

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

PRAYER



Heavenly Father,

I give thanks that your word is like a double-edged sword. I confess that sometimes I would prefer that it didn't penetrate so accurately to those areas of my life I would rather keep hidden. But I know your motive is love. In love you need to smash my pride and sin with the hammer of your word and purge me with the fire of your word that I may be holy as you are holy. When I see myself in the clear mirror of your word I recognise that this work of sanctification is so necessary for me to grow into the likeness of Christ Jesus. So, Lord, I willingly submit myself to the work of your word and Spirit in me, that by your goodness, I might be for the praise of your glorious grace.

AMEN

PRAYER



Lord,

I'm tired of all the hustle and bustle, the hassles and irritations of everyday life. Work really got to me today and I feel pulled in a thousand different directions. My mind is racing, my body tired, my soul weary. Lord, I'm hungry for you. I need to be alone with you to get things back into perspective, to get my head and my heart back online. Father, please feed me from your word. Let it be like a seed planted in me that will grow up, even when I'm not looking, and produce good fruit in me. Let it be my light in everyday life. When I'm facing stressful situations and stressful people, when I'm working and when I'm at home let it be my lamp. As I read and meditate on your word may I pay attention to what your Spirit is saying to me. May it lead me to love and worship you and may it guide me in witness and service.

AMEN

PRAYING SCRIPTURE
LEAFLETS

A RESOURCE FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

The Bible is –

Like a Double Edged Sword: Hebrews 4:12

Like Fire: Jer. 23:29

Like a Hammer: Jer 23:29

Like a Lamp and Light: Ps 119:10

Like Food: Mat 4:4 1 Pet 1:25-2:2

Like Seed: 1 Pet 1:23

Like a Mirror: James 1:22-25

God speaks through the Bible in ways that are penetrating, purging, rebuking, enlightening, satisfying and life building.

His word reflects to us our true selves in the vast array of the human situations we face.

A RESOURCE FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

Even Paul knew that sometimes we just don't know what to pray.

Romans 8 v 26

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

This is especially true in the crisis and painful times of life. At times we desperately want to hear the voice of God speaking to us and to know his promises.

SCRIPTURE IS THE VOICE OF GOD

The Bible is the very voice of God. It is his infallible and breathed-out word. In other words, what the Bible says, God says. So, to listen to the words of the Bible is to listen to the voice of God.

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

To take the words of the Bible and turn them into prayer is like reminding God and especially reminding ourselves of the very words He has spoken. When we do not know what to pray we can pray the words of Scripture knowing that we pray with full authority and absolute assurance to the God who is true to His word.

Can anything be more secure, more assuring, more empowering, more dynamic, more enlightening, more strengthening, more comforting than praying the very words of God?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE LEAFLETS

This series of leaflets has been prepared by the Social Issues and Resources Committee as a tool for use in pastoral ministry.

They can be used as a resource in pastoral prayer or given to individuals facing specific needs.

They are available on the Board of Social Witness web-site for download and our hope is that they will be widely used and prove helpful to ministers, elders, deaconesses, chaplains, youth workers and indeed all that use them.

Our prayer is that they will help all who use them to bring the God-breathed word to bear on their daily lives and circumstances, to hear His voice speak and to enable them to pray with confidence and assurance.

The current list of topics covered is -

- **Anger**
- **Bereavement**
- **Depression**
- **Fear**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Guilt**
- **Worry**

This list may be added to in time.

May we encourage all who use these leaflets in pastoral ministry to practice the habit of praying the very words of scripture in your own walk and so benefit from the strength and assurance it gives.