

SPRING 2016-APRIL 10, 2016-SUNDAY MORNING CLASS

## *The* **BATTLE PLAN for PRAYER**

FROM BASIC TRAINING TO TARGETED STRATEGIES

PART IV: STRATEGIES

### **2**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

“The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.” (Ps. 19:8)

“The Lord’s commands are good. They show people the right way to live.” (Ps. 19:8 ERV)

If your heart is right with God and others and you are ready to pray, then what should guide your praying? True, prayer can flow directly from your heart. No script is necessary. Nothing prescribed or recited. Prayer is personal. Completely unique. Yet even with this much freedom involved, God does provide powerful resources to help us pray strategically and specifically. To help you know for certain that your heart is beating in step with God’s.

Perhaps the first and most comprehensive guide of all is to pray to God using the very words He’s already spoken in His Word.

We humans are fickle. Hot and cold. Moods and emotions that flame within us today can be nearly forgotten memories by the end of the week. But when we pray with words and thoughts that are inspired by Scripture, we’re assured that our praying is anchored in bedrock truths that stretch back centuries, millennia, even into eternity. They keep our praying steadfast and consistent.

You may think, “Well, I don’t know the Bible well enough. I wouldn’t know where to look for passages that talk about things relevant to me.” But that’s not a problem.

You can pray about that too. God will guide you as you seek Him. Because what you find as you begin devoting yourself to reading, studying, and meditating on the Word is that the Holy Spirit quickly begins causing Scripture to be “implanted” in your heart (James 1:21). Jesus tells you to “abide” in Him and let His words “abide” in you.

Those are the conditions through which you can "ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). So you'll be surprised, not only by how often He'll bring a verse to mind as you're praying, but by how many verses, from so many different places, He can bring to apply to your need at a given moment. The more you abide in the Word—reading it, journaling it, underlining it, memorizing it—the more it will become second nature, almost like a second language.

Perhaps you and your friends or family are fans of a certain movie or television show. You've watched it so many times that occasionally you'll answer one another with a line from one of the characters. It's become part of your shared vocabulary.

The same principle applies with Scripture—only better—because the Bible is not composed of stale, dated, inanimate words. The Bible is alive and active. Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God* has long instructed believers not to refer to the Bible as what "it says" but what "He says"—what God says. Unlike every other book you've ever read the Writer of the words lying open in front of you is right there in the room with you. He is here. He is speaking. And perhaps best of all, He is listening.

So like Paul said, when you take up "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," putting on your spiritual armor, you can use this Word to "pray at all times in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17-18), communicating with the Lord based on His living communication with us.

Nehemiah's prayer in the Old Testament, when he heard about the desperate, dilapidated conditions in Jerusalem during the exile, is an example of this prayer strategy. The disturbing news from his homeland broke his heart, and he prayed for days that God would bring restored strength and recovery to the people who were living there or returning there. He confessed in his prayer that Israel had sinned against the Lord. He understood (from Scripture) that they were deserving of what they'd suffered. For like God had said to the people ages before through Moses, "If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples" (Neh. 1:8). But Nehemiah remembered, too, something else God had said: "If you return to Me and carefully observe My commands, even though your exiles were banished to the ends of the earth, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I chose to have My name dwell" (v. 9

HCSB). Nehemiah was able to pray with confident hope and promise because he knew how God's nature applied to times like these.

And you can do the same thing. When feeling fatigued, you can pray knowing that "those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint" (Isa. 40:31 HCSB).

When stressed and outmatched by a particularly arduous challenge, cry out to Him "from the end of the earth," like David did, saying, "when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Ps. 61:2 NKJV). Three thousand years later, God is still there to be called upon.

When unsure what to do next, perhaps doubting for a moment that He either cares or is able to help, remind yourself in prayer that "those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, O' Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You" (Ps. 9:10).

King David worshiped, as you can worship, by saying to the Lord, "You satisfy me as with rich food; my mouth will praise You with joyful lips" (Ps. 63:5 HCSB). Before going to bed at night, he looked in to God's face as his last thought of the day, saying, "When I awake, I will be satisfied with Your presence" (Ps. 17:15 HCSB). He wanted God to be his first thought and first prayer in the morning as well.

The Word can guide your prayers of adoration: "Yours, O' Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty... You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might" (1 Chron. 29:11-12).

Your prayers of confession: "Create in me a clean heart, O' God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me... Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit" (Ps. 51:10, 12).

Your prayers of thanksgiving: "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, and You have become my salvation" (Ps. 118:1, 21).

Your prayers of supplication: "O' Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer... No good thing does He withhold from those who walk

uprightly” (Ps. 84:8, 11).

The Psalms, as you can tell, are a great place to start and a rich treasury of prayers and praises. But expect the Lord to illuminate His thoughts toward you from one end of the Bible to the other. Instead of just viewing it as reading material, open your heart to receive it also as prayer material. Your copy of the Bible is not only your companion when you enter your prayer closet; it's also your inspiration, your source, your reliable storehouse and gold mine of trustworthy promises. When you don't know what to say, let the Bible lead your praying for you.

**PRAY:** Thank You, Lord, for Your Word. Thank You for not leaving me here to guess what You're like or what You've promised to do. I pray You'd not only fashion Your Word in my mind, but also use it to direct my hands and feet to serve You, obey You, and stay clean-hearted before You. May I truly love Your Word and cling to it as my lifeline to Your truth, love, and wisdom in Jesus' Name. Amen.

#### HOMEWORK:

1. Y N NS: Is your heart right with God?
2. Y N NS: Is your heart right with people?
3. Y N NS: Are you ready to pray?
4. What should guide your praying?
  - ☞ Name one can flow directly your prayer? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Remember last week George Muller said, I live in the \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer.
  - ✓ No script is necessary.
  - ✓ Nothing prescribed [in writing or otherwise] or recited [to repeat the words of].
  - ✓ Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ✓ Completely unique.
  - ✓ Yet even with this much \_\_\_\_\_ involved.
5. God does provide POWERFUL RESOURCES to help you pray \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

6. God does provide **POWERFUL RESOURCES** to help you know for \_\_\_\_\_ that your heart is beating in \_\_\_\_\_ with God's.
7. What is the first and most comprehensive guide of all?
8. Remind you that you—human is \_\_\_\_\_. Both \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. Your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that flame within you today **CAN BE NEARLY** \_\_\_\_\_ memories by the end of the week.
9. When you pray with words and thoughts that are \_\_\_\_\_ by Scripture, you're assured that your praying is \_\_\_\_\_ in bedrock [fundamental] truths that stretch back centuries, millennia [thousand years], even into eternity.
10. Who are 'they' keep our praying steadfast and consistent?
11. God will guide you as you \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
- ☞ Because what you \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word—verse
    - as you begin devoting [concentrate on a particular pursuit] yourself to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ on the Word
      - is that the Holy Spirit quickly begins causing Scripture to be \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart.
12. Jesus tells you to 'abide' in Him and let His Words ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' in you.
- ✎ The word 'abide' in translates 'become part of you, remains in, lives in, following My teachings/instructions, obey My commands, if you make yourself at home with Me, and My Words are at home in you'.
  - ✎ Who brings a verse to your mind as you're praying?
  - ✎ He can bring 'verse' to apply to your \_\_\_\_\_ at a given moment.

13. The \_\_\_\_\_ you abide in the Word:

- 👉 the more you \_\_\_\_\_ the Word
  - the more it [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] will become second nature, almost like a second language.

14. The same principle applies with Scripture—only better—because the Bible IS NOT COMPOSED [to make or form by combining things, parts, or elements] of STALE [not fresh], DATE, INANIMATE [lifeless, sluggish, dull] WORDS. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☒ Henry Blackaby, the author of Experiencing God, has long instructed believers not to refer to the Bible as what ‘it says’ but what ‘\_\_\_\_\_’—what God says.
- ☒ Who is the Writer of the words lying open in front of you?
- ☒ Y N NS: Is the Writer of the words is right there in the room with you?
- ☒ Y N NS: Is the Writer of the words is here?
- ☒ Y N NS: Is the Writer of the words speaking to you?
- ☒ Y N NS: Is the Writer of the words listening your prayer?

15. After you putting on your spiritual fully armor, then you take or use the Sword of Spirit which is the \_\_\_\_\_, you can use this Word—verse to ‘pray at all times in the Spirit’, \_\_\_\_\_ with your Lord based on His \_\_\_\_\_ communication with you.

16. Y N NS: Have you two ways communicate with God?

17. Y N NS: Can you communicate with God?

18. Y N NS: Can you hear what God says to you?

19. Read the story of Nehemiah.

20. Y N NS: You can do the same thing like Nehemiah?
21. When you feeling fatigue, you can pray knowing [saying] that ‘those who trust in the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.’ (Isaiah 40:31)
22. When you stressed and outmatched by a particularly arduous [difficult] challenge, you confess ‘when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the Rock [Jesus] that is higher than I’. (Ps. 61:2)
23. When you unsure what to do next, perhaps doubting for a moment that God either cares or is able to help, reminding yourself in praying ‘confessing’ that ‘those who know Your Name will put their trust in You, for You, O’ Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.’ (Ps. 9:10)
24. King David worshiped, as you \_\_\_\_\_ worship, by saying to the Lord, “I eat my fill of prime rib and gravy; I smack my lips. It’s time to shout praises.” (Ps. 63:5 MSG)
25. The Word can guide your prayers of \_\_\_\_\_: saying, “Yours, O’ Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty...You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might”. (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)
26. The Word can guide your prayers of \_\_\_\_\_: saying, “Create in me a clean heart, O’ God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me...restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.” (Ps. 51:10, 12)
27. The Word can guide your prayer of \_\_\_\_\_: saying, “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting...I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, and You have become my Salvation.” (Ps. 118:1, 21)
28. The Word can guide your prayer of \_\_\_\_\_: saying, “O’ Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer...no good things does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” (Ps. 84:8, 11)
29. Which book is a great place to start and a rich treasury of prayers and praises?
30. Your copy of the Bible is not only your companion when you enter

your prayer closet. Your copy of the Bible also your \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

31. When you don't know what to say, let the Bible [verse] lead your praying for you.