

40 Days of Prayer

Week 3

Jan. 24 – Jan. 30

Chapters 5-6 of *Praying the Bible*

⇒ Before you connect with your prayer people this week, read chapters 5-6 of *Praying the Bible*.

Ben Patterson quotes at the beginning of chapter 5 of *Praying the Bible*, that “By praying the Psalms back to God, we learn to pray in tune with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” We, mere humans, have only an inkling of how to praise God. But... the Psalms open up our mind to unfathomable reasons for praising God. When we become followers of Jesus Christ, our knowledge of how to praise Him, how to bow down to Him, how to exalt Him as God Almighty is limited. *The Psalter (another name for the book of Psalm) is a great way for us to learn how to approach our Heavenly Father. Whitney refers to the book of Psalm as a “little Bible” where you can find every doctrine, every human emotion, and an example for how to take His words and put them into our words spoken back to Him. Being a not so poetic person, a not so descriptive person, a not so well-spoken person, I love that our God IS. He IS poetic, descriptive, well-spoken, a chronicler, a creator, an author, a well of endless supply to learn from. To learn from Him is to know Him. To read His words opens up a well-spring of newness for us in prayer. The more we pray through scripture, the more God’s word will become the words hidden in our hearts and thus become the words we use to call upon the Lord. And then our prayer life that may have been limited becomes a well-spring of praise, exultation and worship to God. This then restores our soul and deepens our prayer life.

Whitney unpacks this prayer method he calls the “Psalms of the Day”. In fact, you can download a helpful free app for praying the Bible: “Five Psalms!” This simple approach that Whitney recommends, uses the days of the week to access all the 150 Psalms in the Old Testament within a month. Whitney provides a chart on pages 91 and 92 of his book *Praying the Bible* but the “Five Psalms” app is a great helpful tool to assist you in navigating this prayer method.

Whitney details other methods of praying parts of the Bible in chapter 6. Try it all! What great advise! Whatever method you use, the best method of all is the one you are using. For in that pursuit, you are communicating with God. And since He created us for fellowship, prayer is that communication lifeline.

On a personal note this week.....There’s so much heaviness in my community. You can probably identify. As my dear friend Stephanie said yesterday, “I don’t think I can ever remember a time that my prayer list included a newborn baby having brain surgery; a 12 year old near death with COVID complications; another 12 year old starting 33 treatments for her cancer; a precious young girl with advanced rectal cancer; young adults caring for aging parents with dementia; broken marriages and relationships; a dear friend battling malaria.....and the list goes on!” These words from the great old hymn: *When the Morning Comes* ring in my ear.

*Trials dark on every hand,
And we cannot understand,
All the ways that God would lead us
To that blessed Promised Land;
But He’ll guide us with His eye,
And we’ll follow till we die;
We will understand it better by and by.*

*Oft our cherished plans have failed,
disappointments have prevailed,
And we’ve wandered in the darkness,
heavyhearted and alone;
But we’re trusting in the Lord,
and according to His Word,
We will understand it better by and by.*

*By and by, when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We will tell the story how we’ve overcome;
We will understand it better by and by.*

Written by Charles Tindley

As I wrestled through the night, sleepless and perplexed by the heaviness of our community, I prayed. And as I prayed, I interceded fervently for a dear friend whose severe case of malaria has caused many to persist in prayer regarding his critical need for Jehovah Rapha – God our Healer to touch him and grant wisdom to his medical team. Through the hours of sleeplessness God reminded me of the “Five Psalms” app. I opened it and here is what it said:

O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices, and in your salvation how greatly he exults!
You have given him his heart’s desire and have not withheld the request of his lips.
For you meet him with rich blessings; you set a crown of fine gold upon his head.
He asked life of you; you gave it to him, length of days forever and ever.
His glory is great through your salvation; splendor and majesty you bestow on him.
For the king trusts in the Lord, and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.

Psalm 21:1-7

There is strength in the Lord, and we shall rejoice and exult Him forever for He is our salvation. In this Psalm, David is grateful for God answering his spoken requests, as well as God granting his unspoken longings – the desire of his heart. Today, our battles are many- not physical combat with bow and arrow- but with virus’, sickness, unrest, injustice, uncertainties, darkness. We speak the requests of our heart – our prayers – and silent longings, desires of our hearts. Jesus, our one true Messiah, stands waiting to hear and grant success in our battles. My heart will exult His name forever for I trust in Him and through His steadfast love I shall not be moved.

**although I grew up in church, I was a young adult before I ever knew that the book of Psalm is also known as the Psalter. So, I thought it’d be a great piece of info to pass along.*

For our daily prayer challenges:

January 24: Read through Psalm 24; 54; and 84; use these passages to speak to God what comes from your heart.
January 25: Read through Psalm 25; 55; and 85; use these passages to speak to God what comes from your heart.
January 26: Read through Psalm 26; 56; and 86; use these passages to speak to God what comes from your heart.
January 27: Read through Psalm 27; 57; and 87; use these passages to speak to God what comes from your heart.
January 28: Read through Psalm 28; 58; and 88; use these passages to speak to God what comes from your heart.
January 29: Read through Psalm 29; 59; and 89; use these passages to speak to God what comes from your heart.
January 30: Read through Psalm 30; 60; and 90; use these passages to speak to God what comes from your heart.

- ⇒ Important: When you pray with others, remember to intercede on behalf of EE ministries and other requests made below.
- ⇒ Next week we will dive into chapter 7 of Praying the Bible.
- ⇒ **Weekly plus challenge:** take Evangelism Explosion Prayer Requests and allow the Spirit of God to use the Word of God (Psalms of the Day) to help you, the people of God to pray increasingly according to the will of God on behalf of the EE ministry that is impacting the Kingdom of God all over this country and abroad.
- ⇒ Let me know what God is doing in your life and the lives of your prayer people as you are praying the Bible. Email me at sreecer@eeworks.org and tell me about it. I’d love to hear from you.

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