

Turn the Bible into Prayer

You will never run out of fuel for conversation with God if you use the Bible as your script. What follows is a simple way to turn Scripture into powerful prayer. This will significantly increase the impact Scripture has on you as you read it. When you read the Bible this way, set your intentions on transformation and intimacy instead of speed.

Depending on the passage you are reading, you might go sentence by sentence, verse by verse, or section by section. It is easier to learn this method by starting with a teaching passage, such as the Sermon on the Mount or one of Paul's letters. (A sentence or even a phrase is often full of meaning in a teaching passage; but you might need to read longer portions of a narrative or prophetic passage to discover how God is inviting you to respond.)

As you read, after each portion of Scripture (a phrase, sentence, or section), pause and ask the Holy Spirit what He wants to highlight to you—then respond. Most of Scripture communicates something for us to BELIEVE, something for us to OBEY, or both.

*With everything that the Holy Spirit highlights for you to **BELIEVE**:*

- 1) Declare (out loud) that you believe it.
- 2) Ask Him to give you greater revelation of this truth. (Pause to receive.)

*With everything that the Holy Spirit highlights for you to **OBEY**:*

- 1) Resolve (out loud) to obey it.
- 2) Ask Him to strengthen and equip you to obey it. (Pause to receive.)

Example 1:

"Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets" (Luke 6:22-23).

(BELIEVE) *"Jesus, I believe that I am blessed when I am hated, excluded, and insulted because of You. Reveal this truth to me in a deeper way. (Pause.)"*

(OBEY) *"Lord, I commit to rejoicing when I am despised for Your sake. I choose to obey You in this. Holy Spirit, strengthen me to respond this way! (Pause.)"*

Example 2:

"How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They feast on the abundance of Your house; You give them drink from Your river of delights" (Psalm 36:7-8).

(BELIEVE) *"Father, I believe that Your love does not fail, and that it is beyond price. I believe that with You is refuge, abundance, and delight. Reveal Yourself to me as my refuge and as my neighbors' refuge. (Pause.) Holy Spirit, give me revelation of the Lord's abundance. (Pause.) Tell me more about His river of delights. (Pause.)"*

(OBEY) *"Lord, I choose to draw near and take refuge under Your covering. Show me the ways that I need to take refuge in You. (Pause.) Father, I choose to feast on Your abundance and to drink from Your river of delights. Make me aware of Your abundance. (Pause.) Holy Spirit, teach me to drink of the Father's delights. (Pause.)"*