

Being schooled in prayer, learning to pray effectively is one of the most important things a believer can ever do in his or her Christian walk.

KEY: A believer's prayer life should be based and built upon the Word of God.

A believer cannot be a success in fulfilling God's purpose in his life if he does not know how to pray according to biblical principles.

The foundation to your prayer life is the Word of God.

Introduction

What is Prayer?

Very simply, prayer is fellowship with God, talking to God

We are called to have a relationship with God.

In **Psalm 27 v 4** David was saying "I want His Presence and that is what I seek first".

Any healthy relationship involves communication. We all need interaction and there is a need in us to engage in conversation. There is just something about heartfelt communication that helps us connect with people. My daughter Glorienna is very sociable; she has a personality type that needs to be around people, otherwise she explodes! The same is true with our relationship with the Lord; we must be around Him otherwise we explode out of spiritual frustration.

Prayer is all about relationship with God.

How is your Prayer Life?

How is your Relationship?

KEY: A believer cannot be a success in fulfilling God's purpose in his or her life if he or she does not know how to pray according to biblical principles.

The devil's number one aim is to keep you away from the WORD.

As long as you are ignorant about how to pray according to the will and Word of God, you will be praying all kinds of doubt and unbelief that will amount to nothing.

So let me say this: it does not make the devil afraid to see someone praying out of line with the Word.

If Satan can keep you and I away from the Word, we will be limited in our understanding of God's character and nature.

Understanding His character and nature is paramount to having a good relationship with Him.

The number one area that the devil will attack is the nature of God.

The key to any relationship is understanding the character of the individual with whom we are in relationship.

Satan is working around the clock 24/7 to undermine the character and nature of God.

How will you and I get a revelation of the character and nature of God? By spending time in His WORD.

The Word of God is key to your prayer life and relationship with God.

This is the very area satan will attack first; what God has said.

Genesis 3 v 1-5: *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"*

Verse 2: *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; **Verse 3:** but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die'. **Verse 4:** Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **Verse 5:** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

Here we see satan is cunning, and will always question God's Will.

Satan said: "...your eyes will be open when you eat and you will be like God".

Yet the Eve and Adam he was speaking to, were already made in God's image and likeness (**Genesis 1 v 26**).

So Satan:

1. Will always question the Word
2. Will always try and steal your identity

The Word and you knowing your Identity in Christ are key to your relationship and prayer time with God.

Seven Steps to Answered Prayer (Part 1)

STEP ONE: Be specific and stand on the promises of God's Word.

You must:

- Decide what you want from God.
- Find Scriptures that definitely promise you the things you want from God. In other words get God's Word on it.

Thank God for the Word of God!!

I strongly believe that our attitude toward the Word determines the place that God holds in our daily life.

I also strongly believe that we become Christ-like to the degree that the Word prevails in us.

The Word is God speaking to us.

The Word is Christ revealed.

Matthew 4 v 4: *Man shall not live on bread alone but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*

Colossians 3 v 16: *Let the Word of Christ then dwell in you richly.*

KEY: The Word has no power on the lips of those whose lives are out of fellowship with Him, who live in the reason realm.

A successful prayer life is built on the Word

Smith Wigglesworth said "I can't understand God by feelings. I understand God by what the Word says about Him. He is everything the Word says He is".

Jesus said in **John 15 v 7:**

If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.

You cannot just **ask** what you will and believe it will be done for you unless His **Word** is abiding in you **richly**.

This means that if you have the Word or His Will abiding / living / active in you, then you will be asking **correctly** from God's Word and according to His Will.

The Word and the Spirit

1 John 5 v 14 - 15: Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will. He hears us. Verse 15: And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

The difference between relationship & fellowship

A man and woman may walk down the aisle and legally become husband and wife; but if they don't spend time with each other, sharing and conversing with each other, their relationship will be dead.

There are many believers who don't understand the privileges of sonship and therefore have a low level of fellowship.

Just like a husband and wife, it takes effort and commitment to maintain fellowship.

In today's world, time can be the greatest enemy.

Life is becoming faster and faster with more things to do, but God and His WORD stay the same.

People seem less able to sit still and meditate. You now have mobile phones, televisions, internet; the voice of the world is getting louder and louder.

Being still in God's presence is not easy on the flesh, Your flesh has a voice. Just don't eat for two days and you'll hear that voice speak up "feed me!"

The new creation on the inside also has a voice.

God speaks to you through your spirit man, but if you're too busy you'll miss His promptings to pray and fellowship.

The life of prayer must be developed.

The best way to learn about prayer is to pray!

Act on what you know and more will be given to you.

Our fellowship with God is twofold: through His written word first and foremost and secondly, through the communion of prayer.

Without understanding God's written word in our hearts, our prayer lives will be ineffective.

Some people place prayer above the written word of God.

How many of you realise that you can know all about God or the Bible and yet not know the God of the Bible personally?

2 Timothy 1 v 12: I know Him Whom I have believed.

John 17 v 3: *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

The foundations for a successful prayer life are knowledge of God's word on the subject (because this reveals His will and character to us) and close, one on one fellowship with Him in times of personal private prayer.

Praying for two or three minutes knowing what you are praying about, is more effective than praying for two to three hours not knowing what you are praying about.

Please note that there is a type of prayer when we pray / talk to have fellowship with God.

However when praying to God in order to receive an answer, you ought to be specific about it, and make sure you have the WORD of God on the matter.

It is important to decide what answers you need to get from God beforehand. Not knowing what you want to get from God is like going to a supermarket, pushing your trolley around, up and down the aisles and not buying anything; people would think something was wrong with you!

It is important to be specific in your praying.

In our study book, Bro Hagin says: "Too few Christians realise the importance of the Word of God in prayer".

We know that faith begins where the will of God is known, and faith is the language of Heaven.

Praying is speaking God's language!

If the Word of God does not promise you the things you want, you have no business praying for those things, and really you should not waste your time.

KEY: The reason so many are not praying in faith (confidence / God's language) is that they do not find out what the Bible says and do not search for the scriptures that prove that God wants them to have the things they are desiring.

They are hoping and wishing.

You must establish your heart in the promises of God before you release your faith in prayer, asking God for the things you desire.

Read Joshua 1 v 8.

One translation says: "that you may be able to deal wisely [in the affairs of life]."

Saturating your heart in the Word of God, will prepare you for any attack of the enemy. You will be ready / equipped with scriptures against demons who will try to make you doubt God and will try to rob you of what you want.

One of the best quotes on faith is: "the dogs bark but the train keeps on rolling".

We ought to:

1. Have faith in God. Mark 11 v 22
2. Have faith in the Blood of Jesus. Romans 3 v 25
3. Have faith in the Word of God. Hebrews 4 v 2
4. Have faith in the Power of God. 1 Corinthians 2 v 4 - 5

We are dedicated to living by faith, and we understand that it is through His Word that we reign in life.

Hebrews 11 v 6: But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

A simple definition: Faith is man's ability to believe in, and trust in God's ability.

We Love The Word

We as a church love the Word of God.

And the very first reason why we love the Word of God is found in John 14 v 15, and if you love Jesus you will love His Word.

You cannot separate Jesus from His Word.

John 14 v 15 (AMP): If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

There really cannot be a disconnection between Jesus and His Word. You cannot say "I love Jesus but, I just do not love His Word". Jesus and the Word are the same!

The centurion said in **Matthew 8 v 8**: you do not even need to come under my roof, just speak a word, just say something.

KEY: The spoken Word of God is as good as a personal visitation from Jesus Christ.

Jesus and His Word are the same.

Revelation 19 v 13 says that when Jesus returns to the earth, "His Name is called the Word of God".

***John 1 v 1:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and was God.*

In fact in **Genesis 1 v 1:** The Hebrew Bible says: "In the beginning by the First Born God created the heavens and the earth`.

Jesus and His Word are identical, in fact in **John 14 v 21** it says:

The person that has My commandments and keeps them is the one who really loves Me.

I can tell who loves Jesus, not by the words that they speak, but by their actions / their love of the Word.

***John 14 v 21:** He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.*

We understand at Faithlife that to step out of Love is to step out of God. For God is love.