

Praying With The Sword of The Spirit

Group Discussion Question: Do you repeat scriptures in your prayer? Why or why not? Can scriptures make your prayers more powerful?

Jesus Repeated Scripture

When Jesus was in the desert fasting, He faced temptations from Satan (an attempt to distract Jesus). Satan wanted Jesus to be prideful and focus on proving His own power.

For instance, when Satan tempted Jesus, saying, "*If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread,*" Jesus responded with, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4:4). This was a temptation to be prideful, so He wouldn't be humble and die for our sins. Fortunately, in response, Jesus used the power of scripture to silence Satan and uphold His commitment to God.

Jesus was repeating an Old Testament verse, Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV). This verse explains that God supernaturally gave the Israelites bread (manna) in the desert: "*He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*"

Jesus understood the power of believing in the Bible stories of God's miracle. **His understanding & mindset boosted His faith** that God would provide for him again. Similarly, Romans 10:17 states, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Reflection Question: In your opinion, why did Jesus repeat scripture to Satan?

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Scripture is a Sword

Believing the word of God is like having a powerful weapon. It helps us fight against Satan's lies and to conquer fear. Remember, Satan is "the father of lies" (John 8:44).

Therefore, we should always seek to take up the sword, which is the Bible, and to use the shield of faith. *"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:16-17).*

These spiritual pieces of armor help us to block and defeat lies (flaming arrows) such as:

- It's never gonna change
- God doesn't want to do it
- It's impossible
- God won't forgive my sins
- I don't have a place in Heaven
- I'm not doing enough
- I wish I were more like...
- God doesn't hear my prayers...

Overall, when we believe in God's words, it makes us humble. Then, we can be like Jesus, where we don't prove our ability to fix things in hard seasons of life. Instead, our faith in the word allows us to be humble and let God handle the problems in our lives with His strength.

Reflection Questions

How does scripture help you to defeat the enemy or negative thoughts?

What is one verse that you'd like to use in your prayers?
