

Bible Reading: Genesis 32:1-32

God's word is fuel for prayer. Prayer that avails is one that is rich in God's promises. The sinner's prayer when done effectively is based on the promises of salvation revealed from hearing and receiving God's word which brings faith to the heart (Rom. 10:8-17). Likewise, when the saint prays it should be based on the understanding of God's nature, His dealings and promises through His word. The Scriptures is heaven's constitution and when we speak it faith, heaven responds. This way, prayers are rooted in God's eternal purposes. Praying-in Scripture is more than quoting verses; it is using the words of the Bible to shape, fuel, and guide our communication with God.

1. THE BLESSINGS OF PRAYING-IN THE SCRIPTURES:

It is the surest way to make personalize God's promises and make it more real to us. How? The Word becomes integrated in to our inner man thereby strengthening our faith and increasing our confidence in God and His promises. It energizes us. It leads to the fulfilment of personal miracles in an intimate way. We are enabled to be doers of what we have read, heard or learnt. Our prayers are transformed from being repetitive and self-centered to Spirit-led (1 John 5:14,15). Praying-in Scriptures makes us truly live *"by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"*. By praying-in Scriptures, we let God to act in our lives. Also, our fasting when injected with the Word, sharpens spiritual focus and our spiritual ears are *"tuned-in"* to hear from God (Acts 13:2). The Word is the battery that charges fasting. Other benefits are that the soul is sustained in time of bodily weakness, we build our spiritual stamina and power is released in our intercession to break strongholds (Isaiah 58:6-9; 2 Corinthians 10:4,5). When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus did not argue. He said: *"It is written..."* He overcame each temptation by wielding Scripture (Matt. 4:1-11). We gain access to limitless spiritual growth, power and strength, and we are guaranteed victory over the enemy.

2. THE BIBLICAL PATTERNS OF PRAYING-IN THE SCRIPTURES:

Abraham when interceding for Lot and Sodom said *"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right..."* (Gen 18:16-33). Jacob brought God's words back to Him in prayer when faced with the great challenge of facing Esau, his brother (Gen. 32:9; 31:3,13). Moses in Exo 33 said *"See, thou sayest unto me..."* when God spoke with him. David upon hearing from God, *"sat before the Lord.."* in prayer declared *"...do as thou has said"* (2 Sam 7:4-18,25,29). The children of Israel in calling unto God for deliverance called to remembrance the words they heard and were taught (Psalm 44:1-3). Daniel's heartfelt prayer for forgiveness and restoration of Israel was prompted after reading and understanding by books that the prophesied seventy years of captivity were about to end (Dan 9:1-4). The disciples in waiting for the promise of the Father, which they had heard of Jesus, tarried in Jerusalem with one accord praying (Acts 1:4,12-14). The early Church prayed when faced with opposition and persecution (Acts 4:23-31).

3. THE BASICS OF PRACTICING PRAYING-IN THE SCRIPTURES:

Prayer that gets results comes from the Word abiding in us. Scriptures are filled with promises to claim and corrections to embrace. Therefore, to glean these from the Word, we must pause, reflect, and internalize it and prayer points would naturally flow out (Heb. 4:12). Through meditation we turn Scripture into prayer fuel. The promises charge our faith (Isa. 41:10). and the corrections received from Scriptures lead to repentance and corresponding change (James 1:22-25). This ensures our prayer is not just about asking, but about personal transformation (Jos. 1:8; 2 Cor 3:18). When you pray the Word, you are aiming with precision, and heaven always recognizes God's Word. Don't rush through Scripture. Pause, meditate, let it shape your prayers.

In times of need, the Word of God is not optional; it is essential. When storms, temptations and crises arise, our own words are weak but God's Word is a fire, hammer and a sword (Jer. 23:29). Don't declare your worry. Confess the Word! Doing this shifts your focus from fear to faith. Let this be your first response and not your last resort. The Scriptures is heaven's constitution and when we speak it faith, heaven responds. God's word says *"Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me"* (Isa. 45:11). God has not left us to guess what to pray. He has given us His Word as our guide, our weapon, and our assurance. Pray-in the Scriptures and watch your prayer life move from ordinary to victorious.

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" – John 13:17