

## HOW TO DEVELOP A STRONG PRAYER LIFE.

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Part 4

### V. INTIMACY WITH GOD: PRAY-READING THE WORD

#### A. The most substantial way in which we can bolster our prayer lives is by feeding on the Word of God.

- This includes engaging in active conversation with God as we read His Word.
- Scripture gives us the “conversational material” in our prayer life and makes prayer more enjoyable.

*(Josh. 1:8) 8This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night...then you will make your way prosperous, and...will have good success.*

#### B. Bible study must lead to dialogue with God.

- Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for searching the Scriptures without using them to develop a real relationship with God (Jn. 5:39-40).

*(Jn. 5:39-40) 39You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have...life; these are they which testify of Me. 40You are not willing to come to Me [dialogue] that you may have life.*

#### C. Two broad categories of truth related to pray-reading the Word (meditating on Scripture) are:

- scriptures that focus on promises “to believe” and scriptures that exhort us “to obey.”

#### D. We actively dialogue with God by praying promises that we are “*to believe*” from His Word.

- **First, we thank God** for a particular truth. We turn that truth into declarations of thanksgiving or trust. For example, we say,
- **“Thank you that You love, forgive, lead, and provide for me.”**
- **Second, we ask God to reveal** particular truths to us (Eph. 1:17). For example, pray: **“Father, reveal to me more of Your love, forgiveness, direction, and provision for me.”**

#### E. We actively dialogue with God by praying truths back to Him that exhort us “*to obey*” His Word.

- **First, we commit ourselves to obey God** in the specific way set forth in a passage. We make declarations of our resolve to obey, saying, **“I set my heart to obey in speech, time, and money.”**

- **Second, we ask God to empower us to obey a particular truth.** We ask God for help, to give us wisdom, motivation, and power to obey in specific areas. For example, pray: **“Father help me to love You, to bridle my speech, to use my time and money in full obedience.”**

#### F. We must articulate our love, gratitude, and requests to Jesus in simple phrases.

- Take time to journal or record your thoughts and prayers as you “pray-read” through Scripture.
- This helps us capture the truths that the Spirit gives us and to develop language to talk with God.

*(Hos. 14:2) 2Take words with you, and return to the LORD. Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.”*

#### G. In prayer and meditation, we speak to God on His throne and to God the Spirit, who dwells in our spirit.

- If we talk to the Spirit, then we will walk in the Spirit and receive His work in us.
- Ask the Spirit to let you “see what He sees and feel what He feels” about your life and others’ lives.

*(2 Cor. 13:14, NAS) 14...The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

#### H. Take time to linger in His presence.

- Speak affectionately by intermittently saying, **“I love You.”**
- Speak slowly and softly (not shouting or preaching at the indwelling Spirit), briefly (short phrases not paragraphs), and minimally (listen more than talk), with silence and many pauses.

## VI. TEN PRAYERS TO RECEIVE STRENGTH IN THE INNER MAN:

F-E-L-L-O-W-S-H-I-P

*(Eph. 3:16) 16To be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...*

**F- Fear of God:** Father, release the spirit of the fear of God into my heart (Ps. 86:11)

**E- Endurance [perseverance]:** Strengthen my spirit with endurance to do Your will (Col. 1:11)

**L- Love:** Father, pour out Your love into my heart (Phil. 1:9)

**L- Light of glory:** Father, let me see the light of Your glory (Acts 22:6-11; Ex. 33:18; Ps. 4:6)

**O- One thing life focus:** I choose to be a person of one thing who sits at Your feet (Ps. 27:4)

**W- Count me worthy:** Strengthen me to have a **worthy response** to God in my life (2 Thes. 1:11)

**S- Speech:** Father, set a guard over my lips. Free me from sinful speech (Eph. 4:29; Ps. 141:3)

**H- Humility:** Jesus, I want to learn from You how to walk in lowliness (Mt. 11:29).

**I- Insight unto intimacy (wisdom):** Give me insight into Your Word, will, and ways (Col. 1:9)

**P- Peace and Joy:** Strengthen my heart with peace and joy that overpowers fear (Phil. 4:7)

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