



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

VOL. 45 NO. 4

April, 2016

Our Dear Prayer Supporter,

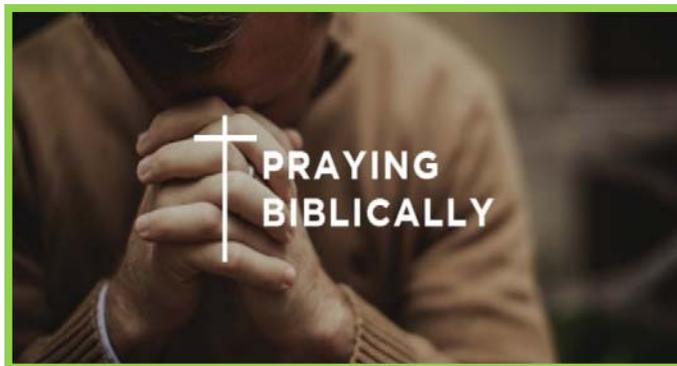
All over the world—in classrooms, in lecture halls and in libraries—people are digesting academic information that provides them with much ‘food for thought’. If we, in like manner, approach the Bible merely as a religious textbook, all we will receive is just that—food for thought. Yet the Bible itself warns us that: Knowledge puffs up, [but it is] love [that] builds up (1 Corinthians 8:1 NIV).

Yes, unless we understand how to properly digest the Word of God, even a knowledge of Bible truth can puff us up with intellectual pride, rather than build us up in our spiritual life. Instead of merely gaining knowledge during our daily time together with our Lord, we need to receive nourishment from His banqueting table that will provide us with **‘Food for Faith.’**

In striking contrast to those who read the Bible as only an academic exercise are the many joyful believers who have discovered the secret of reading the Word of God so that it becomes a practical and living source of true spiritual nourishment in their lives. These Christians are experiencing the growing reality of a life of fellowship with God and in the process are discovering the way of genuine worship and fruitful service. To such people the bondage of self-consciousness will give way to the blessing of God-consciousness.

To approach God confidently and personally each day with an open Bible and an open heart is the wonderful privilege of every born-again Child of God.

The question you may be asking is: What is the best way to read the Bible so that it will nourish my soul and enable me to grow in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ? The secret is found in what I call “togetherness with the Lord.” It is really a two-way conversation with our living Lord. Through His Word, the Bible, God speaks to His children. As we respond correctly and personally to what God is saying, we will learn how to pray biblically and with expectant faith.



When I speak about **‘praying biblically’**, I mean that we actually use the very words of the Scriptures we are reading when we respond to our Lord in prayer. To pray biblically is to enjoy a growing assurance of praying in accordance with the will of God.

As the Holy Spirit makes God’s Word living to us, we use those exact words of Scripture and relate them to the concerns that may be upon our heart. Praying in this way, we will be saved from stereotyped prayers. Instead, when we pray biblically, we will enjoy privileged fellowship with the Lord as we enter into a growing understanding of His own concerns and purposes in our life.

True prayer is not the bending of God’s will to mine, but it is the bending of my will to the will of God.

After Joshua had miraculously led the Children of Israel through the River Jordan during the springtime floods, he encountered an unknown ‘man.’ Joshua knew that in Canaan his mandate from God was to conquer the land and to cleanse it

from its pagan practices. Therefore, Joshua asked of this stranger who had a sword drawn in his hand, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” The strange answer Joshua received was “No!” or as the NIV Bible translates the word “Neither.” Joshua assumed from this answer that the stranger would not take sides. Then came the words that clarified the answer given by the stranger: “but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”

At that point, Joshua rightfully recognized that instead of taking sides, the stranger was about to take control! Falling on his face as an indication of yieldedness, Joshua knew he was in the presence of the Commander of the Lord’s army. “For the place where you stand is holy” (Joshua 5:13-15 NKJV).

Likewise, in our own times of prayer, we should not bring our personal agenda to God and then ask Him to be with us, but instead we should bow in His Holy Presence to attune ourselves to His plans, His purposes and His power.

Thus, to pray biblically is to pray in harmony with the purposes and will of God. And this bending of our will to His can be the growing experience of each one of us as we learn to align ourselves with God’s Word whenever we pray.

Yes, when you prayerfully read the Bible with a genuine desire to hear from God, you will grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

Adapted from Food for Faith by *Richard A. Bennett*.

“Food for Faith” is a biblical manual written to help you digest His Word from your hand-to head-to heart!

“Food for Faith” blesses people in 28 languages!

“Just as a person could be fascinated by recipes in a cookbook and yet die of starvation, so one can be fascinated with biblical ‘recipes’ for successful living and still remain spiritually malnourished.”

An East African Swahili radio listener:

“I must thank you very much for the gift of your book “*Food for Faith*” which I found, not only spiritually fulfilling, but also interesting. In ‘*Food for Faith*,’ my weaknesses were exposed and I delighted in the fact that this could be done in a critical yet loving manner. For instance, when you mentioned that people like reading books about the Bible instead of the Bible itself, you made an accurate observation about humans in general and Christians in particular with a sheer avoidance of responsibility. I hope you will continue encouraging people. I am much more revitalized and feel spiritually enthusiastic because of your book.”

President, Christian & Missionary Alliance:

“Evangelism is exciting. But discipling new Christians is hard work. ‘*Food for Faith*’ is exactly the balanced diet the new believer must have to grow in the confused context of ‘Fast Food/Cultural North American Christianity’.” (Arnold Cooke)

Imrich Fulop, MSEJK, Bratislava, Slovakia:

“The editing/proof reading of the translated ‘*Food for Faith*’ was done by me personally . . . I was so very blessed by reading the book. Even though we have the head knowledge of various facts, I have seen these precious truths in a new light. I believe that this was God’s word **into** my life, and not just another good book **in** my life.”

A West African French radio listener:

“Since reading ‘*Food for Faith*’ it is the first time the Bible has become living to me!”

A Ghana, West Africa French radio listener:

“*Food for Faith*” is good reading for all levels of Christianity! I am a well-read mature Christian, and yet have learned that with God there is a continual deepening in one’s understanding of His Word. This book will draw a reader to one’s personal Savior, leaving man’s idea of ‘religion’ in the dust.”

For people with Internet access, “**Food for Faith**” is available at www.ccim-media.com. Thank you for your gifts and prayers which enable us to print and distribute without cost, this much appreciated mission gift to spiritually hungry hearts!

In His Love,

