

PRAYER: CONTENT and CONSISTENCY

Praying through Scripture

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The spiritual battle is fought in prayer, but over 90% of Christians say they feel guilty and dissatisfied about their prayer life. There are many verses that **tell us to pray, call us to pray** or even **command us to pray**.

****What can we do to improve our prayer lives?**

Ephesians 6:10-13 Christian soldiers use spiritual weapons to fight a spiritual battle.
Truth, faith, righteousness, gospel of peace, sword of the Spirit and PRAYER!

Ephesians 6:18-20 Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

What is the connection between the Scriptures, Faith and Prayer?

Prayer rides on a wave of faith through a Scripturally informed relationship with Christ. **Romans 10:17**

Hindrances to Prayer

1. A sense of Futility from a lack of Focus.
2. A sense of Futility from a lack of Response.
3. Ignoring God's Word – Being a hearer but, not a doer. **Prov. 28:9 James 1:22-24**
4. Loving Sin **Psalms 66:18**
5. Wrong Desires **James 4:2-4**
6. Doubting God **James 1:5-7 Romans 8:32**

John 15:7-9 Jesus teaching about abiding in the Word and Prayer.

Reading and praying the prayers of Scripture

Ephesians 1:15-20 Praying back the content in our prayers that Paul prays in his.

Ephesians 3:14-19 Paul prays relationally with God for spiritual power for us and him.

Reading the Scripture

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV)

^{3:14} For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Praying back the Scripture of Ephesians 3:14-19

“My wonderful heavenly Father I bow my knee before you and ask that out of the riches of your glory you would strengthen Joe and Suzy with the power of the Holy Spirit in their inner being so Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith. Lord give them the wisdom and strength to comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ and let them be filled with the fullness of God. Lord you are able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think according to your Holy Spirit working us.”

Ephesians 1:15-20 (NIV)

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,
¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.
¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.
¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,
²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

Dear heavenly father, I am so thankful for Joe and Suzy's love for Jesus and their love for the other saints. Lord I pray you would give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation about Jesus. Lord enlighten the eyes of their hearts so they know the riches of their glorious inheritance they have in you. And Lord use your great power in Joe and Suzy that you used to raise Christ. Use that power to change them to be like Christ.

Psalms 1:1-4 (NIV)

^{1:1} Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. ⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Heavenly Father grant me the wisdom to know your truth and distinguish truth from error as presented by the world all around me. Lord help me learn your Word that I can spot the ways of the world that would lead me away from you.

Father I'm sorry that sometimes I want to gain acceptance from the world and I don't stand up for you when those around scoff and mock you. Strengthen me with your Word as I meditate on it each day and give me a hunger to memorize it and plant it deep in my heart.

Lord help me to establish spiritual disciplines that would help me to grow strong like a well watered tree that produces much fruit. Lord bless me with the truth of your Word that I may have a bold testimony to the wicked who struggle under the lies of the evil one.

Psalms 103:10-13 (NIV)

^{103:10} he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to die for me. Thank you that you accepted His sacrifice for my sin so that I'm justified and I don't have to fear you repaying me as I deserve. I cannot fathom the greatness of your love that it would allow me to be totally forgiven as you have removed my sin as far as the east is from the west. Thank you Lord that you have great compassion on me as your adopted child and allow me to freely come to you. In Christ's name I pray.