

A Prayerful Approach to Scripture

We are continuing our study on the various means with which we can engage the Scriptures so that they can have the transformative effect on our lives that they are intended to have. Today we are looking at prayer. It can be easy to think that our time in the Word and our time in prayer are two very different ways that we interact with God, but the reality is that they are best pursued together. The Scriptures reveal to us what God wants. And when we know what God wants, we are in a great place to pray according to the will of God.

Opening Question: What have you sensed God doing in your life over these past several weeks as we've been studying the role of Scripture in our lives?

Read 1 John 5:13-15

1. What does John communicate about prayer in this passage?
2. What are the cause/effect relationships in this passage?
3. What does "according to His will" mean (v. 14)?
4. How can we be sure we are praying according to the will of God?
5. What insights does this passage give you regarding the role that engaging the Scriptures can/should play in your prayer life?

Steve said:

I'm not saying that confidence in prayer is a matter of mouthing the right words. It's about genuinely wanting what God wants and then asking for the same. Bingham Hunter stated this principle well when he wrote this:

God does not just hear your prayers. He "hears" your whole life. He doesn't respond to what you say. He responds to what you are. He responds to you. (The God Who Hears, p. 39)

6. How does engaging in the Scriptures help us to "genuinely [want] what God wants"?

7. What do you think Hunter means when he says that God “hears’ your whole life?”

8. It is clear from Scripture that we are to both know and do God’s will. How does prayer link together knowing and doing God’s will?

9. As a means of engaging Scripture, how does prayer help connect the Bible to our lives?