

## Introduction

### Definition

We serve an awesome God and He has given us some incredibly powerful resources to use in His service. The Bible and prayer are the primary mighty assets each believer in Jesus Christ has at his disposal. The ***Scripture Prayer Guide*** is a prayer tool that seeks to combine the living and active Word of God (Hebrews 4:12) with powerful prayer (James 5:13), with the result that the user participates with God in unleashing His fruit-bearing Word throughout the World (Isaiah 55:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:1). By praying for situations and for people using the Scriptures as the foundation, we can have an active role in fulfilling God's will on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). There is no greater privilege a believer in Jesus Christ could possibly ask for. Simply put, the ***Scripture Prayer Guide*** is a ready reference to God's Word while you are praying. As you use this prayer resource you are simply talking to God about what He has already said on behalf of you, others, and situations. By using this tool you can turn God's powerful Word loose in the lives of people living throughout the world He loves.

### Appreciation

SIM wishes to express appreciation to the International Bible Society for granting permission for the text of the New International Version (NIV) to be used in the ***Scripture Prayer Guide***. This cooperative effort is a great example of two organizations working together to provide an excellent prayer tool to add to the spiritual arsenal of individual believers and the churches in which they worship.

### Organization

The ***Scripture Prayer Guide*** is comprised by forty-eight individual sheets organized under five categories: **Worship, Spiritual Life, Books and Themes, Intercession, and Missions**. It is topical in nature. In its complete form this resource serves as a comprehensive library for an entire prayer ministry of the church, spanning the various types of prayer and providing numerous sheets for each one. Like a library, individual

sheets can be used for period of time and then exchanged for another. Each sheet is printed front and back on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper turned landscape. In this format it is intended to be folded in two, forming a conveniently sized booklet that easily can be slipped inside a Bible and used as a bookmark.

### Application

The ***Scripture Prayer Guide*** has a great range of applications. It can be used in large group settings such as worship services and Sunday school classes. It can be introduced as a bulletin insert or as a Bible Study sheet. It can be featured in a large general prayer gathering or in much smaller specific-focus prayer group venues. The general rule is that the entire set is for an entire church and an individual sheet is for an individual user. The one great exception is in the case of a prayer warrior who would like the entire set for personal use.

Here are three **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS** for using an individual prayer sheet: Browse over the sheet without reading all the verses. As you do this you will discover that your attention will be drawn to a given passage or passages and will want to read certain portions of Scripture printed on the sheet. Once you have connected with a passage in this way, stop and talk to God about what He has said in it on behalf of you, another person, or a situation. At that point you can either stop or continue depending on your time and prayer capacity. The main idea is to talk to God about what He has said, no matter how much or how little time you have to spend in prayer. To sum up: **BROWSE** over the sheet, **CONNECT** with a passage of Scripture, and **TALK** to God about what that Scripture says.

Here are eight **GENERAL SUGGESTIONS** for using the entire ***Scripture Prayer Guide***:

1. **SUPPLEMENTALLY** - The SPG is a supplement to and/or a refiner of specific prayer information. Continue to pray for specific requests given by those for whom you are praying. But use this tool to support and refine those requests by the Word of God.

2. **SPONTANEOUSLY** - There is no right or wrong way to use the SPG. It is not necessary to start at the beginning

of each sheet and work all the way through to the end. You may want to read a portion of Scripture back to God. Or you may be inclined to focus on a particular verse, phrase, or concept contained in the text. The key is to pray in keeping with any prompting you may receive during your perusing of the Word of God. Pray from your heart!

3. **SPARINGLY** - At first glance the SPG appears overwhelming with its variety of subjects and numerous sheets. Keep in mind the SPG is a comprehensive prayer library; therefore, it is recommended that it be used one sheet at a time with a focus on just those passages which are relevant and meaningful to you.

4. **SACRIFICIALLY** - There is a non-financial cost involved in using the SPG. It will cost you the bending of your will to the will of God. Allow the Word and Spirit of God to transform you into the person He wants you to be as you interact with the passages printed in the SPG.

5. **LARGE GROUPS** - Some sections are ideal for distribution and use in large groups. Praying for Missionaries, for example, may be placed in each church bulletin during a mission conference and the congregation encouraged to use it to pray for the missionaries the church supports.

6. **SMALL GROUPS** - Other sections are better suited for use in small groups. Praying for Muslims or Praying for People Groups may be employed by prayer groups that have these subjects as their focus. Praying with Jesus, Praying about Stewardship, and Praying the Commands of Christ make excellent materials for study in Sunday school classes.

7. **SCRIPTURE MEMORY** - Since the SPG is filled with the Word of God, this resource can be easily used as a Scripture memory tool. When used in this way for an extended period of time you will naturally base your prayers on the Word of God.

8. **CREATIVELY** - Finally, use your own creativity in using the SPG. Perhaps the Lord will use your idea to have a profound impact on the world for Jesus Christ!

May the Lord powerfully use this tool to strengthen and expand the Church of Jesus Christ around the world. And may He use you in this task as you move forward "By Prayer".

#### **Access**

The *Scripture Prayer Guide* can be accessed in two ways:

1. The entire set or individual sheets may be downloaded free of charge from the Internet at [www.byprayer.org](http://www.byprayer.org).
2. Hardcopies of the entire set in a three-ring binder format may be purchased by contacting Masthof Press by phone at 610-286-0258 or over the Internet at [www.masthof.com](http://www.masthof.com).

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