

The Fundamentals

Lesson 3 – Praying According to God’s Word

Psalm 119:9-16

Let’s start off in our usual manner by praying and asking the Holy Spirit to speak, to teach, and to guide us as we study God’s word.

Now, open your Bibles.

So far in studying the fundamentals of the Christian life, we focused first on establishing a **quiet time** with God (which is not considered to be a formal fundamental but is an *environment* within which we exercise the fundamentals). We learned that making a regular quiet time with the Lord is the fundamental of all fundamentals. We can’t really begin the fundamentals until we establish this daily time with the Lord because a love relationship requires personal time. Our love relationship with God is just like our relationship with our spouse, children and friends. We have to invest personal time in those relationships or they don’t develop or grow. Once we begin that habit of spending daily personal time with God, the door opens for us to begin the fundamentals. Then we focused on **meditating** on God’s word (recommending the use of the Daily Devotional Journal). It is critical that when we take the time to sit quietly with the Lord, we should have our Bibles in our hands.

There are two things that need to be pointed out before we go any further. First, it is really important for a new believer (if you’ve just received Christ as your Savior), that you begin, not by meditating on God’s word (verses or section of scripture) like we learned in the last lesson, but that you start out by reading the Gospels. If you are a new believer, begin by reading all four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). The Gospels are four different perspectives of the life of Jesus, written by four different authors. Read them all in an easy to read translation like the New Living Translation. (If you’ve been a believer for a while and you’ve never read all four Gospels, you should read them too.) Reading through all four Gospels in an easy to read translation will open your eyes up to who Jesus is by reading about his radical life. So if you are a new believer, read the Gospels first before you move into meditating on sections or verses of scripture. Also, to reiterate from our last lesson, it really is important for all of us to read whole books and/or whole chapters to get the bigger picture perspective. Second, in the last lesson we talked about the need to find specific scripture for a specific area of our life in order to meditate on in our quiet time. There are many resources you can buy to help you find specific scripture on certain topics. Here are a couple recommended resources:

“Quick Scripture Reference” (There are several of these: counseling in general, counseling men, counseling women and counseling youth – Available at amazon.com)

“Calvary Chapel Scripture Reference Guide” by Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale- (go to their bookstore online to purchase it at: calvaryftl.org)

One other disclaimer: The subjects used in this Bible study have been the terms, the words, and the phrases which have been hijacked by a movement called the Emerging Church. If you’ve never heard of it, the Emerging Church is a post-modern movement that seeks to attract “attenders”, usually youthful, by promoting experience over reason. This leads to what we call relativism. The Emerging Church uses subjectivity over objectivity, meaning: if it feels good to you, do it. It comes out of the 1960's and they apply it to the Bible: if it feels good to you, then it's God. They promote a general spirituality (i.e. just be spiritual and you're cool) as opposed to actually obeying God's word. This movement has hijacked the terms used in this study. So, for clarity, this study is not based on the Emerging Church's movement and promotion of relativism and subjectivity. This study is one hundred percent based on the word of God and the word of God alone.

Getting back on track.

This lesson will cover the second of three fundamentals that should take place in our quiet time. The first fundamental we studied was **meditating** on God's word. This lesson will cover the fundamental of **praying** according to God's word. Our next lesson will be on the critically important fundamental of **worshipping** in God's word. These three major fundamentals (meditating, praying, worshipping) are what we should be doing in our quiet time. Now don't panic and start saying “I don't have three hours a day to spend in quiet time with the Lord meditating, praying and worshipping.” It is not meant to be implied that we have to do all three fundamentals in our quiet time at one sitting. Actually when we start off practicing these fundamentals in our quiet time, we probably can't. Some days we may pick just one and focus on it and then the next day focus on another. However, ultimately it would be ideal for us to combine two or all three of them in our quiet time. As we grow and mature in our relationship with the Lord, we will begin to use some of all three in our quiet time. And, as we consistently meet with the Lord in our quiet time in meditation, in prayer and in worship, we'll see our minds transforming to automatically shift into meditation, prayer and worship throughout our every day activities (driving in the car, waiting in lines, etc.). So please don't stress out by thinking you have to do all three of them to the full extent every day in your quiet time or you will never even start. Simply start out by giving God 20 or 30 minutes every day. Make it a priority to carve time out of your busy life every day with the Lord. He is the God of the universe. Give him the honor due him.

For this lesson, let's focus on developing **praying** according to God's word during our quiet time. Below is an example of how to pray God's word. It's just an example and isn't as personal or specific as we ourselves can get when we pray according to God's word. When we pray according to God's word, we should make it specific to us. This

prayer is not as long, as intimate or as personal as it can and should be in our own private and specific prayers. But at least it will give us a sense of what it looks like to pray according to God's word.

The key scripture for this prayer is Psalm 119:9-16 (NKJV). Read it before you read/pray this prayer:

“Heavenly Father, God, Lord, I pray that you will enable me to keep my way pure. Lord, I know that you call me to walk upright, to keep my thoughts and my actions pure. God I know that by guarding my life according to your word that will occur in my life. So I pray Lord that you will enable me, that you would inspire me, that you would empower me to guard my steps with your word Lord. Father, with my whole heart I seek you. I’m not holding anything back, Lord. There are no closets; there is no place that you are not allowed. My whole heart seeks you Lord. I pray God that you would not allow me to wander one step from your commandments but you would keep me close to you Lord. Father, I’ve stored up your word in my heart. I pray God that you would continue to pour your word into my heart and my heart would be full of your word that I might not sin against you Lord. That in those moments when my flesh would lead me to sin that your word would protect me, would guard me, would stop me, and would apprehend me. Lord, I pray that your word would come alive in my heart. Lord that I would walk worthy and not sin against you. Blessed are you Lord. God you are a great and awesome. You’re worthy to be praised and I pray that you would teach me your ways. That you would speak to me. That you would pour your life into me, God. I pray Father that with my lips I would declare what you’ve said. I pray Lord God that your word would be so much in my life it would just come out when I speak, God. That I would declare your word Lord. Father, in the way of your testimonies, in your law, in your commandments, in your wisdom, I delight in that as much as in all the riches of the world Lord. God you know that’s a battle to say. But right now God I commit, I confess Lord that I want you more than anything in this world, more than anything the world has to offer. Lord, I desire your word, your testimonies, and your truth. God, help me to prioritize that in my life Lord. Father, I will meditate on your word, on your precepts, on your law. I’ll chew on it. I’ll make it my own. I’ll fix my eyes on your ways today Lord. I’ll set my heart on your ways today. I will delight in your statutes today Lord. I’ll keep them in the front of my mind and on the tip of my tongue. I will not forget your word as I go about my day. I pray that you will fill me, that you will lead and guide me and that you will change me by the word that you have put in my heart. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

When we say “pray according to God’s word”, it doesn’t mean to pray your will and then tag it at the end by slamming God’s name on it. It means to actually force yourself to pray what God has written for your life personally. It’s a radical thing to do.

Prayer is communion with God. It’s an intimate communion with God where it’s just you and him and where you’ve got nothing to hide; acknowledging that God knows it all.

Prayer is an outgrowth of our relationship with our Lord. The primary purpose of our prayer is *not* to get our will accomplished in heaven. The primary purpose of prayer is actually to get God's will accomplished on earth. It's to get God's will accomplished in our life.

Before the fall of man, Adam and Eve had perfect communion with God. Sin broke that communion. Christ restored that communion. And prayer is practicing that communion. To put it closer to home: your sin broke your communion with God. Christ gave his life to restore your communion with God. And your prayer is practicing that communion. We have to see the priority of purpose that God puts on prayer. Praying according to God's word is one of the most powerful ways to be in real communion with God. Prayer is not a place for us to speak to God in a demanding way.

There are many, many books written on prayer. We can be deceived by the numerous publications available to us on the subject of prayer that scream at us to "buy this book and you'll learn how to pray." The Bible is the most powerful book ever written on prayer. There is no other book written on prayer that compares to the Bible. God wrote a Book. He wrote ONE Book - it's the Bible. We could do ten lessons on prayer out of the Bible and barely even scratch the surface of what is in there about prayer. There are approximately two hundred thirty verses in the Bible that uses the words prayer, praying or pray. And that doesn't include all of the incredible life illustrations from all of the great heroes of the faith that prayed. Every book in the Bible has prayer in it. You can use any book in the Bible to learn about prayer because prayer is communion with God. Every book in the Bible is about communion with God either the lack of it or the restoring of it. So why not learn from the most powerful book ever written about how to pray? If you want to buy someone else's book about prayer, that's okay. Just remember to use the Bible as your primary source. (However, I do want to recommend a few authors: E.M. Bounds; Max Lucado and John MacArthur.)

Like everything else, praying according to the scriptures has been abused by man. As long as there is man, there are going to be abuses of God and his word and his will. The Emerging Church says "Take it however you want. Just be at peace when you read it and interpret it according to your own life." **NOT**. The Word Faith movement says "If you see the word RICH, just demand it from God and if he doesn't give to you, then flick him away." The Word Faith movement says you are to demand what you want from God, and to make him do it, you're in charge. Who does he think he is?" That's abusive.

If we will truly align ourselves with God's will, if we will truly pray according to God's word, then we will accomplish one of the greatest goals in the Christian life: getting our will aligned with God. One of the most powerful truths in the Christian life is aligning our heart and our will with the God of the universe. Join him in what he's doing. Praying the scriptures aligns our will to his.

In this limited study, we only have the luxury of presenting one specific element of prayer. The one being focused on in this lesson is just one way to approach praying scripture and is not all encompassing and is not the only way to go about doing it. There is so much about prayer that can be discussed, so there is no way this study can even begin to survey it. We cannot even begin to scratch the surface of the wonder and the power of communing with God in prayer. So, for the purpose of this lesson, all we can do is learn the fundamental of praying scripture by learning how to open our Bibles and using it to learn to pray, then in the future we can do this on our own. Once we learn how to pray according to the scriptures, then the rest of the power of prayer will come while we are being instructed by the greatest book on prayer in the world.

There are five reasons why we should pray according to the scriptures:

- 1) When we pray according to God's word, we avoid the trap of the grocery list prayer. The grocery list prayer is a demanding prayer. "God, I need this and I need that. And if I'm going to get that, I'm going to need this to go with it. It's the same stuff I needed yesterday, so thanks, make sure you pick all of that stuff up for me. Okay, bye bye." Praying God's word avoids that trap.
- 2) Praying according to God's word helps us to begin to understand how God really works (though we'll never fully comprehend him). We start to see how the word of God actually applies to our life. When we are praying God's word, we start to see that God is after something different than fixing our circumstances. We see when we are praying God's word that he wants to use our circumstances to fix us. We become aware that he is more interested in a personal relationship with us than serving us. Using God's word in our prayer life, we stop seeing God as our servant and start seeing him as the Almighty God (El Shaddai).
- 3) When we are praying according to God's word, we begin to base our prayers on what God might be doing. When we're praying his word, we start to ask ourselves "Is there a chance God you are doing something like that in my life?" The answer is always "Yes, there is a chance he is." So instead of us holding on to what we are doing and demanding that God help us get what we want, we start saying "God is this what you're doing here? What is this? Maybe what I'm reading in your word is actually applying to my life." Praying according to God's word transforms our mind.
- 4) As we continue to pray according to God's word, we begin to agree with God in our prayers. As we pray according to God's word, it forces us to agree with God in our prayers. When we force ourselves to agree with God in our prayers, our hearts start changing. Our will starts changing. We start moving onto God's side of the table – which is the primary goal of prayer.
- 5) When we pray according to God's word, our prayers become aligned with God's will – and that's the ultimate reason to praying according to God's

word. The ultimate goal in prayer is to get aligned with God's will. Have you ever come to the conclusion that you have to get aligned with God's will no matter what you see, no matter what you feel, no matter what? Have you ever realized that the most important thing for you in your life right now is that you need to get aligned with God's will? Here's why that is so important to grasp: its only when we are aligned with God's will that our prayers can be answered. The only prayers that God is going to answer are the ones that are aligned with his will. So either we can try to convince him that his will is not the best way to go, that our will is better than his, or we can say "God align me with your will. I want to be aligned with your will. I surrender. I know you're going to win, so I just want to come over to your side." That's what praying according to God's word does. There is no better way to do this than to find scriptures that apply to our circumstance and pray them. It will transform our life.

Write out John 15:7.

What condition are we to meet in order to receive the promise made in this verse? (What is our **response**?)

"IF" is the conditional part of the promise. **Abide** means to remain in constant unity. How can constant unity in the word be accomplished? His words are contained in the Bible. So we know where to go to find his words. To abide (remain in constant unity) in his word, we have to read the Bible constantly, **meditate** on it constantly, **pray** according to it constantly and **worship** in it constantly. If you do this, you will be abiding in God's word because his word will be in you. And the fruit of abiding is his words will transform you.

John 15:7 is telling us that *if* we meet the conditional promise of abiding in God's word, *if* his words remain in us, we can ask whatever we wish and it will be done for us. How often have we heard or read or implied or wished or hoped for just the second half of John 15:7 (ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you)? We like the ask whatever you wish and it'll be done for you part. But we don't like the big *if*. That is why it is critical for us to surrender and say "God, I just want to be in your flow. I want to be in what you're doing because once I'm lined up with you, I know you'll hear. I know you'll respond and that's my only desire."

In John 14:14, Jesus says “***If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.***” We interpret that to mean if we just end our prayers with this tag: “In Jesus’ name. Amen” we’ll get everything we want. But that’s not what it means. To “ask anything in my name” doesn’t mean to tag some magical ritual phrase onto the end of our prayer. “In the name” means according to the full character and nature of Christ. To interpret John 14:14 by what it means, it would read: “If you ask anything according to my (Jesus) full character and nature I will do it.”

So when we pray according to God’s word, if we ask according to who Christ is and what he’s doing, he will move. Spoiler Alert: God’s will and our will usually are two different things.

Write out 1 John 5:14-15

According to 1 John 5:14, how are we to ask?

“If we ask anything according to his will ...” We’ve got to realize that God’s word is his will. They are one and the same. The word of God that we find in the Bible is his will in print. No guess work involved. It’s all right there.

What is the promise made to us when we ask according to his will found in 1 John 5:14?

We can be confident that if we ask anything according to his will, he HEARS us. If we know that he hears us in whatever we ask (according to his will), we can have confidence that we will have the request that we asked for. However, we can’t allow our flesh-driven, world-crazed mind to abuse that verse. These verses do not give us a right to demand things from God. These verses are grossly abused but they don’t have to be. They are true as they are written in context and applied correctly. John is saying “Listen, if you’ll just come over to God’s side, align yourself with him, you and God will be so in sync that you will desire the same things.” Praise God! If you desire the same things that God desires, then God will surely bring those things to pass.

Praying according to God’s word is us aligning our hearts with God. News flash: IT’S DIFFICULT. Why is it difficult for us to pray according to God’s word (will)? Because it just might be different than what we want! Actually it probably is (unless you’re walking

in the Spirit and aligning yourself with God's will). If we apply the Bible to our life, it might just be different than what we want. That's kinda scary.

The truth of the matter is that somebody's will needs to be realigned. Prayer realigns a will. It's either God's will is going to be realigned to match ours, or our will is going to be realigned to match his. In all honesty, we'd much rather that Jesus re-aligns his will to match ours. The opposite is found in God's word. He calls us to realign our will to his. Praying according to the scriptures is how we realign our will to God's. And, it takes the frustration away. Apply God's word in prayer to your life and you'll have peace.

To shore up your faith in God and the truth found in his word, read Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:18.

What do these scriptures say about God? _____

Praying according to God's word is praying *truth*.

In last week's lesson, we were in the book of John learning some truths about the Holy Spirit. Since he is such an important part of our walk, we're going to revisit the Holy Spirit again for just a bit.

Write out John 16:13-14

Jesus says in John 16:13-14, "***When the Spirit of truth comes; he will guide you into all truth.***" God does not lie. The Bible is all truth.

We know that the Holy Spirit has many roles. He is the primary agent of the Godhead at work in the church today. He is the primary member of the Trinity at work in our life today, on a daily basis. What are the things John 16:13-14 tells us the Spirit will do when he comes?

One of the many things the Holy Spirit does when he comes is he guides us into all truth. He will not speak on his own authority but whatever he hears from God he will speak. The Holy Spirit is not coming up with new stuff. He hears God speak. He tells us what

God says. He glorifies God. The Holy Spirit's job is to take what is Christ's (the word of God) and declare it to us. That is awesome!

Listen, this is really important for us to understand: we cannot pray without the Holy Spirit. There are so many things about prayer that we can't cover in this lesson since the study is limited. However, we cannot skip the importance of the Holy Spirit in prayer. We cannot pray without the person of the Holy Spirit living inside of us, coming upon us, leading and guiding us into the truth of scripture, declaring the word of Christ to us, speaking to us. It's the Holy Spirit who guides us in the word. It's the Holy Spirit who speaks God's word to us. Hebrews 4:12 says ***"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*** It's the Holy Spirit's job to accomplish that in us.

The word of God is the sword (Ephesians 6:17). The Holy Spirit is the wielder of the Sword. When the Holy Spirit pierces us with his Sword, sometimes we thank him for it but sometimes we wince in pain. If the Holy Spirit pierces us and we wince, that's okay, because he's doing his work and knows that something needs to be removed from us.

We cannot pray without the Holy Spirit. We have to approach praying God's word in alignment with the Holy Spirit because he will take God's word, which is living and active, and specifically apply it to our circumstances. When we learn to do this, then when we're praying God's word and the Holy Spirit says "This is what I'm talking about" and we respond with "No you are not" – it's the Holy Spirit that keeps pushing the word of God to the front of our mind. He'll do that for as long as it takes until we finally get it and surrender. That's his job. That's how it works.

If you are unfamiliar with the Holy Spirit, invest some time learning about him. Chapters 14, 15 and 16 in the book of John have a lot to say about the Holy Spirit. Lloyd Pulley has written a great book called "Under his Influence" - which is about the Holy Spirit. You can also check out a teaching series by Calvary Chapel Nuevo, Pastor Dave Shepardson at: wordbymail.com titled ***Holy Spirit*** (there's an App for that also). Investing time getting to know and develop a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit will yield priceless dividends.

Write out Luke 11:13

What are we told about ourselves in this verse? _____

Ouch. We're evil!!! In spite of our evil nature, if we ask for the Holy Spirit, our Heavenly Father will give him to us! God is so much better than us at gift giving! If we ask him for the Holy Spirit, he will give him to us. Thank you God for your grace and mercy and your willingness to give to us so abundantly – especially your Holy Spirit.

It's really important that we ask for the Holy Spirit to fill us and teach us and guide us every time we read the Bible. A simple prayer will suffice: "Holy Spirit come, make the word alive to me, pierce my heart, apply your word to my heart into a specific area and when you do Lord I will agree with you. When you point out sin, I will confess it. When you convict me of sin, I will repent." When we approach the word by asking the Holy Spirit to fill us, we will experience an incredible interaction with God and we will walk away from our time in the word transformed and blown away because his Spirit will make us weak in the knees. He does this in the power of the Holy Spirit.

George Mueller is one of the pillars of prayer and faith of this age. He did phenomenal things in the 1800s through prayer and faith and primarily through his orphanages. Here is a quote from his memoir, written in 1841, ten years after he was saved. In this quote he reveals how he discovered the power of prayer:

"The difference then between my former practice and my present one is this: Formerly, when I rose, I began to pray as soon as possible. But what was the result? I often spent considerable time before deriving comfort, encouragement, humbling of soul, etc. and often after having suffered much from wandering of mind. I scarcely ever suffer now in this way. Now, after having asked in a few words the Lord's blessing upon his precious word, I begin to meditate on the word of God, searching as it were into every verse to get blessing out of it. The result I have found to be almost invariably is this: that after a very few minutes my soul had been led to confession or to thanksgiving or to intercession or to supplication. So that though I did not, as it were, give myself to prayer but to meditation, yet it turned almost immediately more or less into prayer. When thus I have been for awhile, making confession or intercession or supplication or have given thanks, I go on to the next words or verse, turning all as I go into prayer for myself or others as the word may lead to it."

If you don't know George Mueller, Google him. There are a bunch of books written about him. He's a phenomenal pillar of prayer and faith. He did what we are learning in this lesson about praying God's word. Let's take a cue from George Mueller the next time we open up our Bible. Sink into it and let the Holy Spirit convict, encourage, challenge, and bring up prayer and confession. As we do, we are interacting with God in his word. Then watch the Holy Spirit speak to you through his word. He'll convict you, he'll comfort you, and he'll empower you.

As an aside, it's important to point out that the same verses we choose to meditate on can be the same verses we use to pray. So when we find verses on a subject we need to deal

with in our life, we can also use those verses for mediation using the Daily Devotional Journal or they can be used for 30 days in prayer (preferably use them both in meditation and prayer). We can also take a section of scripture and allow that paragraph or section to sink into our life. The point is we can use the same scripture to both meditate on God's word and to pray God's word. In addition, all of the fundamentals we're studying in these lessons require some sort of discipleship. We are not meant to be alone, to be on a deserted island with the Lord. We are meant to be in fellowship, communion and discipleship with one another. We need someone to help us do this; at the very least we need someone to exhort us, encourage us or hold us accountable. Sometimes we even need someone who can teach us how to do this. The fundamentals are not natural to us. It requires supernatural intervention.

Read in your Bible a very familiar passage found in Matthew 6:9-13.

This scripture is known as "the Lord's Prayer." (In reality, the Lord's Prayer is found in John 17. That's where Jesus is praying for self, his disciples and all believers.) What we see in Matthew 6:9-13 is an **example** of prayer. It wasn't given by Jesus to be repeated in rote and religious repetition. It was meant as an **example**. Luke 11:1-4 is the parallel passage to Matthew 6:9-13. Look at Luke 11:1. The disciples said to Jesus, "Lord, teach us how to pray." Jesus does two things before he teaches them how to pray.

Go back to Matthew 6:5-8. Jesus first teaches the disciples how NOT to pray. What does he tell them in verses 5 and 7 about what not to do in prayer?

In verse 6, Jesus tells them where to pray. Where does he tell them to go pray?

The word of God tells us that when we pray we shouldn't be like the hypocrites who pray to get attention from men or that we shouldn't ramble on and on in prayer (for the purpose of making ourselves look good). Rather, he instructs us to pray in private and alone with God (quiet time). Jesus also says that our prayers don't have to be lengthy. (In Nehemiah 2:4, Nehemiah shot up a flare prayer just before he went in to make a request before King Artaxerxes.) There is nothing wrong with praying with other believers in a group setting and we definitely should be participating in corporate prayer. However, when we do pray in a group don't pray for the attention of men or to make yourself look good but pray humbly to the Father who is in the secret place. And, as Jesus instructed, we also need to make sure that we are spending quiet time alone with God praying.

Here's an example of praying Matthew 6:9-13 (shortened up a bit). It's not as specific or as personal as we should make it when we pray it ourselves.

Heavenly Father, you are my Dad. You're my Daddy. My Father in heaven. Lord you love me unconditionally. Yet, Lord, you are in heaven. You are the almighty God. You are in control. You are in charge. You rule and you reign. So Lord, I say hallowed be thy Name. Honor and glory and power to your name Lord. God may your name be revered. May it be honored. May it be made holy in my life Lord. Father God, I pray that your kingdom will come. Not only that your kingdom would come on this earth but that it would come in my situation. That your presence, that your will, your plan, would come into this circumstance, this situation, Lord. I pray God that you would come and be with me here. And I pray, Father, more than anything that your will would be done. I trust you. I trust you God. I pray your will over mine. I pray for your plan over mine. I surrender to your will Lord. I pray it will be done on earth. I pray it will be done in my life as you say so in heaven. Father, I pray that you would provide for me and my family today. I trust you Lord. I trust you for today. Sufficient for the day are the troubles therein. But Lord I trust you to provide for me and my family today. I pray that you will provide our daily needs. We look to you for what we need today. We pray for provision and for protection. That you would lead and guide us today Lord. Father, forgive me of my sin. And Lord remind me that you forgive as I have forgiven. So Lord I forgive. And if there is anyone that I haven't forgiven, Lord show me. In you Jesus, because of what you've done, because of how much you have forgiven me, I forgive that person right now God. I forgive them. Father, I pray that you would protect me from temptation today. That you would hedge me about, that you would lead me and guide me for your Namesake, Lord. That you would keep me on your path today Lord. I pray Father that you would protect me from the evil one. Protect my family from the evil one. Put a hedge about us, around us. As we walk today, we pray that you will be our shield, our strength, our power, our victory Lord. We trust you in this situation God. In Jesus' name, amen.

That's just an example of praying through Matthew 6:9-13. When we pray scripture, we need to make it specific to us personally. We can plug any circumstance into the Lord's Prayer and pray it. There is no circumstance that the Lord's Prayer doesn't cover. We can plug any circumstance in to that scripture and we should be as personal and real as we possibly can be.

Here is another example of praying according to the scriptures. First read Ephesians 4:29-32.

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit I pray Lord that you would not allow any corrupt talk to come out of my mouth. That no abusive talk would come from my mouth today. That you would guard everything I would say. God I pray that only the words that would build up, only the words that would be helpful, only the words that would be supportive to those around me would exit my mouth today. God, may I speak

words that fit the occasion and that give your grace. Use me today and the words I speak to be an encouragement to those who hear. Father don't allow me to grieve your spirit. Holy Spirit show me, convict me, if I am grieving you, if I am causing you sorrow, if I am speaking something that hurts you, show me God. I'm sorry Lord. Please keep me from doing that today. I know Lord that I have been sealed for eternity by your Holy Spirit, that I am identified as one of Yours, Lord. God don't allow me to grieve you but instead use me for your glory today in everything I say and do. Father I pray that you would remove, that you would crucify all bitterness and all wrath and all anger and all clamor, all harsh words. That you would cleanse my heart that you would let the poison drain from my heart that only words of encouragement and edification would come from lips. I pray Lord that all slander and evil speaking would be put away from me with all malice and desire to hurt or injure anyone. God I release that to you right now. Instead Lord I pray that you would fill me with your Spirit, that you, Jesus, in me would be kind. That you would be tendered hearted in me towards others today. That you would forgive in me, just as you have forgiven me that you would enable me to forgive. I pray that you would change my heart today. That you would cleanse me and use me as a conduit Lord to bring revelation of you to everyone I speak to today. In your name I pray. Amen.

Again, these examples of praying the word of God are just that: examples. When you pray scripture make it personal to you. There is no wrong or right way. Simply pray from your heart.

We can be sure that any area in our life that God wants to transform is addressed in scripture. Use your concordance. Ask your pastor. Get reference books. Look for it, you'll find a scripture that applies to any area of your life. If we begin to really let scripture sink into our heart in meditation and prayer, over an extended period of time, God will transform us. This will take us from a church "attender" to a discipler – to a little Christ – to a transformed individual. God has given us everything we need to do it. But we have to realize it's not a magical formula. It's not one and done deal. We don't pray that once and then we're done with it. It's a lifestyle. It's a full surrender. Through meditating on God's word and praying according to God's word, the supernatural power of God will absolutely, completely and radically change our life. God guarantees it. Take him up on it.

To close, read Psalm 100. Now write out a personal and thankful prayer to your Maker.

Now pray your prayer out loud, letting it come from your heart.