

ENJOYING THE WORD ACCORDING TO **CATEGORIES** OF WORDS IN THE BIBLE

The more we practice **pray-reading** and the more we touch the Lord's word, the more we **grow**. To pray-read means to **turn the word of the Lord into prayer while reading the Bible**. Although it is simple to practice, it involves many items.

❖ Concerning the Lord's **Person** and **Work**

- Whenever we touch words about the Lord's **person** and **work**,
 - we need to **worship, praise, receive, enjoy** and **give thanks**

The Word:

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,"

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh.

Pray-reading:

"Lord, You are the **Word** that was in the **beginning**; You are worthy of our **worship**. Lord, You were with God, and You are **God**. We **praise** and **worship** You."

The Word:

Matt. 26:26-28 - ...this is My body. And He took a cup and gave thanks, and He gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Pray-reading:

"Lord, we **praise** You. **Thank You** for giving up Your **body** for us and for shedding Your precious **blood** to establish a new covenant so that our sins could be forgiven."

The Word:

Luke 5:13 - And stretching out His hand, He touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed! And immediately the leprosy left him.

Pray-reading:

"You are the Lord who is able to **cleanse** people. I worship and praise You. I **receive** You as such a Lord into my being. Remove all my uncleanness. **Thank You** for being **willing** to stretch out Your hand to touch and **cleanse** me. Lord, please touch me and **cleanse** me."

❖ Concerning Our **Living** and **Conduct**

- There are many places in the Bible that speak of our need to be humble, meek, or watchful. When we read words concerning our **living** and **conduct**,
 - we need to **confess** our **inability** to meet these requirements,
 - we need to **receive** their **teaching** and **correction**,
 - we need to **receive** the **Lord** as our **power**
 - we need to **receive** the **words** to **enlighten** us
- After we receive the Lord's teaching, we should **confess** our impotence to fulfill His words, saying,
"Lord, this is Your command, but **I am unable** to do it. I need to receive You into my being."
- And then we must **receive** the Lord as our power to fulfill them. We need to say,
"Lord, I cannot do this. I cannot make it, but I want to **receive** You into my being.
Lord, be my inward strength to keep Your word."

The Word:

Rom. 12:11 - Do not be slothful in zeal.

Pray-reading:

*“Lord, in my practical living **I am** still slothful and lacking in zeal. **I cannot** meet this demand. Only You are not lacking in zeal. Be the One keeping this word in me.”*

- Although we have been saved and are enjoying the Lord and tasting His riches, we still need to see that we are very slothful. We need the **correction** that comes through the Lord’s word. Even in reading the Bible and in praying, we are lacking in zeal.

❖ Concerning God’s **Plan, Work, and Purpose**

- Whenever we read God’s words, for His plan, His work, and His determined will to gain the church as His glorious purpose.
 - we need to **praise** Him
 - we need to **intercede**
 - we need to **inquire** of the Lord
 - we need to show a proper attitude of **fear** before the Lord

The Word:

Eph. 1:22-23 - “... the church...His Body...”

Pray-reading:

We need to **praise** the Lord.

“You have purposed that the church would be Your Body. You are the Head, and the church is Your Body. We are joined together in life, just as the head and the body are joined together.”

Then we should **intercede**, saying,

*“Lord, **cause** the church to be manifested as the Body, with the function and measure of the Body.”*

After we praise and intercede, we need to **inquire** of the Lord, saying,

*“As a member of Your Body, **how** should I function? **What** responsibility should I bear? **How** should I be joined with others in Your Body?”*

The Word:

Matt. 24:14 - This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth.

Pray-reading:

To **praise**

*“Lord, **praise** You that You have purposed and revealed that the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth.”*

Then we can **intercede**, saying,

*“Lord, there are still many places where the gospel has not been preached. The gospel has not even been preached thoroughly in the areas surrounding my locality. Lord, **cause** the preaching of Your gospel to spread further to reach more places.”*

Last, we can **inquire**, asking,

*“Lord, **what** responsibility should I bear toward Your gospel? **How** should I participate in its spread?”*

❖ Concerning Words of **Enlightenment**

- The words of direct **enlightenment** are words that specifically **shine upon us**.
 - we need to have a **receiving** spirit,
 - we need to **accept** the Lord’s enlightenment
 - we should express our **willingness** to receive the light
 - **we need to respond**

The Word:

Matt. 16:24 says, "If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself"

This seems to be a word of teaching and instruction, but it can also shine upon us to expose our unwillingness to deny ourselves.

- There are also words of exhortation in the Bible.

When we are enlightened, we need to pray, confessing our mistakes to receive the benefit of the enlightenment.

The Word:

James 1:21 speaks of "putting away all filthiness."

Pray-reading:

"Lord, thank You for showing me that I should deny myself and put away all filthiness. Lord, in the light of Your word, I see that I still love myself. I do not even abhor what is filthy in me. I still am full of filthy things that have not been put away completely."

After we receive enlightenment, we need to confess our sins. Words of enlightenment will cause us to see our shortages and to sense our need of confession. After we confess, we should seek forgiveness and apply the efficacy of the Lord's precious blood by faith so that we can go on, knowing that God has forgiven us.

❖ Concerning Our Responsibility before God

- When we read words that concerns our responsibility before God or God's requirement of us –
- we should express our willingness to meet the Lord's requirement
 - to pay the price
 - to fulfill them
 - we cannot read these words with an unwilling attitude
 - we should even acknowledge our agreement to the Lord
 - we also need to entrust ourselves to Him
 - we need to utter words of agreement and dependence in order to digest these requirements and responsibilities

The Word:

Matt 19:27-28 says - that we need to leave all and follow the Lord,

Romans 12:1 says, to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, our reasonable service.

Pray-reading:

"You have asked us to present our bodies, and I am presenting my body. You have asked us to leave all, and I am willing to say yes. Even though I am willing, I cannot do this by myself. I entrust myself to Your hand and to Your ability to fulfill it in me. Be my supply."

❖ Concerning Our Fellowship with the Lord

- There are also words concerning our fellowship with the Lord, such as waiting for God
- cause us to rejoice,
 - allow us to see God's light in fellowship
 - we should have the same attitude of those who uttered these words, praying to the Lord with the same words
 - we should utter and digest words of fellowship with the same attitude, the same spirit, and the same words as those who spoke these words in the Bible

The Word:

Psa. 130:5-6 says, panting for God, thirsting for God,

Psa. 42:1-2 says, appearing before God.

Pray-reading:

“My soul pants for You, O God. Here I wait for You. I come and appear before You.”

❖ Concerning **Patterns** in the Bible

- When we read words concerning **patterns**,
 - we need to **thank** God for the patterns
 - we need to **ask** for grace to follow these patterns
 - we should **praise**, and then we should **beseech** the Lord concerning our willingness to receive the same grace
- Paul as a **pattern** was faithful, lived before God, did not account his own life as precious for the gospel of God, and cared for and loved the church.

Pray:

“Thank You for giving us such a pattern. You chose Paul, and You equipped him, supplied him, established him, and presented him as a pattern for us.”

“Lord, I am willing to receive the same grace. If it pleases You, grant me the same [231] grace so that I may follow Paul’s pattern.”

❖ Concerning the **Promises** of God

- When we read words of **promise**,
 - we need to **give thanks** in order to digest these words
 - with an **attitude of receiving** His words
 - with **believing attitude** by acknowledging Him as the believing One in us
 - we also need to acknowledge our **limited faith**, even our **inability** to believe

Pray

*“**Thank You** for giving us these precious, sweet, and rich promises. Thank You for these words.”*

*“Lord, I want to **receive** these promises.”*

*“Lord, all my believing ability comes from You. I am **unable** to believe Your promises in myself. I need You to be my believing ability. I **entrust** myself to You and receive You into me as my believing ability.”*

- We hope that the saints will receive more help to enjoy the supply of the divine word in the Bible through pray-reading in this way.

Exercise/practice of pray-reading

- Luke 1:1 - Inasmuch as many have undertaken to draw up a narrative concerning the matters which have been fully accomplished among us,
- Luke 1:2 - Even as those who from the beginning became eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us,
- Luke 1:3 - It seemed good to me also, having carefully investigated all things from the first, to write them out for you in an orderly fashion, most excellent Theophilus,
- Luke 1:4 - So that you may fully know the certainty of the things concerning which you were instructed.

If we read this portion of the Scriptures, a brother can begin by praying,

"Lord, thank You for coming to the earth. If You had not come, we would not have known God."

When he finishes, another can continue, saying,

"Thank You, Lord, that Your living on the earth has been preached by those who witnessed Your accomplishments. Thank You that we know of You through their preaching."

A third brother can continue, saying,

"Praise the Lord! Your accomplishments were not only witnessed and preached by men, but some even wrote them down so that we can witness them in our reading. Thank You that we are now Your witnesses."

After pray-reading in this way, we will be able to use the Scriptures to fellowship, explain, and utter the spiritual sense that we have gained. When we join the **Word** with **prayer**, **our spirit will be exercised**, and **the Lord's word will enter into us**. This is much deeper than just using our mind to read and study the Bible; **it affects us more deeply and feeds us in our spirit**.

*The Priesthood and God's Building
CWWL, 1961-1962, vol.2, chapter 22*