

PRAYING SCRIPTURE BACK TO GOD

Using the "Four R's" as a guide, read through Psalm 95 aloud, slowly. Discuss each one. Then pray your discussion back to God. Don't worry, even though he heard your discussion, it will be good to speak directly to the Lord what you discussed!

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. **4** In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. **5** The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; **7** for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Today, if you hear his voice, **8** do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, **9** where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. **10** For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways." **11** So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."

1. REFLECT. – discuss and pray

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

Breathe in "God-breathed" Scripture. Listen to God's Word. Read through the psalm once, slowly, asking the Holy Spirit to "underline" a phrase or word that you need to pay attention to. Repeat it silently to yourself, asking the Lord to tell you why you need to pay attention to it. When invited, say it aloud to those you are praying with.

"What comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." A. W. Tozer

2. REJOICE. – discuss and pray

What gives you reason to thank and praise God? A good way to think about thanks is being grateful for what God does. To praise him is to say "Wow" for who God is, his holy character and goodness. Do it!

3. REPENT. – discuss and pray

Repent: What in this text sheds light on sin in my life? Confess your sin.

"Father in Heaven! Hold not our sins up against us, but hold us up against our sins, so

that the thought of Thee when it wakens in our soul, and each time it wakens, should not remind us of what we have committed but of what Thou didst forgive, not of how we went astray but of how Thou didst save us!" Soren Kierkegaard

Regrets are not the same as genuine repentance. Anyone can feel bad for what they have done. The repentant resolves to learn from it. Better, the repentant sinner hears God's call to become a disciple and be taught by God. God's offer is really an invitation to fellowship with the One we've wronged. This is forgiveness squared! You may go from being an enemy of God to a friend of God, who offers to, guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

4. REQUEST. – discuss and pray

Based on what you see here, what may you ask God to give and do? Then ask!

- Pray for Christ's church everywhere.
- Pray for our staff and elders.
- Pray for missions.
- Pray for the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed people of the world, and for all who suffer for the sake of the Gospel.
- Pray for all who have not heard the Gospel, and for those who must once again become obedient to Christ.
- Pray for our nation and its leaders.