your heart], because your thoughts run your life [L life flows from it].



QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Do your children, nieces, nephews, or godchildren know your heart towards them? Do they trust your character, your thoughts towards them and your proclivities? If I asked them, concerning them, what's your top priority what would they say?

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Such is the same with God. The heart of God is the essence of who He is, what He desires, His will, and His purposes for what He's doing. By reading the Bible, knowing Jesus, and spending time in prayer, we can learn and come to know the heart of God.



Let's quickly consider David. Acts 13:22 These are God's Words Not the opinion of men and we know that David was not blameless. He was very much human with worldly desires and proclivities like us however, God anointed him king of Israel. He was chosen by the Lord while King Saul was on the throne. God described David as a "man after My own heart" because he was faithful, when he did wrong, he repented, and he loved the Lord with all his heart.

Praying and seeking to know the heart of God is a serious endeavor, as knowing Him will change a person's entire life. I think we all know the heart of God on different levels. So, let's consider how we can deepen our knowledge of the heart of God as it pertains to our prayer life.

WE HAVE TO PRAY THE WILL OF GOD

In order to pray according to the heart of God—and in order to pray the will of God we have to know the will of God. Do we pray to know His will? Do we ask God to reveal His will to us as it pertains to our career/or a job, our finances or our money, as it pertains to my child or the children in our lives? Do you pray about rather or not God wants us to marry? If he doesn't, are you ok with that? If He does, have you asked Him to reveal that person and be ok if it's not who you want?

TEACH ME YOUR PATHS

PSALM 25:4-5 AMP

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you
are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day
long.



YOUR WILL BE DONE

MATTHEW 6:9-10

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven.”



HIS SHEEP KNOW HIS VOICE

JOHN 10:3-4 AMP

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.



To be led by God's voice, we need to learn to recognize it. This awareness grows as we practice critical spiritual disciplines like reading Scripture, prayer, worship, fasting, etc. These practices equip us to hear God's voice and respond when we do.



TEST AND APPROVE GOD'S WILL

ROMANS 12:2 AMP

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing, and perfect will.



GOD'S WILL IN CHRIST JESUS

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 AMP

Rejoice always and delight in your faith; be unceasing and persistent in prayer, in every situation (no matter what the circumstances) be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.



Nearly ALL of these
scriptures go against the will
and the ways of the world.



I find most people are more concerned about the will of God that we don't know than the will of God that we do know. Do we pray to walk in the will of God that He's already laid out for us in His Word? Do we pray for supernatural power to love others as God loves us? Do we pray for God to empower us by the Holy Spirit to love Him with all our hearts, with all our minds, soul and might? Do we pray God help to love my enemies? All of this is the will of God. His Word says the greatest of faith, hope and love is LOVE. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. God is love.

The more we begin to obey
the little things and the things
we know to do as the will of
God; the more God will reveal
the secret and deep things of
His heart through prayer.



PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



1 JOHN 5:14

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us". We have to pray that God will help us to want what He wants and to be content with what He wants instead of what we want.



QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Share how you know the will of God for your life or for this season and how prayer played a part in that revelation?

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WE HAVE TO PRAY THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.



I know that we've all heard to pray scripture when we pray but honestly, we all have also heard scripture wrongfully prayed and used out of context. Such as give them the desires of their heart. I'm not saying pray scripture but go further and pray the Word of God. Which I know is scripture. One of the most popular scriptures that believers misinterpret, and misuse is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

This verse is popular in and out of the church and in sports. I can win this game or meet this goal, for example. People often use it in the context of thinking they can have anything they want as long as they have Christ (prosperity gospel), attempting to use God almost as a good luck charm or a genie.

However, when you look at that passage holistically and the context of this phrase, we will see this was written by Paul, in one of his letters to the Philippians, while he was in prison. This wasn't a phrase of "I'm going to get anything I want", but rather it was about him being able to endure a horrible situation because of Christ's love, knowing Jesus is Lord of all and He is in control of all things for the good of all who belong to Him.

Pray prayers directly from the Word of God; specifically, Paul's prayers or in Psalm written by David.



EPHESIANS 1:16-20

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers; **17** [I always pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation [that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight] into the true knowledge of Him [for we know the Father through the Son]. **18** And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], so that you will know and cherish the hope [the divine guarantee, the confident expectation] to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people), **19** and [so that you will begin to know] what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His [active, spiritual] power is in us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength **20** which He produced in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,



EPHESIANS 3:14-21

14 For this reason [grasping the greatness of this plan by which Jews and Gentiles are joined together in Christ] I bow my knees [in reverence] before the Father [of our Lord Jesus Christ], **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth [a]derives its name [God—the first and ultimate Father]. **16** May He grant you out of the riches of His glory, to be strengthened and spiritually energized with power through His Spirit in your inner self, [indwelling your innermost being and personality], **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith. And may you, having been [deeply] rooted and [securely] grounded in love, **18** be fully capable of comprehending with all the saints (God's people) the width and length and height and depth of His love [fully experiencing that amazing, endless love]; **19** and [that you may come] to know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ which far surpasses [mere] knowledge [without experience], that you may be filled up [throughout your being] to all the fullness of God [so that you may have the richest experience of God's presence in your lives, completely filled and flooded with God Himself].

20 Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us, **21** to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.



COLOSSIANS 1:9-13

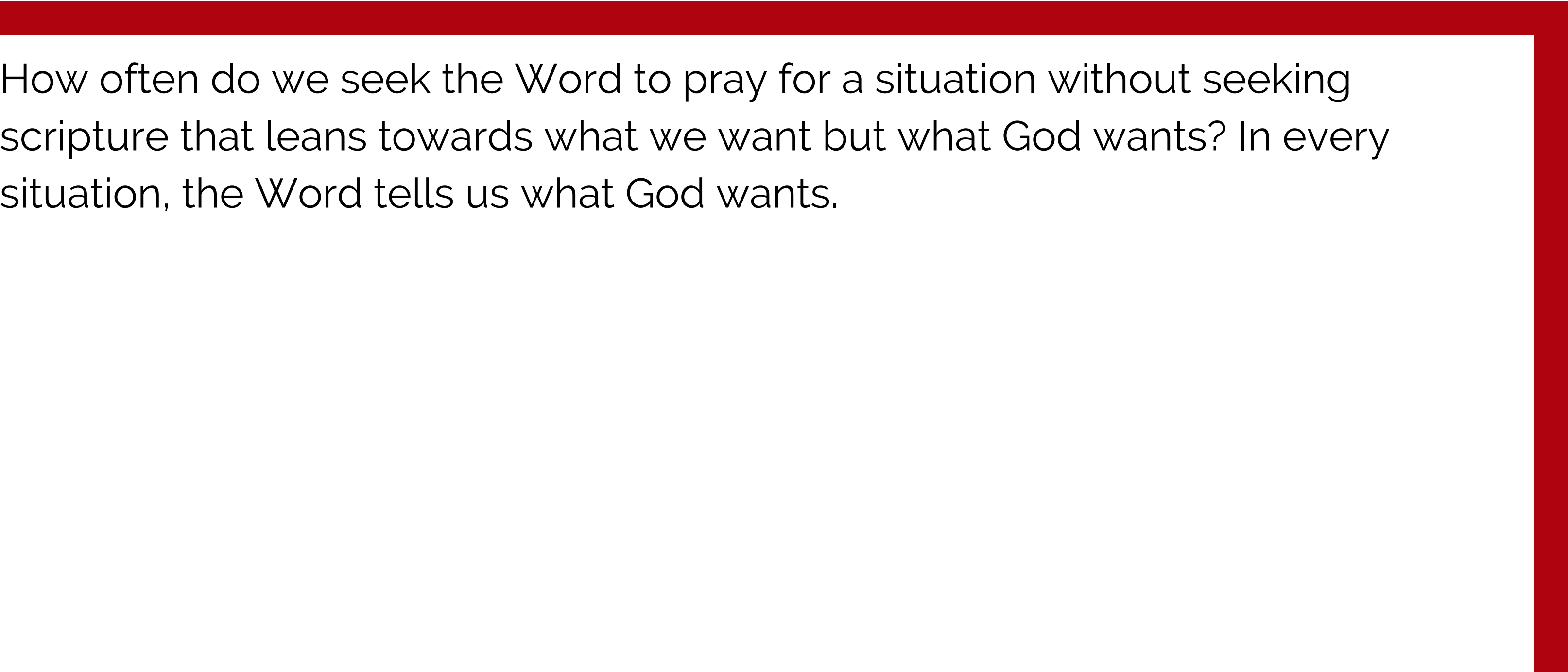
For this reason, since the day we heard about it, we have not stopped praying for you, asking [specifically] that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [with insight into His purposes], and in understanding [of spiritual things], **10** so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord [displaying admirable character, moral courage, and personal integrity], to [fully] please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing in the knowledge of God [with deeper faith, clearer insight and fervent love for His precepts]; **11** [we pray that you may be] strengthened and invigorated with all power, according to His glorious might, to attain every kind of endurance and patience with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints (God's people) in the Light.



1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-11

But I urge you, believers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in full agreement in what you say, and that there be no divisions or factions among you, but that you be perfectly united in your way of thinking and in your judgment [about matters of the faith]. **11** For I have been informed about you, my brothers and sisters, by those of Chloe's household, that there are quarrels and factions among you.





How often do we seek the Word to pray for a situation without seeking scripture that leans towards what we want but what God wants? In every situation, the Word tells us what God wants.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Does anyone want to share how they incorporate the heart of God into their prayers by infusing the Word of God and maybe how that has impacted their prayer life or their total life?

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Satan knows the Word of God so it's not about head knowledge. It's about heart knowledge which leads us to the last point.



WE HAVE TO PRAY FOR THE WISDOM OF GOD

PROVERBS 1:7 AMP

The [reverent] fear of the Lord [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] is the beginning and the preeminent part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence];

But arrogant fools despise [skillful and godly] wisdom and instruction and self-discipline.



WE HAVE TO PRAY FOR THE WISDOM OF GOD

PROVERBS 9:10 AMP

The [reverent] fear of the Lord [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] is the beginning and the preeminent part of wisdom [its starting point and its essence],

And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding and spiritual insight.



WE HAVE TO PRAY FOR THE WISDOM OF GOD

JAMES 1:5-8 AMP

If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him. **6** But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God's willingness to help], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind. **7** For such a person ought not to think or expect that he will receive anything [at all] from the Lord, **8** being a double-minded man, unstable and restless in all his ways [in everything he thinks, feels, or decides].



Pray for the wisdom of God - wisdom is having spiritual discernment or judge what is true and right in God's sight. Knowing facts about God and the Bible is not all there is to wisdom. Wisdom is a gift from God. No one is born wise; we have to learn and acquire wisdom from God if we are to be truly wise. Wisdom has visible fruit. Having godly wisdom means we strive to see life from God's perspective and act accordingly which usually goes against the world. The more I ask for wisdom and see situations from God's perspective the more I realize that being a Christ follower is not for wimps. You can't be a Christ follower and be weak. I finally realized why the Word consistently says "be strong and of good courage".

We also develop godly wisdom by using spiritual discernment and judgement in who we surround ourselves with and who is a part of our inner circle. The Word says, "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm"

Proverbs 13:20 AMP

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Share how through prayer you've seen the manifestation of your growth in walking out the wisdom of God?

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