



Bishop Keith Cowart "Beside Still Waters" September 10, 2023

Key Verses: Psalm 23

Key Thought: A practical way to grow in prayer is to memorize a Psalm so that you can pray it, letting each line guide you into conversing with God.

Points to Consider:

- An effective way to grow in prayer is to pray the prayers of others. Doing so can expand our "prayer vocabulary." Moreover, choosing Scriptural prayers (like the Psalms) enables us to meditate on words that we know are inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Memorize the prayer so that you can truly pray it (not only recite it).
- As you pray, let each line of the prayer guide you into conversing with God. Here are a few examples, using Psalm 23:
 - 1: "The LORD is my shepherd." → Entrust your cares to the LORD; He cares for you!
 - 2: "He makes me lie down in green pastures." → Resolve to adopt a mentality of resting in the LORD's abundant provision.
 - 3: "He leads me in paths of righteousness." → Ask the LORD if there is anything that is standing between you and Him or between you and someone else. Do you need to ask for forgiveness? Know that the LORD wants to restore your relationships.
 - 5: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." → Instead of obsessing over those who oppose you, give thanks for the LORD's goodness toward you and entrust those who oppose you to the LORD's discretion.

Discussion Prompts:

- What are some of the benefits of learning to pray Scriptural prayers?
- Can you share a Scriptural prayer that has been meaningful to you?
- What part of Psalm 23 resonates with you the most right now, and why? → How could that part lead you into conversing with God?
- Have a leader slowly recite the Psalm, leaving plenty of space after each line for others to pray as led (perhaps according to how people responded to the last question).