#8 of 9 — Study & Declare God's Word

2 Corinthians 2:1-3:6 (NLT, NIV)

I wrote to you as I did, so that when I do come, I won't be grieved by the very ones who ought to give me the greatest joy. Surely you all know that my joy comes from your being joyful. I wrote that letter in great anguish, with a troubled heart and many tears. I didn't want to grieve you, but I wanted to let you know how much love I have for you.

The man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me. Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough. Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him. Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement. So I urge you now to reaffirm your love for him.

I wrote to you as I did to test you and see if you would fully comply with my instructions. When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

When I came to the city of Troas to preach the Good News of Christ, the Lord opened a door of opportunity for me. But I had no peace of mind because my dear brother Titus hadn't yet arrived with a report from you. So I said good-bye and went on to Macedonia to find him.

Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The prayers in this folder are excerpts from the book, **Praying Through the New Testament.** These prayers sound like Scripture because they are formed from Scripture.

In your own life, as you go from task to task throughout your day, you might often breathe a short prayer to God. Your prayers may jump from person to person as they come to mind, and from need to need. You might burst into a song of praise.

The Scripture-based prayers in this folder are similar to this. The prayer subject often changes, and the person for whom you pray may change often too.

These Scripture-based prayers are not the only way to pray, but they are a wonderful way to pray—an effective way to pray Scripture into the lives of others.

You will find this way of praying especially helpful when you pray for family members and others for whom you pray on a regular basis. You will also find yourself praying this way for people you don't even know.

Jesus said,
"My Temple will be called
A House of Prayer."
Matthew 21:13

Read Ponder Pray

Study God's Word
Speak out God's Word
Pray God's Word
Let's Sing God's Word

praying scripture prayers

provide the practical help and inspiration we all need to pray more consistently and effectively.

Visit scriptureprayers.ca for easy-to-use Downloads to assist you in praying Scripture prayers for yourself, your loved ones, and for those you don't even know.

Scripture-based prayers can put into words the deep desires we carry in our hearts for others.

Pray them with thanksgiving in your heart, and watch to see what God does —not only in you, but also in others.

Use this Bible Reading and Prayer HandOut in a variety of ways.
Here Are Some Guidelines:

1. Read the Bible passage on the back of the folder. Ponder and study it. Underline the main theme of each paragraph. This will lead to praying God's Word.
2. On the inside of the folder, pray the *REQUESTS, PRAYERS & THANKSGIVING* prayers for yourself. Also pray spontaneous prayers along these themes.
3. Now pray the *INTERCESSION* prayers for others in the same way.
4. Choose praise songs to SING God's Word.
   (NOTE: If you are following this study-prayer time on your own, pray the prayers aloud. It is good to hear your voice speaking to God).

REQUESTS, PRAYERS, AND THANKSGIVING

Based on 2 Corinthians 2:1-3:6

FATHER, work in me so that genuine love will flow from me to other believers, especially to those who fall into sin. Anoint me with love to pray for them with much weeping. Give me wisdom to know the kind of discipline that is needed, and to forgive and comfort, and to assure them of my love. Help me to pass the test of love and to obey You in every way.

JESUS, when I hear of someone who has forgiven another person, work in my heart to forgive too. Help me not to hold anything against anyone. I ask You to change my heart as I pray. I want my life to touch others. Empower me to forgive, so that the devil will not have any power over me. Keep me aware of his tactics.

LORD Jesus, open doors of opportunity for me to tell others Your *Good News*. Give me the ability to work well on a team so that many will come to know You.

Lord Jesus, thank You for making me a captive of Your love and for always going before me, leading me in triumph. I ask You to use me to spread the knowledge of You wherever I go—like a sweet fragrance rising up to the Father. Keep me mindful that this fragrance will be received differently: to those who are saved, a fragrance that gives life; to those who are perishing, an odor of death that kills. LORD Jesus, I am not adequate for these things. I call out to You, and I ask You to anoint me.

Jesus, I praise You that the gospel is true and has tremendous worth. Thank You that Your power in me enables me to share it confidently with others.

FATHER, thank You for writing Your letter of love on my heart. Remind me of all the people in my past who have written Your love in my life because they ministered to me out of the fullness of Your Spirit. I ask You to use my life to reach out to others. May they in turn become a letter known and read by everyone.

Jesus, I praise You for the confidence that You give me because my trust is in You. I cannot do anything in my own strength—nothing that will last for eternity. I praise You that my ability comes from You. **Thank You** that You are able to make me a capable servant of the new covenant of Your Spirit. Keep me mindful that merely obeying rules and performing rituals kills; but under the new covenant of Your love, Your Spirit makes alive.

Extract from my prayer book, *Praying Through the New Testament* © 2009 Gladie Russell

INTERCESSION

Based on 2 Corinthians 2:1-3:6

FATHER, fill (DISCIPLE) with love for Your people, especially for those who fall into sin. Anoint him/her to pray for them with much weeping. Give him/her wisdom to know the kind of discipline that is needed—to forgive and comfort, and to assure them of his/her love. Help (HUMILITY) to pass the test of love and to obey You in every way.

LORD JESUS, enable (DISCIPLE) to forgive too when he/she hears of someone who has forgiven another person. Help him/her not to hold anything against anyone. Work in his/her heart as he/she prays. I pray that the way You change his/her life will touch many others. Empower (DISCIPLE) to forgive, so that the devil will not have a hold on him/her. Keep him/her aware of the enemy's tactics.

Jesus, open doors of opportunity for (DISCIPLE) to tell others Your *Good News*. Empower him/her to work well on a team so that many will come to know You.

Jesus, thank You for making (DISCIPLE) a captive of Your love, and for always going before him/her leading him/her in triumph. I ask You to use him/her to spread the knowledge of You wherever he/she goes—like a sweet fragrance rising up to the Father. Keep him/her mindful that the fragrance of Your presence will be received differently: to those who are saved, a fragrance that gives life; to those who are perishing, an odor of death that kills. Make (WITNESS) aware that he/she is not adequate for these things. Lead him/her to call out to You, and to rejoice that the gospel is true and of great value.

Heavenly Father, use (WITNESS) to lead others to You. May they in turn become a letter known and read by everyone. Keep (DISCIPLE) mindful that he/she is also Your letter that others have written on because they allowed Your Holy Spirit to minister through them. Fill (DISCIPLE) with praise that You have written Your letter of love on his/her heart.

Jesus, empower (DISCIPLE) to turn everything over to You and to completely trust You. Lead him/her to acknowledge that he/she cannot do anything without You, or produce anything that will last for eternity. Show (HUMILITY) that his/her ability comes from You. Lead him/her to praise You that You are making him/her a capable servant by the power of Your Spirit. Remind him/her that the Law kills, but Your Spirit makes alive.