



Perfecting Prayer

Praying the Word

According to Thy Word!

"Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her." Luke 1:38

Mary's declaration, "Let it be to me according to your word," captures the heart of what it means

to 'pray the Word.' The angel had spoken God's word to her—and her response was to make a 'declaration' based on God's Word.

Praying the Word: Praying the Word is praying scripture (God's Word) back to God. It is prayer that declares the truth of God's Word over a person, situation, nation or my own heart.

A. Lift Up the Word *Psalm 119:171-172*

"My lips shall utter praise... My tongue shall speak of Your Word"

- To 'utter' means to 'gush forth' which may be similar to praying in the spirit or in tongues. *John 7:37-39*
- To 'speak' here means to lift up—which would include prayer.

B. Rain Down the Word *Isaiah 55:8-11*

This passage teaches us that God honors His Word. It seems natural then for us to call upon Him to perform what He has declared. God's Word NEVER fails to achieve its aims.

C. Hope In the Word *Psalm 119:145-149*

When I 'pray the Word' I am proclaiming and calling out with my voice the Words of God—my salvation and my hope. Here the psalmist rises before dawn and prays through the day and meditates all through the night.

D. Abide In the Word *John 15:7; 1:1-2*

To abide in in Jesus and for His Words to abide in us we must read the Word and pray the Word (the Bible).

E. Rest in the Authority of the Word? *Hebrews 4:12-13*

Too often our experiences become the 'sovereign text' of our lives rather than the sovereign text of God's Word.

F. Pray the Word: **Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd... *You are the Shepherd of my life*

I shall not want... *Today I have need of nothing*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures... *Today I rest in God*

He leads me beside the still waters... *I will be still and know God*

He restores my soul... *I am complete in You*

He leads me in paths of righteousness... *Today I will walk in Holiness*

Yea though I walk... *There is NO fear in You and death is only a shadow that your Light dispels*

For thou art with me... *I am never alone*

Your rod and thy staff... *You are the only comfort I seek*

You prepare a table... *I will live in the strength that You provide*

You anoint my head with oil... *my mind will be at rest with God*

My cup runs over... *I will drink ONLY from my Father's cup*

Surely goodness and mercy... *goodness and mercy are God's gifts to me*

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever... *My only home is with God and today I am at home with Him.*

Praying Protection

"This I know, that God is for me." *Psalm 56:9*

"Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for thou hast been a refuge for me, a tower of strength against the enemy." *Psalm 61:2-3*

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. God is to us a God of deliverances; and to God the Lord belong escapes from death." *Psalm 68:19-20*

"No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent." *Psalm 119:10*

"You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down." *Psalm 119:13*

"From my distress I called upon the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a large place. The Lord is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me? The Lord is for me among those who help me; therefore I shall look with satisfaction on those who hate me." *Psalm 118:5-7*

"If I say, 'Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,' even the darkness is not dark to Thee, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to Thee." *Psalm 139:11-12*

"Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite. The Lord supports the afflicted; He brings down the wicked to the ground." *Psalm 147:5-6*

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe." *Proverbs 18:10*