



## How to Pray-Read the Word of God

*Cultivating Intimacy with Jesus and Submitting to His Leadership*

Pray-reading the Word of God can change your life! As you let the Word of God richly dwell in you, your thoughts, feelings, actions, and relationships will be transformed, becoming more and more like Jesus. (Colossians 3:16, Romans 12:2)

Before you begin, allow yourself to become consciously aware of God being present with you and in you. Express your willingness to hear from Him, praying a brief prayer like:

- “Speak, Lord for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10
- “Lord, open the ears of my heart to hear Your voice.” See Ephesians 1:17-18

Choose a short reading from Scripture. Read the passage silently or aloud several times. Interact with God through the Scripture by using one or more of the steps below.

### 4 Steps to Help You Pray-Read the Word of God

1. **READ and REFLECT** Listen to God, His voice, speaking to you through His Word. Begin to reflect and/or meditate on what He is personally saying to you.
  - Is there any specific situation, any struggle or longing, in my life today which this relates to? Where am I or who am I in this story - in this Scripture?
  - Is there word or phrase that touches my heart or catches my attention more than others? Quietly repeat that word or phrase, allowing God’s Word to impact your beliefs and desires, transforming how you think, feel, and act.
2. **RESPOND** Enter into a personal conversation with God, sharing whatever thoughts, feelings, longings, or perceptions that are being aroused within you. Pour out your heart to God and with complete honesty share with Him your hurts, pains, struggles, and sins as you relate to this passage.
  - What are my thoughts, feelings, longings, or perceptions that arise from this Scripture?
3. **RETURN and REST** Listen for a personal invitation from the Spirit of Jesus to return to Him – to come into agreement with His ways, Truth, and life. (Lk. 15:11-32; Is. 30:15) Allow yourself to rest in God’s loving presence, in His Word, like a weaned child who leans against its mother (Psalm 131:2). Permit your soul to be calmed and quieted by His presence, by His Word, as you accept and yield to His truth – His love and care for you.
  - What is God’s personal invitation for me from this Scripture passage?
  - What do I sense God might be saying to me right now?
4. **RESOLVE** Make a quality decision to live in and from the reality of that Scripture, believing and/or obeying it within the context of your daily life. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help you, as you are not meant to do this on your own. (John 14:26)
  - What action step is God calling me to take?
  - What is one verse that I could memorize and declare over my own heart and life?