

# PRAYING THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE

## **INTRODUCTION:**

### A. Purposes of topic

1. to fight discouragement experienced in prayer life
2. to deepen or enrich our personal prayer life

### B. Facts don't lie

1. most of us pray too little
2. most of us don't experience prayer as a 'sweet hour to pray'
3. most of us mis-manage set apart for prayer
4. most of us wonder whether we are Christians at all

## **I. THREE MOTIVATIONS TO PRAY**

### A. Prayer is a privilege: Ps. 81:10; Ps. 50:15

### B. Prayer addresses a willing God: Luke 11:5-13

### C. Prayer brings power: John 15:4

## **II. DIRECTIONS TO PRAY**

### A. Be committed to set aside time (Luke 10:42)

1. No relationship grows without communication
2. All real deep communication takes time

### B. Prepare prayer in meditation

1. Reading and meditation on Scripture are the parents of prayer
2. Preparation avoids empty repetition

## **III. METHOD OF PRAYER: PRAY WITH AN OPEN SCRIPTURE**

### A. This method is not new: Ps. 25

B. Best Bible book for prayer: *The Psalms*

1. God gave the Psalms as the *devotional guide for worship*

C. Principles of *Praying through Scripture*

1. Let the 'words and thoughts of Scripture' direct your prayer

2. Meditate on *each verse before moving on to next*

a. asking questions and seeking answers on what you read

b. form the thoughts and truths into *personal petitions*

c. be not afraid of '*association-thoughts*' though not necessarily exact meaning of the text

d. when no more new thoughts, move on to next verse

3. Use a journal for your thoughts and prayers

4. Possible to use in shared prayer time as couple or family

D. Illustrations of *How to Pray through Scripture*

#### **IV. ADVANTAGES**

A. *Less mind wandering*

B. *More depth and variety in prayer*

C. *Deepens the feeding of mind with God's Word*

**Never tell me of a humble heart  
where I see a stubborn knee. (T. Adams)**

**Some people use God as they do a lawyer:  
they go to Him only when they are in trouble. (Anon)**

**Nothing whatever can atone for the neglect of praying. (E. M. Bounds)**

**The little estimate we put on prayer is evident  
from the little time we give it. (E. M. Bounds)**