

THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER

THE BLESSING OF THE BIBLE WHEN WE PRAY UNDER GRACE

"For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

~ 1 Timothy 4:5

1. The Bible and Prayer

- a. The Bible is unique to this dispensation, and it requires we learn from it.
- b. Prayer is required, and yet we must learn it, too – "we know not" Rom 8:26
- c. Both the Bible and prayer require faith to profit from them.
 - i. Faith is informed, or else it is empty/ vain/ confused. Rom 10:17
- d. At one time service to God was "fasting and prayer" – Luke 2:37, Matt 17:21
 - i. But now, *"it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer"* – 1 Tim 4:5
 - ii. Your whole self sanctified by word of God and prayer - 1 Th 5:23, Eph 5:25-27
- e. We are blessed to have the Bible when we pray. (Then, why are many confused?)

2. Bible Belief and Prayer

- a. What you treat the Bible is how you will respond to God in prayer.
- b. One Bible unchangeable = leads prayers to conform to that language, the will of God.
- c. Bible open, or changeable = allows prayers to change the conversation, open ended.
- d. Bible has mistakes, needs corrected = prayers have doubt, suspicion, and confusion.
- e. No Bible = prayers without guidance, not directed by the word of God.
- f. Wrongly divide the word of God = prayers are made out of line with the will of God.
- g. Treat the Bible as a relic = prayers are treated as a ritual or tradition. (bad repetition)
- h. Good repetition in prayers → because we learn to pray from the same word of God.
- i. When there is one Bible, there is one prayer conversation being had.

3. Praying With Understanding

- a. It is more common to pray to understand the Bible, than pray with understanding.
- b. If God is going to teach us to pray, it will be from the Bible rightly divided. 2Ti 2:14-18
- c. The Bible and prayer are both essential, and that in your language - 1 Cor 14:9-13
- d. The Bible gives understanding and so can prayer – 1 Cor 14:15-17
- e. Our prayers become our thoughts, songs, intercessions for each other.

4. Praying Together

- a. Prayer aligns our mind, will, heart to God, and also each other by praying together.
- b. The word of God brings us together in one mind, so does prayer – Phi 2:1, Rom 15:4-6
- c. "Pray for us" – so as to be of one mind and heart – Rom 15:30, 2 Thess 3:1, 2 Cor 1:11

5. Prayer Under Grace

- a. Being Spirit filled there is 'one heart' in prayer-Acts 4:31 (but now Phi 4:7, Eph 5:18-21)
- b. Your speech (prayer) should be with grace (understanding) & truth – Col 4:6, Eph 4:15
- c. Praying w/proper perspective, God's will, as Christ body, works to minister under grace.
- d. If you struggle with prayer, it might be good to ask, "Pray for me"