

“ON PRAYING THE WORD OF GOD”
PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11
JANUARY 4, 2009

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Take some time to read the quote from E. M. Bounds in your bulletin and think about the relationship between the Word of God and prayer. How are you doing in this respect? What steps would the Lord have you take to advance in these things this year? Who will help you?
2. Do you take seriously the fact that God not only inspired the Bible as a whole but also the particular words? How do you strive to understand and apply the particular words of the Bible as well as you can?
3. Do you make a habit of memorizing the Word of God? If not, are you willing to begin this habit this year? If so, are you willing to increase your commitment to this habit? What exactly do you think the Lord would have you memorize this year? (For helpful hints on memorizing the Word, Google Andrew Davis's *An Approach to the Extended Memorization of Scripture*.)
4. Pastor Charlie said that his pattern of praying the Scripture is this: (a) begin with prayer, (b) read the verse out loud ten times, quote the verse from memory ten times (peaking if you have to), and then review the verse daily, (c) note any insights the Lord grants you into the verse, and (d) use those insights to shape your prayers back to God. Since we already labored to memorize Philippians 1:9 together, practice this method with Philippians 1:9-11.
5. If you're just beginning to learn to pray the Scriptures, you might want to prayer through the prayers of Paul using the aforementioned method. Here are several of them with which you can start: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Ephesians 1:15-23 & 3:14-21; Colossians 1:3-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4.