

Beacon Bible Study – Monday 28th September

Praying the bible – introduction

(This series is based on Wes & Stacy Campbell's teaching on 'Praying the Bible')

A. Basic principles of pray/reading the word of God

- We need to learn vocabulary to deepen our prayer life (Luke 11v1)
- In prayer we use spiritual words to communicate with God (John 4v24)
- We can learn the language of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2v13)
- The aim in praying the bible is to better express our heart to God and learn His heart for us
- Meditating on God's law/ word 'day and night' is a biblical principle (Joshua 1v8; Psalm 1v2)
- Those who meditate are on a journey of more clearly hearing the word of God, so as to better keep it (James 1v25)

B. Benefits of meditating on God's word from Psalm 119

(based on internet blog by Pastor C.Smith)

- nourishes our soul (v25) - *"My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!"*
- focuses our gaze (v37) - *"Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things, and give me life in your ways"*
- brings peace (v165) - *"Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble"*
- fills us with hope (v49) - *"Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope"*
- feeds our hungry spirit (v103) - *"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"*
- gives great wisdom (v100) - *"I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts"*
- strengthens our resolve to resist temptation (v115) - *"Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God"*
- points out wrong beliefs (v29) - *"Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!"*
- comforts us in times of trouble (v50) - *"This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life"*
- stirs us to praise (v62) - *"At midnight I rise to praise you because of your righteous rules"*

C. Praying prayers of the bible

- 1) Theophanies – visions of God (e.g. Isaiah 6v1-8)
- 2) The Psalms – (e.g. Psalm 1v1-6)
- 3) Prayers of wisdom (e.g. Ecclesiastes 3v1-8,11)
- 4) The Song of Songs (e.g. Song of Songs 1v2-7)
- 5) Prayers of the prophets (e.g. Numbers 6v22-27)
- 6) The Prayers of Jesus (e.g. John 12v27-28)
- 7) Apostolic prayers (e.g. Philippians 1v9-11)
- 8) Hymns of Revelation (e.g. Revelation 5v8-14)