

ENGAGING GOD IN THE WORD: PRAY-READING THE WORD

LIFE OF PRAYER CLASS – SESSION 3

I. ABIDING IN CHRIST THROUGH HIS WORD

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.” (John 5:39-40)

- A. Jesus corrected the leaders of his day and told them that their bible study life was not enough to connect with His heart. They needed to take the scriptures and engage in a Holy Spirit dialogue with God as a Person in order to receive life. We must do more than read or study the bible, and move into talking to God about the bible.

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” (John 15:7)

- B. God’s abiding and transforming presence is deeply connected to His Words abiding in us. What does it mean for God’s Word to abide in you? I assure you that this means more than bible verse memorization.
- C. The bible is God’s revelation to us, by which the Holy Spirit wants to teach us. The Holy Spirit wants to re-write our thoughts and emotions by writing God’s word on our souls supernaturally.
- D. Next week we’ll talk about how to enter into the revelation of Jesus’ heart through meditation on Gospel stories.
- E. The entire book of Psalms is introduced with the powerful exhortation to meditate on God’s Word day and night, and the resulting fruit it would have upon any that actually did it.
- F. Psalm 119 gives us insight into the inner desires of King David for the revelation of God in the Word. Remember, David was a prophet who had visions, heavenly encounters, etc., yet His primary place of encounter with God was in the Word.
- G. Proverbs 2 – investing prayerful time in the Word is a prerequisite for encounter with God.
- H. I encourage you to ask God if you are relying on books and teachings too much for your devotional times. If so, just take a few weeks and only pray-read the bible in your personal times and see what kind of a heart connection you experience with God.

II. BENEFITS OF PRAY-READING THE WORD

- A. The bible gives us language to pray back to God. Most people don’t know what to say past a few minutes in prayer, but God gives us tons of language and even tells us the things He wants to talk about in the Word. Our prayer language will develop as we pray His Word back to Him.

- B. Our thoughts and emotions are transformed and deeply connected to the Holy Spirit in our times in the Word. God changes us internally as His Word abides in us, which is why Jesus said those with His in them get their prayers answered. Our heart thinks, feels and desires like God as His Word transforms us, which causes us to pray according to His heart more often.
- C. God's life is imparted to us as we prayerfully speak His Words to Him. The truths of the actual passages are imparted to us as we talk to Him about them. In reference to John 5:39-40, we "come" to Jesus for life as we talk to Him about the bible. Jesus revealed Himself to two men on the road to Emmaus and caused their hearts to burn (Luke 24). The Holy Spirit wants to make our hearts burn with desire for Jesus through the Word.
- D. We grow in understanding of the verses pray back to God. The Holy Spirit teaches us about the bible verses we're praying by giving us new language to pray back to God. I find myself saying profound things that come to my heart after I pray verses to God word for word. The process is so natural that many don't do it or catch the revelation that they're speaking out.
- E. Our mouth is a powerful steering wheel. Our entire being is affected by the things we speak out, so us speaking His Word back to Him and speaking out promises and commitments causes something to be imparted to us. I feel way more conviction and strength to walk out His commandments when I talk to Him about them.

III. HOW TO PRAY-READ THE BIBLE

- A. Slowly pray phrases and ideas back to God in your bible reading times. If you are studying or reading larger sections of scripture at a time, stop and say things back to God occasionally.
- B. Take a few days or a few weeks and pray-read through a small number of verses.
- C. In a communing posture of heart, pray biblical ideas back to God slowly and softly. Pause frequently to receive from the Lord around that topic. He will talk back to You in the smallest impressions.
- D. Take time to journal your prayers, questions and thoughts. These journals will capture divine ideas and language that you can then pray back to God over and over again. Re-writing ideas is a form of prayer. Write down your questions. Questions are the doorway to revelation. Sometimes I will write down a question and then ask the Spirit for insight and encounter related to that question for days or weeks. That will be the only thing I do in my devotional times for awhile at times.
- E. Ways to pray the bible: Thank God for the truths, ask Him for more understanding or experience of that truth, commit to walking in that truth and ask for Help to walk in that truth.
- F. Sing all of the same prayers back to God and mix in praying in the Spirit.

