

Praying Scripture

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." John 5:39-40 NIV

"Come to me and talk with me," Jesus is saying. "Don't just read or study about me. It's all about relationship. The point is to connect with me." The written Word is to help us move from a knowledge/study approach to a relational dialogue with Jesus in prayer.

This is what praying scripture is all about. Connecting more deeply with Jesus as I slow down and sense his presence and receive His Words. We need the Holy Spirit to do this, so give the Spirit room and space to lead, to speak, and to guide you to His Truth.

When I pray scripture, I speak:

1. Slowly and softly
2. Briefly—short phrases
3. Minimally—listen more than talk
4. With many pauses—be still
5. In gentle sighs and sensing the dynamic connection with the Holy Spirit

How to pray:

Using the example of Romans 8:1 *There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

I. Agree with the truth

- A. Example of prayers of agreement
 1. Lord God, there *used to be* condemnation, but not any more. It's all been taken away!
 2. *All* condemnation is gone, there's not a ounce left—none!
 3. When someone is in relationship with you, Jesus, they become innocent and free
 4. Jesus, you want people to be free!

II. Declare the truth over yourself

- A. Example of prayers of declaration
 1. I was condemned because of my sin, but not anymore!
 2. I am in Christ Jesus! This isn't just a general truth; it's a personal truth for me!
 3. I refuse to abide feelings of guilt or condemnation—God, himself, declares me innocent!

III. Ask for more of the truth for yourself/others

- A. Examples of asking prayers
 1. Jesus, I want to live like one who knows you have forgiven them!
 2. Remind me, Lord, that you're not holding my past against me!
 3. Let me experience the reality of your presence more deeply!

#1 Prayers: The New Testament alone has at least 30 prayers of Jesus and the Apostles, each of which expresses the will and ways of God.

- Matthew 6:9-13
- Colossians 1:9-12
- Romans 15:13
- Philippians 1:4-6,9-11

#2 Promises: These are scriptures that express the promises that God has for those who follow Jesus. We can use these to fight the lies of the enemy.

- Romans 8:38-39
- Matthew 11:28-30
- Romans 8:1-2
- Romans 8:9-11

#3 Praise: Many scriptures describe the majesty and power of God to help us know him more and be in awe of him.

- Psalm 44:4-8
- Psalm 18
- Revelation 1:5-6
- Revelation 5:8-14

#4 Prescriptions: God exhorts us and directs in how we are speak, act and think in order to abide in Jesus and bring him glory.

- 1 Corinthians 15:57-58
- Philippians 4:6-8
- Colossians 3:1-8
- Ephesians 4:1-3

#5 Patterns: Scripture reveals the ways in which God acts to achieve his priorities. He is consistent in the way he operates, which helps us pray his will over the world.

- Psalm 103:8-12
- Psalm 119:89-96
- Isaiah 30:18
- Joel 2:13
- 2 Peter 3:8-9

#6 Prophecies: God tells us what he is going to do in the future to give us hope and confidence in present circumstances. Many prophecies are yet to come, but none has ever been proven false.

- Acts 2:17-18
 - Revelation 21:3-5
 - Habakkuk 2:13-14
 - Revelation 19:11-16
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