

Pastor Glen Keeffe
Shelton First Baptist Church

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Praying God's Word
[various scriptures]

I have really enjoyed this series on prayer and judging from your feedback...it sounds like many of you have enjoyed it too. Almost every time I prepare a message God is doing something in my heart. There are weeks when as I study God just takes me out to the wood shed dealing with my heart before He passes it on to you. That's why when you come and say, "Man, that really filleted me", I say; "Yea, but it cut me first".

I have to say, this week as I prepared it was a wonderful time of encouragement from the Lord. My prayer life could be better...but it is consistent and meaningful. There are times if I'm honest when I get stagnant within the routine of my prayer. Even with my Journal.

Why pray God's word? Let me give you three basic encouragements as to why you should include praying God's word on a regular basis. And here's a free tip not even included in the main points of this message. Praying God's word **brings variety to your prayer life**. This week my family has been praying Gods word...over our family using a list similar to this:

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Praying God's Word for Family

1Pet 4:8...That we love one another

1Pet 4:9...That they are hospitable to one another without complaint

1Thes 5:11...That they encourage one another

Acts 20:32...That they build one another up

Neh 8:10...Let the joy of the Lord be their strength

So what we did as a family this week is take this list of verses...looked them up and talked about them and then we prayed the theme of each of these verses over our family. Ok...Let's get into answering the question 'Why Pray God's Word'.

PRAY

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I. God's Word is Alive

I don't think anybody here would be bummed if your prayers contained more power. When we pray using the Scriptures, we are praying in power. John 1:1 says: ***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the***

beginning. What does verse 14 say? And...***The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

When we absorb the truth of God's word and...come into agreement with God's word...then His power is released to answer our prayers.

Hebrews 4:12

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For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

- Testimony of Hallway and Attributes of God on Wall
 - One and two word descriptions of God & His Character from the word.
 - Read when down and be brought up

Sometimes you want to speak the word:

- Genesis 1 (God Spoke [Out Loud] Creation)
 - Gen. 1:3 – ***And God said, “Let there be light”***
 - Gen. 1:6 – ***And God said, “Let there be an expanse...”***
 - Verse 9 & 11 – ***And God said...***
 - Verse 14, 20, 24 – ***And God said...***
 - And Verse 26 – ***Then God said, “Let us make man in our image***
- Speaking God's Word...out loud...in the context of Spiritual warfare. I never want to find myself in the position of fighting the ranks of the enemy on my own. What better way to combat him than with the Lord Jesus Christ and His written Word?
 - So in warfare we speak the Word...out loud against the enemy.
 - First maybe in the area of our protection. How does the enemy attack? 1 John 2:15: ***¹⁵Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world...***

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...the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world

- Speak the Word in warfare. Put on your armor. Eph. 6:11
 - **Righteousness** (Breastplate)
 - **Peace** (Sandals)
 - **Salvation** (Helmet)
 - **Faith** (Shield)
 - **Word of God** (Sword of the Spirit) and...

- **Prayer**
- Does anyone ever pray James 4:7? ***Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

God's word is alive and adds significant power to our prayer life...also:

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1) God's Word is Alive

2) Praying the Word Clarifies God's will

Sometimes we feel like God doesn't hear your prayers? And maybe we lose sight of how to pray for in certain situations. Do you ever just have a situation needing prayer in front of you...and you simply don't know how to pray for it? Lack of knowing how to pray can erode confidence in our prayer.

Seasons of stagnation will enter our prayer life. These seasons strip our confidence in prayer and leave us doubting what God's will in a given situation is. I John 5:14 says:

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¹⁴This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Not only does He hear our prayers, but He also promises to answer them when we pray in union with His will. The Word teaches us that God loves to execute His promises in our lives. Where can we find an abundance of God's promises? The Word!

Going to the word will bring clarification of God's will. Couple ways that can happen:

- Friend Needing Help last week (Psalm 51:7) ***Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*** Sometimes God will awaken His Word into situations to help clarify His will
- Self Esteem – So many Christians struggle with their value before almighty God. Scriptures reveals God's will for how we should see ourselves.
 - How about all the way back to Genesis 1 – ***God created man in His own image.*** You were created in God's image.
 - ***...the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*** (Luke 12:7)
 - Isaiah tells us in 64:8; The LORD is our Father...and we are the work of His hand.

The Lord wants us to believe the truth about ourselves and through understanding and praying the Word of God His will is revealed to us.

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1) God's Word is Alive

2) Praying the Word Clarifies God's will

3) Praying the Word brings Spiritual Growth

A wonderful way to pray over situations is to simply take the specific issues you are praying for and gather scriptures regarding it. Say for example...

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Encouragement:

Rom 8:31 – "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Col 3:2 – "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Josh 1:9 – "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

John 16:33 – "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

You can search scripture and find similar truths regarding Wisdom, Healing, Parenting, Children, Relationships...whatever. Even generic needs. Matthew 6:8:

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"your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."

Finances...You can pretty much search the word for anything you may be needing prayer in and begin to pray the word into your situations. You can study and find the scriptures...or, if you're more tech oriented you can 'Google' "Praying Scripture" and find an abundance of resources that will give you scriptures for specific categories.

While you pray scriptures over your need...you actually learn what God says about certain situations, and by praying His Word you will see His results. You're taking the situation out of your hands, and putting it in His hands. You're releasing it to God. You can pray *Scripture Prayers*, and if you'll read them every day, even within a week, you will have memorized Scripture and won't even realize it until a situation arises, or until someone asks you to pray for them.