

PRAYING THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE

INTRODUCTION:

A. Purposes of topic

1. to fight discouragement experienced in prayer life
2. to deepen or enrich our personal prayer life

B. Facts don't lie

1. most of us pray too little
2. most of us don't experience prayer as a 'sweet hour to pray'
3. most of us mis-manage set apart for prayer
4. most of us wonder whether we are Christians at all

I. THREE MOTIVATIONS TO PRAY

A. Prayer is a privilege: Ps. 81:10; Ps. 50:15

B. Prayer addresses a willing God: Luke 11:5-13

C. Prayer brings power: John 15:4

II. DIRECTIONS TO PRAY

A. Be committed to set aside time (Luke 10:42)

1. No relationship grows without communication
2. All real deep communication takes time

B. Prepare prayer in meditation

1. Reading and meditation on Scripture are the parents of prayer
2. Preparation avoids empty repetition

III. METHOD OF PRAYER: PRAY WITH AN OPEN SCRIPTURE

A. This method is not new: Ps. 25

B. Best Bible book for prayer: *The Psalms*

1. God gave the Psalms as the *devotional guide for worship*

C. Principles of *Praying through Scripture*

1. Let the 'words and thoughts of Scripture' direct your prayer

2. Meditate on *each verse before moving on to next*

a. asking questions and seeking answers on what you read

b. form the thoughts and truths into *personal petitions*

c. be not afraid of '*association-thoughts*' though not necessarily exact meaning of the text

d. when no more new thoughts, move on to next verse

3. Use a journal for your thoughts and prayers

4. Possible to use in shared prayer time as couple or family

D. Illustrations of *How to Pray through Scripture*

IV. ADVANTAGES

A. *Less mind wandering*

B. *More depth and variety in prayer*

C. *Deepens the feeding of mind with God's Word*

**Never tell me of a humble heart
where I see a stubborn knee. (T. Adams)**

**Some people use God as they do a lawyer:
they go to Him only when they are in trouble. (Anon)**

Nothing whatever can atone for the neglect of praying. (E. M. Bounds)

**The little estimate we put on prayer is evident
from the little time we give it. (E. M. Bounds)**