

PRAYER LESSON 145

Pray From God's Word

As we read the word of God and meditate on it, we gain an understanding of who God is and what he desires for us. We learn the mind and heart of God and thus build our relationship with him. The more intimate we are with God's word the more we become intimate with him. As this intimacy grows we become more and more aware of his will and will tend to avoid adding the tag on the end of our prayers, "if it be your will."

As we pray we will know whether we are praying in his will or not. Scripture becomes the framework for expressing the cries of our heart as we pour out our requests to God.

When we pray out of our understanding of scripture, three things happen. First, we begin to stand in awe of his presence as we learn more and more of the character and ways of God. Paul ends one of his prayer this way in Ephesians 3:20-21, **Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.** When we think we know what God can do, we have only scratched the surface of his capabilities.

Secondly, we become aware of the intercessory work of Jesus in dealing with our cares and burdens. The writer to the Hebrews put it this way in Hebrews 4:15-16 **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.** Jesus knows what it is like to be us, and he whispers in the Father's ear on our behalf.

Thirdly, we become aware of the Holy Spirit's intercession for us when we are unable to pray. Paul wrote to the Romans in Romans 8:26-27, **We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.** What a comfort to know that the Spirit of God is available to us to help even in our praying.

So, when you pray, keep God's word in mind and trust that what God reveals in it is the truth, and use it to guide your prayers.