



## **Ten Rules for Bible Interpretation**

- 1. The Bible must be interpreted with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. The larger context of the passage should always be allowed to influence and limit the interpretation of the passage.**
- 3. The definition of words is best determined by how those words are used in other parts of Scripture.**
- 4. Bible interpretation should involve some elbow grease.**
- 5. Interpretation must come before application.**
- 6. The verse cannot mean what it did not mean.**
- 7. Allow the whole counsel of Scripture to explain and expand on individual passages.**
- 8. Interpretation must be sensitive to the genre of literature being studied.**

We learned about reading the Psalms in Part 7. The Psalms are not simply to be read, but they are to be guides for prayer. In this part, we will learn how to use the Psalms as the basis for prayer.

# How to Pray the Psalms

(Much of this material comes from Dr. Donald Whitney.)

## The problem with much of our prayer lives...

- We tend to pray the \_\_\_\_\_ about the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Prayers without \_\_\_\_\_ become words without \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our problem is not that we pray about the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The problem is that we \_\_\_\_\_ the same old things about the same old things.

## The solution...

- Whatever it is, it must be fundamentally \_\_\_\_\_.
- When you pray, \_\_\_\_\_!

## **Example**

### **Psalm 23:1-6 (CSB)**

**1** The LORD is my shepherd; I have what I need.

**2** He lets me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters.

**3** He renews my life; he leads me along the right paths for his name's sake.

**4** Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

**5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**6** Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD as long as I live.

## Notes

- Pray until you run out of Psalm or run out of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Don't feel like you have to \_\_\_\_\_ the Psalm or pray every verse of the Psalm.
- Pray even if what comes to mind isn't directly what is \_\_\_\_\_ by the text.
- Praying the Psalms will lead to more biblically \_\_\_\_\_ prayers.
- Even \_\_\_\_\_ Christians can do this immediately.
- In the Psalms, God reveals how he wants us to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Who Else Prayed the Scriptures?

- George Mueller

— George Mueller (1805– 1898) is widely considered one of the greatest men of prayer and faith since the days of the New Testament.

— Mueller had over fifty thousand specific recorded answers to prayers in his journals, thirty thousand of which he said were answered the same day or the same hour that he prayed them.

— Quote: *"The difference, then, between my former practice and my present one is this: formerly, when I rose, I began to pray as soon as possible, and generally spent all my time till breakfast in prayer, or almost all the time. At all events, I almost invariably began with prayer. ... But what was the result? I often spent a quarter of an hour, or half an hour, or even an hour on my knees before being conscious to myself of having derived comfort, encouragement, humbling of soul, etc.; and often, after having suffered much from wandering of mind for the first ten minutes, or quarter of an hour, or even half an hour, I only then really began to pray. I scarcely ever suffer now in this way. For my heart being nourished by the truth, being brought into experimental [experiential] fellowship with God, I speak to my Father and to my Friend (vile though I am, and unworthy of it) about the things that He has brought before me in His precious Word. It often now astonishes me that I did not sooner see this point."*

- Spurgeon

— Quote: *"We should pray when we are in a praying mood, for it would be sinful to neglect so fair an opportunity. We should pray when we are not in a proper mood, for it would be dangerous to remain in so unhealthy a condition."*

- Jesus

— **Matthew 27:46** | *About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Elí, Elí, lemá sabachtháni?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”* (CSB)

— **Psalm 22:1** | *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far from my deliverance and from my words of groaning?* (CSB)

— **Luke 23:46** | *And Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.” Saying this, he breathed his last.* (CSB)

— **Psalm 31:5** | *Into your hand I entrust my spirit; you have redeemed me, LORD, God of truth.* (CSB)

- Peter and John

— **Acts 4:23–24** | *After they were released, they went to their own people and reported everything the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together to God and said, “Master, you are the one who made the heaven, the earth, and the sea, and everything in them.* (CSB)

— **Psalm 146:6** | *the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them. He remains faithful forever,* (CSB)

— **Acts 4:25–26** | *You said through the Holy Spirit, by the mouth of our father David your servant: Why do the Gentiles rage and the peoples plot futile things? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers assemble together against the Lord and against his Messiah.* (CSB)

— **Psalm 2:1–2** | *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the LORD and his Anointed One:* (CSB)

## **Sandbox**

### **Psalm 20:1-9 (CSB)**

**1** May the LORD answer you in a day of trouble; may the name of Jacob's God protect you.

**2** May he send you help from the sanctuary and sustain you from Zion.

**3** May he remember all your offerings and accept your burnt offering.

**4** May he give you what your heart desires and fulfill your whole purpose.

**5** Let us shout for joy at your victory and lift the banner in the name of our God. May the LORD fulfill all your requests.

**6** Now I know that the LORD gives victory to his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories from his right hand.

**7** Some take pride in chariots, and others in horses, but we take pride in the name of the LORD our God.

**8** They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand firm.

**9** LORD, give victory to the king! May he answer us on the day that we call.

