



### 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.

#### Five keys to Praying The Word

#### (1) A. Lift Up the Word *Psalm 119:171-172*

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

:171 My lips shall utter praise,  
For You teach me Your statutes.

:172 My tongue shall speak of Your word,  
For all Your commandments are righteousness

- To 'utter' means to 'gush forth' which may be similar to praying in the spirit or in tongues. *John 7:37-39*

*nāḇa'*: A verb meaning to spew out, to pour out, to utter. It refers to something pouring forth, bubbling out: the language and speech of the heavens *Psalm 19:1-2* (The tongues of men and of angels *1Cor 13:1*)

- To 'speak' here means to lift up—which would include prayer.

*'ânâh aw-naw'* A primitive root; by implication to *respond*; by extension to *begin* to speak; specifically to sing, shout, testify, announce: cry, hear, lift up, say (give a) shout, sing, speak,

#### (2) 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.

**Isa 55:8** "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD.

**Isa 55:9** "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**Isa 55:10** "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

**Isa 55:11** So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

There is NO single verse or command to pray the Word. However there appears to be a strong rational or reason to pray the Word.

1. We are to pray according to God's will.
2. The bible—the Word of God is God's will.
3. To pray the bible—God's Word is to pray according to His will.

**55:10, 11** God's word is just as irresistible and effective as **the rain** and **snow**. All the armies in the world cannot stop them, and they **accomplish** their intended purpose. God's Word *never fails* to achieve its aims: (Believers Bible Commentary)

**Praying the Word is raining God's Word down into and upon a person or situation.**

### (3) 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.

**Psa 119:145** I cry out with my whole heart; [a metaphor for prayer]

Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes.

**Psa 119:146** I cry out to You; Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies.

**Psa 119:147** I rise before the dawning of the morning,  
And cry for help; **I hope in Your word.** [depend on Word]

**Psa 119:148** My eyes are awake through the *night* watches,  
That I may **meditate** on Your word.

**Psa 119:149** Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness;  
O LORD, revive me according to Your justice.

**Meditation and prayer** are closely related in the Word.

**Meditation** is what we do with God's Word inside of us Josh 1:8 "...so that you will be careful to do according to all that is written and prosper..."

**Prayer** is speaking God's Word into others, situations and even into our own needs.

### (4) 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).

**Joh 15:7** If you abide in Me, (1)  
and My words abide in you, (2)  
you will ask what you desire, (3)  
and it shall be done for you. (4)

**The word abide** means to 'remain, dwell, live' in something. To live in a house or to have love remain in my heart!

**Positionally** we abide in Christ by believing in His finished work on the cross.

**Experientially** we 'live' in His Word and He lives in us through a relationship with both the living and written Word. Hence to live the Word is to read and pray. Similar to any other kind of relationship—listen and speak.

### (5) 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.

**Heb 4:12** For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Is it the AUTHORITATIVE 'self' or the AUTHORITATIVE 'word'?**

**Praying the Word...**

Lift it up  
Rain it down  
Depend on it  
Live in it  
Rest in its authority

**Have I replaced the trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit with...  
My holy wants, my holy needs and my holy feelings?**

**Adam Clark**

Observe, in order to have influence with God, we must -

1. Be united to Christ - if ye abide in me.

2. That in order to be preserved in this union, we must have our lives regulated by the doctrine [Word] of Christ - and my words abide in you.

3. That to profit by this union and doctrine, **we must pray** - ye shall ask.

4. That every heavenly blessing shall be given to those who continue in this union, with a loving, obedient, praying spirit: - ye shall ask what ye will, etc. [and it will be done]

## F. Pray the Word: Psalm 23

The following prayer based on Psalm 23 is from my prayer journal June 2002. This is a shorter version of what I actually wrote—but it is one example of ‘Praying the Word.’

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 for His name’s sake...  
*Today I will walk in Holiness*

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil...  
*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 they comfort me...  
*You are the only comfort I seek*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...  
*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 shall follow me all the days of my life...  
*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 the Word...***

Lift it up — Rain it down  
Depend on it — Live in it  
Rest in its authority

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