

# ATHENS *Prayer Network* USA

## Turning Scriptures into Prayer

One of the reasons people do not pray more is that they don't know what to pray. Prayer is more than simply expressing what's on your heart, though it definitely includes that. Most folks after a few minutes run out of things and people to pray for.

According to Gary Wiens, *"it is difficult to sustain prayer for extended periods of time when the primary driving force is the release of pent up emotion"* ([Bridal Intercession](#)). When the emotion is gone, so is the drive to press into God in prayer.

But alas, God has provided us with an unlimited source of prayer fuel. The scriptures themselves are an incredible source of prayer. Whether you pray "prayers" out of the Bible or you take the word and turn it into loving dialog with Jesus, the scriptures unlock a whole new level of prayer.

### **Prayers in Scriptures**

A good starting point is using prayer of the saints of old. The apostles, prophets and heroes of the faith have left us with some of their prayers. As you pray these, marinate in them, allow them to become you own expression. Feel free to change some of the words, like names of cities or people. Turning scriptures into loving dialog with Jesus is a means to being washed in the living water of His word (Ephesians 5:26). For example, take this one from Ephesians 1:17...

*"Father I ask that your Spirit would release wisdom and revelation among us so that I may know You better. I ask that the eyes of my heart would be enlightened so that I would know the hope to which You called me, and the riches of my inheritance in Christ, as well as exceedingly great power that is available for all who believe.... Amen!"*

The prayers of the apostles are called "Apostolic Prayers." Here's a list of many of them. Romans 10:1, 15:5-7, 15:13, Ephesians 1:17-23, 3:16-21, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-12, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12, 3:1-5, Acts 4:24-31.

### **Faith and Promise passages**

Faith passages are the ones that speak of a promise. One of the roles of the intercessor is to remind God of His promises, like a secretary would remind her boss of an upcoming appointment. It is not that we are demanding God to do something He doesn't want to do. It is simply reminding Him that He promised such and such. God doesn't forget, but He often does withhold doing what He wants to do until we ask.

Take Psalm 1 for example. It talks about the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked being blessed and will be like a tree planted by streams of water. So turning that into a prayer could look something like this...

*“Father, make me like a tree planted by the water that when trials and temptations blast against me I will be able to stand firm. Lord, You promise that if I delight myself in Your Word You will cause my roots to go deep and will cause me to prosper. Give me a thirst for You and Your Word that I may be as fruitful as You want me to be. Cause me to be prosperous in all that I do so that Your name will be glorified through me. Amen!”*

Another example is Psalm 133, that says how blessed it is when God’s people dwell together in unity. When we do, God promises He will command the blessing, even life forever more. Where there is such unity we can ask for the blessing to be released. Turning this into prayer could look like this...

*“Father, You promised that where there is unity in Your body You would bestow, even command a blessing. We ask You now to release that blessing among us, release the salvation that You say is part of this blessing. Draw people to You, rend the veil that keeps them blinded, reveal Your beauty and love to those who do not know you yet. Come and dwell in the midst of our unity. Amen!”*

Obviously, you can take one Psalm and turn it into an hour long dialog with God. As you pray, pause and listen to see if God wants to reveal anything to you.

### **Obedience passages**

Obedience passages are those that are commanding us to do something. Too often we read through the Bible without stopping to ask God to apply it in our lives. When you do find one, pause and ask God to help you obey it. For example, Jesus has quite a bit to say about worrying in Matthew 6:25-34. Here’s how it could be turned into dialog with Him...

*“Lord, You tell me not to worry about the details of my life, so Lord, I give over to You my anxieties regarding our finances (or whatever may be bothering you). I confess that my worrying is a symptom of my lack of faith in You. I choose to trust You and to not worry. Instead I will seek You and Your kingdom, for You promise that as I do You will provide all that I need. Thank You right now for your peace and provision for me today. Amen!”*

### **Revelation of God’s beauty & majesty**

Declaring God's worth, beauty and glory out loud is much more powerful than we realize. When we speak out the words, *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is, and is to come”* (Revelation 4:8), we are not only turning scripture into prayer, but we are joining a heavenly chorus that goes on day and night, forever. Songs from Revelation can be joined in with. Have fun coming alongside the angelic host proclaiming these truths!

Revelation 4:8, 4:9-11, 5:8-10, 5:12-13, 7:9-10, 7:11-12, 7:13-17, 11:16-18, 12:10-12, 15:3-4, 16:5-7, 19:1-4, 19:5-8, 22:12-17.

The word of God is living, active and quite an adventure when you turn it into dialog with Jesus. Every time you read it this way, God will have something different for you. Praying the Scriptures makes it personalized. As you read through the Bible look for faith, obedience and revelation passages. Then highlight, or underline or mark the margin of your Bible, so when you pray you can easily find them. Begin reading the Bible, perhaps in the Psalms. Read until you find something to turn into conversation with God. If you stick with it, it won’t be long until you are caught up in loving dialog with that Glorious Man, Christ Jesus.

Revised: **March 5, 2015**