

Why should we pray God's Word?

As we listen to the prayers of those who are mature in their Christian walk, we will almost certainly hear verses from Scripture included. When we're steeped in the Word of God, it becomes a natural part of our prayers, without a conscious effort. As we begin to appreciate God's promise that we can have what we ask when we pray according to His will (1 John 5:14-15), it often leads us to make a more concerted effort to pray specific scriptures, so that we can be sure we're praying His will.

But that's not the only reason to pray the Scripture; we also know God's Word—

Is living and active, able to reveal thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12),

Is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path (Psalm 119:115),

Will accomplish His purpose (Isaiah 55:11),

Is the sword of the Spirit to be used to pray at all times for all of the saints with every kind of prayer and supplication (Ephesians 6:17-18).

One way to expand our praying of God's Word is to begin collect verses that seem appropriate for the individuals and concerns for whom we regularly pray. The more we use them, paraphrasing them and growing comfortable with them, the more automatic and natural they become. Our prayers will be enriched as they will be expanded in their effectiveness.