

**Praying the Bible- By Donald Whitney**

To pray the Bible, you simply go through the passage line by line, talking to God about whatever comes to mind as you read the text

- If you don't understand the meaning of a verse, go on to the next verse. If the meaning of that one is perfectly clear but nothing comes to mind to pray about, go on to the next verse
- The most important benefit of this plan is that it gives you direction and momentum.

**How to pray through Psalm 23.**

You read the first verse—"The LORD is my shepherd"—and you pray something like this: Lord, I thank you that you are my shepherd. You're a good shepherd. You have shepherded me all my life. And, great Shepherd, please shepherd my family today: guard them from the ways of the world; guide them into the ways of God. Lead them not into temptation; deliver them from evil. O great Shepherd, I pray for my children; cause them to be your sheep.

And you continue praying anything else that comes to mind as you consider the words, "The LORD is my shepherd." Then when nothing else comes to mind, you go to the next line: "I shall not want."

And perhaps you pray:

Lord, I thank you that I've never really been in want. I haven't missed many meals. All that I am and all that I have has come

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And perhaps you pray:

Lord, I thank you that I've never really been in want. I haven't missed many meals. All that I am and all that I have has come

from you. But I know it pleases you that I bring my desires to you, so would you provide the finances that we need for those bills, for school, for that car?

After you've finished, you look at the next verse: "He makes me lie down in green pastures" (v. 2a). And, frankly, when you read the words "lie down," maybe what comes to mind is simply, "Lord, I would be grateful if you would make it possible for me to lie down and take a nap today.

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You can continue praying in this way until either (1) you run out of time, or (2) you run out of psalm. And if you run out of psalm before you run out of time, you simply turn the page and go to another psalm. By so doing, you never run out of anything to say, and, best of all, you never again say the same old things about the same old things.

### **Praying the New Testament**

Many of the New Testament letters contain prayers of the apostle Paul, which believers today can pray exactly as they are printed in the text. In a narrative passage, instead of leaning over the text and looking at it microscopically, we need to back up and get the big picture. Read all the verses in this story and pray about the big ideas, the big, broad brushstrokes of the narrative.

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