

How to Pray the WORD

Hudson Taylor said: "We (Christians) are supernatural people: born again through a supernatural birth, driven by a supernatural power and nourished by supernatural food, taught by a supernatural Teacher from a supernatural Book." E.W. Kenyon said: Fasting and long hours of prayer do not build faith.....reading books about faith and men of faith and their exploits stirs in the heart a deep passion for faith, but does not build faith. The Word alone is the source of faith. Andrew Murray said: Little of the Word with little prayer is death to the spiritual life. Much of the Word with little prayer gives a sickly life. Much of prayer with little of the Word gives more life, but without steadfastness. A full measure of the Word and prayer each day gives a healthy and powerful life.

Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word. (Rom.10:17) Without faith we cannot pray because prayer without faith does not please God. (Heb.11:6) God affirms His Word and His promises with an oath. (Heb.6:16-17) He cannot be unfaithful to His Word. God reveals Himself in His Word. He shows His character to us through His Word. The promises in the Word are in line with His being and His character, to which He can never be unfaithful.

1 Why do we have to pray the Word?

- When we understand the authority of the Word and the position of the Word in our lives, it follows that we have to pray the Word. The following are some reasons why we should pray the Word.
- God introduces His will in the Word. When we pray the Word we pray the will of God and when we pray according to the will of God, the Word says our prayers will be answered. (1 John 5:14-15)
- Secular books provide knowledge and insight, but it is only when we read the Word that you come to faith. When we pray the Word, faith increases in our hearts. (Rom.10:17)
- The Word/Scripture reveals God's priorities. When we pray according to the Word we learn what these priorities are and then we will be able to adapt our lives according to these priorities.
- The Word has authority. When God the Father created the universe He did it through His Son, the Word. The Word spoke a word and there was light and life and people and heavenly bodies. When we proclaim the Word, it becomes a declaration in the spiritual kingdom – the Word still has the same power. When we call on the living Word, it has the power to give life and to re-create.
- The Word teaches us about God – His character, being, power, abilities and characteristics. When we understand God better we are able to pray

with more faith. Faith is as strong as the person in whom you believe.

2 How to pray the Word

Any of the following ways of praying the Word can be done individually, corporately or in a 24/7 prayer room:

- **Read the Word:** The easiest way to pray the Word of God, is to simply read it out loud (proclaiming, confessing, declaring the Word), beginning at Genesis and ending at Revelation.
- **Psalms:** The early Church placed a huge emphasis on praying the Psalms. The Psalms contain all the different types of prayer, such as adoration, worship, praise, humbling before God, supplication, intercession, spiritual warfare and prophecy. It is through the praying of the Psalms (they prayed it out loud and on their knees) that the early Church gained faith to reach out to the pagan societies with the gospel of redemption.
- **God's promises:** The Word of God contains numerous promises about many situations, circumstances and issues. The reading, meditating and proclaiming of these Scriptures increases faith, and help us to understand how God wants us to act in diverse circumstances. It helps us to pray and intercede with wisdom and knowledge rather than from a perspective of fear and anxiety.
- **God's will and commands:** By reading the Word, we discover God's will, commands and mandates for His church in the World. Build your prayers around these commands and mandates from Scripture.
- **Prophecies:** The Word of God is full of prophecies that still need to be fulfilled; prophecies concerning ourselves, our families, our nations and the purposes of God in the end-times. We need to pray these prophecies for their fulfillment.
- **Verse by verse:** When reading the Word, turn every verse that enters your heart, into a personal prayer for spiritual growth, physical or emotional healing and allow your thoughts to think about these life-giving words, rather than dwelling on problems or worldly issues. Rephrase the Word of God into prayers and pray His Word back to Him.
- **Contemplation:** Read the Word silently or out loud with the aim of encountering God. The moment when, by faith, your spirit senses His presence, allow the Holy Spirit to take you into a deeper reflection or contemplation on the Person of God. Just linger there in His presence. Sometimes this prayer without words can have a more profound effect on us and our world than many prayers we pray from our minds.