

Principles of Prayer and Promises 01

Advanced Seminar

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1.

In our present world where trials, trouble and tyranny seem to be everywhere we look, we all need to have a sure refuge, a hiding place from the storms around us, and a source of confidence and genuine power in our lives. Is this available to us all? Or is God only interested in certain special people, maybe just ones with advanced education, or a high position? Does God expect us to seek out these special people and let them solve our problems and tell us what to do?

The good news is God wants each one of us to have all this and He is eager to provide it to us, if we are willing to learn how to be in harmony with His will and allow Him to be in charge of our lives. Here are a few Bible Texts regarding this wonderful fact of the Power of the Lord:

“Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name; Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Jeremiah 33:2, 3.

The Lord is the Maker of the whole earth; certainly He has the power and wisdom to solve our problems! But does He wish to help us? Has He said that we can ask Him for help? Oh Yes He has! Notice:

“And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.” Psalm 50:15

“He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.” Psalm 91:15.

“Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.” Jeremiah 29:12.

This is certainly Good News for everyone so please join me as we take a good look at the Principles and Promises and the great creative foundation of prayer.

PPP: Lesson 01:

Secrets of the Bible:

There are many wonderful things about the Bible that most people, even most Christians, have never heard about before. For example: How can a person claim a Bible promise in prayer, and know the answer is created, although not always seen immediately?

Why is it that so many church-going Christians these days, seem to know so little about the wealth of truth available in the Bible? There are many reasons; here are a few examples.

Prayer Lessons

1. People are not encouraged to study the Bible for themselves, but rather to look to pastors, teachers, and priests to tell them what they are to believe.

Jesus said: **“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:39.**

He warned that leaders may be teaching their own ideas and not the truth.

**“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
Matthew 15:9.**

2. People have been taught to think of the Bible as only an old book written by people long ago and not any different from any other book. The Bible says about this idea that all other books or teaching need to be judged by the Bible to see if they are true or not.

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20.

Jesus said: **“He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?” Luke 10:26.**

Over and over in the Bible it says, “Thus Saith the Lord”; this is actually found in 413 different verses! No other book is able to say that!

How does the Bible say it was written? **“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21.**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

3. Many Christians have been taught that the Old Testament is out of date and not important to us at all today. What does the Bible say about this idea?

The Truth is, the Old Testament was actually written with our very day in mind and for the development of our Christian character. It says the Lord showed to those who wrote the Old Testament that it was meant for the end times—the vary times we live in today!

“Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.” 1 Peter 1:12.

Paul said that things written in the Old Testament were actually written for us today, and he is referring to the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament.

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: [examples] and they are written for our admonition, [learning] upon whom the ends of the world are come.” 1 Corinthians 10:11.

Prayer Lessons

4. Without the Old Testament Prophecies we really have no proof that Jesus Christ is really our Saviour and Lord. They told ahead of time about our Lord's life and death, and they teach lessons we should learn about His work and the plan of salvation.

Jesus said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39.

"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:25-27.

The disciples said: **"Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. John 1:45.**

5. Few people realize that the Jesus we see in the New Testament already existed in Old Testament times. In fact, He is the One who made the world in the beginning of time. So that actually makes Christ the Creator—the Maker of us all.

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58:

The Apostle Paul wrote: **"God, who at sundry [various] times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." Hebrews 1:1, 2.**

Speaking of Christ, Paul says: **"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist." Colossians 1:14-18.**

The Father, speaking to His Son, said: **"Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom." Hebrews 1:8.**

Then the Father said to His Son: **"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands." Hebrews 1:10.**

6. Jesus identifies Himself with the scriptures:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; [gives life] the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63.

Apostle John, telling about Jesus, says something interesting about Jesus and the Bible:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:1-5.

Prayer Lessons

7. The Bible teaches that the secret of overcoming sin and having eternal life is found in the promises of the scriptures:

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:4.

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.” Psalm 119:9.

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Psalm 119:11.

8. The Bible teaches us that the power to overcome sin and the devil is found in the Scriptures and also that the Bible is like our food. Even Jesus relied on the Scriptures when He was tempted by Satan.

“But he [Jesus] answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4.

“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” Matthew 4:10.

Notice: **“Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.” Matthew 4:11.**

There is real power in the scriptures because Satan had to leave when Jesus quoted the Word of God, “It is written’. But in order to be able to quote it, we need to learn what it says.

The Bible is called a sword. **“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12.**