#7 of 9 — Study & Declare God's Word

Acts 17:1-27 (NLT, NIV)

Paul and Silas came to Thessalonica. As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. "These men are defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus."

The believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea where they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

While Paul was in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, "What's this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods."

Paul, standing before the council, addressed them, "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'

Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

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
Declare God's Word
Pray God's Word
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).

Based on Acts 17:1-27

HEAVENLY FATHER, I yield my life to You. I ask You to use me any way You want.

Jesus, when I visit in another city, lead me to places of fellowship and prayer where Your people meet. Make me wise to store Your Word in my heart, so I am prepared to share it with others. Teach me to study Your Word so I can show from Scripture that it was necessary for You to suffer and die—and to rise from the dead.

LORD JESUS, make me aware of the many prominent women in leadership who are open to know You. Give me eyes to see what You are doing in their lives.

Jesus, prepare me to go through times of persecution. Keep me faithful to You. Don't let me allow opposition to keep me from sharing Your Word with others. Lead me to those who are open to You, who will listen.

> *Jesus*, reveal to me the idols that people are worshiping. Show me how to reach people with Your *Good News*. Use me to warn them that they are dead in their sins—that You died and rose again—and that You are still alive.

LORD Jesus, prepare me to walk through doors of opportunity that You open for me. Keep me true to Your Word—and ready to share it with others. Don't let me be put off by people who are religious. Empower me to be wise, gentle, and bold. Help me to realize that everyone worships some kind of god. Everyone depends on something. Show me how to get people's attention. Anoint me to speak Your truth into the lives of others.

> *Father*, You made the world and everything in it. You are LORD of heaven and earth. You do not live in man-made temples but in the hearts of those who love You. You are the One who gives life and breath to all. I praise You.

Father, I ask You to work in my heart so I am ready to reach out to those who are seeking You. Use me to help others to find You. Keep me aware that You are not far from any one of us. You want all to repent and put their faith in Your Son Jesus, the One You raised from the dead.

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

Based on Acts 17:1-27

HEAVENLY FATHER, I pray that (SUBMISSION) will yield his/her life completely to You—and that You will use him/her any way You want.

Jesus, lead (DISCIPLE) when he/she visits in another city—to places of fellowship and prayer where Your people meet. Make him/her wise to store Your Word in his/her heart—and to be ready to share it with others. Teach (DILIGENT) to study Your Word, so that he/she can show from Scripture that it was necessary for You to suffer and die, and to rise from the dead.

> LORD, make (WITNESS) aware of the many prominent women in leadership whose hearts are opening up to You. Give him/her eyes to see what You are doing in their lives.

> **Lord Jesus**, prepare (DISCIPLE) to go through times of persecution. I pray that he/she will be faithful to You. Don't let him/her allow opposition to hinder him/her from sharing Your Word with others. Lead (WITNESS) to people whose hearts are open—who will listen.

Father, show (SALVATION) the idols in his/her life that he/she is worshiping. Make him/her aware that without Christ he/she is dead in his/her sins. Reveal to him/her that You died and rose again, and that You are still alive.

LORD JESUS, prepare (DILIGENT) to walk through doors of opportunity that You open for him/her. Keep him/her true to You—and faithful to share Your Word with others. Don't let (WITNESS) be put off by those who are religious. Everyone who doesn't believe in You worships some kind of god. Show him/her how to get people's attention. Anoint him/her to speak Your truth into their lives.

> *Father*, reveal to (SALVATION) that You made the world and everything in it. You are LORD of heaven and earth. You do not live in man-made temples but in the hearts of those who love You. Reveal to (SALVATION) that You are the One who gives life and breath to all.

Lord Jesus, I ask You to work in (WITNESS) so that his/her life will touch others. Lead him/her to those who are seeking You—and use him/her to help them to find You. Remind him/her that You are not far from any one of us.

Visit my website for more Scripture Prayer resources at scriptureprayers.ca