

Praying the Word

1 Jn. 5:14-15 – “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

By this scripture it is evident that the key to getting answers to our prayers is praying according to God’s will. If we do not know that something is his will, we have no confidence, but merely hope.

So how do we know God’s will?

1. Most often by reading and knowing the Bible. It is a revelation of God, and many of our questions can be resolved there. Also, it very often will tell us what is NOT his will. If the Word is against something, no amount of prayer is going to change his mind.
2. We can also know God’s will through prayer. As we seek God, he reveals his will to us. He can do this by showing us applicable scriptures, or more subjectively, by the witness of our hearts that we know and are hearing his voice in our mind and spirit.

What if we don’t know God’s will?

1. Search the scriptures to find it. Pray for the ability to rightly apply the Word.
2. Pray first that he would show you his will, and then pray accordingly.
3. Pray in the Spirit (in tongues) – Rom. 8:26-27 and 1 Cor. 14:15

The Puritans emphasized “praying the scriptures”. This makes sense – if we sing the scriptures (Psalms and others), why not pray the scriptures? This has a double benefit. First, since it is his Word, it is his will, so that gets us closer to the confidence of 1 Jn. 5:14-15. This doesn’t mean that every scripture is applicable to a particular situation, or that we are properly applying it, but God knows and will act accordingly.

Secondly, I have often stressed the importance of prayer, Bible reading, and meditation on the Word. How better to combine all three than to go through a verse or set of verses and pray them to God, while thinking deeply on them and seeking to properly apply them to our lives?

I think it is important to read the Bible quickly and methodically, so we don’t get bogged down and never get through it. For example, if you take 5 months to get through the book of Romans, what about the rest of the Bible that you are missing? Rapid reading helps put everything in perspective, from Genesis to Revelation.

The obvious objection to this is that you may read over something so quickly that you don’t give it time to settle in and make a change in your life. How do we resolve this? I think it is good to read rapidly through the OT and NT simultaneously and keep track of it, so you don’t only read your “favorites”. At the same time, you can be going more slowly over specific scriptures that are appropriate to your current maturity and circumstances. Read them, think about them, and then actually pray them.

Not every scripture lends itself to prayer as well as others. For example, it might be easy to pray Ps. 29:2 (“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”), but a little harder to pray “the begats”, or the measurements of the temple in Ezek. 40-48. I would suggest Psalms and Proverbs as good places to start, as well as Paul’s prayers in Eph. 1:16-20, or 3:14-19, or Phil. 1:9-11, etc.

Now, can we apply this to the 2020 “election” and the aftermath we are still living through? How do we pray about this? Maybe this would be a good time and way to begin praying the scriptures. We don’t know perfectly how it will turn out, so let us return God’s Word to him and let him sort it out.

Prayers that recognize that God is sovereign and totally in control of what is happening:

Dan. 2:20-22 – “... Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: and he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things; he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.”

Dan. 4:34-37 – “...I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation. And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he

doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? ... praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”

Ps. 2:1-6 – “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision ...” This is a Messianic psalm, speaking of Christ, but it sure sounds applicable to the opposition of the left to everything “Christian”, Jewish, or even conservative.

Prov. 16:33 – “The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.”

Lam. 3:37 – “Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?”

Jer. 32:17, 27 (and others) – nothing is too hard for God

Prayers that show our trust in God

Prov. 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Ps. 37 – We should not allow ourselves to fret because of evil men, but trust in the Lord, resting in him and waiting patiently for him to work. Evil doers shall be cut off but the meek will inherit the earth. Though the wicked plot against us, their sword will enter into their own heart.

Prayers of repentance

2 Chr. 7:14 – “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Prayers against the constant lies of the news media, the censorship of social media, and the treasonous scheming of deep state employees in the federal agencies, against the governors and attorneys general, secretaries of state, and activist judges who are usurping the roles of state legislatures and are disenfranchising the votes of all legitimate voters (Republican OR Democrat)

Ps. 83:1-5 – God’s enemies have risen up against him and his people. “Come, let us cut them off from being a nation ... They have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee.”

Isa. 44:25 – (of God) “That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and make diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish”

Prov. 26:27 – “Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.”

Prayers for God’s will to be done

Mt. 6:9-13 – “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ... deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

There are at least three ways to pray the scriptures – to quote verses or phrases in prayer, to read a prayer verbatim (like Phl. 1:9-11), and to lay your Bible out and go through it verse by verse in prayer.

Psalms 34, 37, and 86 are excellent places to use when starting to “pray the scriptures”. It may sound like a running commentary, but just read it and pray each verse back to God in your own words, applying it to yourself, or the church, or the nation.

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