

THE BIBLE AND PRAYER

I. Passages which relate the two:

A. John 15:7.

B. 1 John 5:14, 15. God's will is revealed in His Word.

Others show a connection, but are not as specific as those above, e.g., Eph. 6:17, 18; Acts 6:4; 1 Timothy 4:5.

II. The testimony of men of God who have practised using the Word in prayer.

III. The advantages of using the Bible in prayer:

- A. It keeps the reading of the Word personal and practical. A. Whyte encouraged his people to read the Word autobiographically.
- B. It creates the proper heart-attitude for Bible study and for prayer, giving the desire for both. McCheyne said that "This is the best way of knowing the meaning of the Bible and of learning to pray." Law said it would fill our
- C. It insures that your praying will be "according to His will" (1 John 5:14, 15). The Bible will become what Geo. Müller called it: "a divine prayer-book".
- D. It gives praying variety as well as making it specific. Using the Word will lead to prayer about things which we otherwise would not even think about or dare to mention in prayer. Cf. Spurgeon.

IV. Illustrations of this in the Bible itself:

A. Jacob (Gen. 32:11, 12).

B. Moses (Exodus 32:11-14, esp. v. 13).

C. David (2 Sam. 7:25-29, esp. v. 27). Cf. Psalms 27:8.

D. Solomon (2 Chron. 1:7-12; 6:12-17).

E. Nehemiah (Neh. 1:4-11, esp. vv. 8, 9).

F. General statements: Psalms 119:38, 41, 49, 58.

G. Paul (Rom. 10:1 and 11:26, 27).

H. Peter and John and the church in Jerusalem (Acts 4:23-30).

I. The Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 23:46; cf. Psalms 31:5, "Father, into thy hands . . ." Matt. 27:46; cf. Psalms 22:1, "My God, my God . . .").
also in Mark 15:34

V. Putting it into practice:

A. Claim the promises ^{of the Word} (as is the case in many of the examples above).

B. Take from the Scripture the actual words which you will use in prayer, e.g., "Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul" (Psalms 25:1 - the Psalms are particularly adapted to this), or take from the Scripture suggestions which become subjects of prayer. (Illustrate this with Mark 10.)