

# ***Bible Reading Marathon***

**(B.R.M)**

**Bible Pathway Ministries**

## **How-to Kit**

### **Everything You Need To Know To Conduct A Bible Reading Marathon**

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# BASIC OUTLINE

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## PRAY:

Before you plan, have your Prayer Co-ordinator schedule a meeting of all involved and earnestly pray for the Lord to guide in all the preparations. Seek His blessings on all who participate and on the entire Bible Reading Marathon.

## WHY:

Because God *has esteemed His Word even above all His Name* [Psalms 138:2]. To publicly honor the Lord and unite the community by openly proclaiming the only inspired Guide to prepare us to fulfill His Will. A Marathon is an act of worship. Holding a Bible Reading Marathon to precede the National Day of Prayer has been very successful.

Or, as an alternative, you could hold a Marathon:

- at the dedication of a new church building.
- at a Christian school by students with parental and faculty support.
- as a commitment to the Word of God by an organization and its supporters.
- at a family reunion as a dedication of the family to God and His Word.
- to celebrate the close of this century and the beginning of the new millennium.
- or simply as a way to lift up the Word of God in your community.

## WHEN:

A specific date must be chosen well in advance. Keep in mind that the site location and the cooperation of community groups, officials, churches, and individuals will take several weeks to organize.

## WHERE:

Choose a specific place. Select your site early, perhaps a year in advance. The Marathon is a public reading to call attention to the importance of reading through your Bible. Your site should be a public and visible location. A Bible Reading Marathon has been conducted on the steps of our nation's capitol in Washington DC every year since 1990. Marathons have been conducted on the steps of state capitols, county courthouses, school campuses, city parks, and churches.

## WHO:

Everyone! Any person can participate in the reading. *So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it* [Isaiah 55:11].

## **HOW:**

**A permit must be obtained. Keep in mind that the reading will take 80 to 90 hours. In this day of fast service and instant gratification, instead of having a schedule of one person reading at a time and taking several days, we may be prone to have everyone read at the same time. We feel that this is a disservice to God. What a pity for God to only get 15 minutes of our time. Be sure to also allow time for set up, opening and closing ceremonies, dismantling, and clean up. First it will be necessary to detail all of the components that you choose to use, as this may affect the type of permit you will need. In applying for a permit, be sure to include every possibility, as it is often difficult to add anything to the permit request once it is secured. A Bible Reading Marathon cannot be prohibited as long as it meets the same criteria as other public functions. Try to stay within the basic guidelines given in this outline, as it will help you obtain your permit much more expediently. Once you get the permit, make copies and give them to the On-site Assistant Co-ordinator who will be in charge of the Marathon location.**

## **COMPONENTS:**

**In considering the logistics, here is a list that may help you prepare. The Marathon Co-ordinator should work with the On-site Assistant Co-ordinator to provide for these needs.**

### **Items to consider:**

- ☐ PA System -- Your system should be one that has sufficient volume and quality if you are having your Marathon outside. The entire PA system, including the microphones, must be carefully tested and finely tuned ahead of time.**
- ☐ Lighting System -- Should be adequate for night reading. Having good lighting is also a safety measure. Include spare light bulbs.**
- ☐ Electrical Outlets -- Make sure there are enough outlets for speakers, lighting, etc. Also check that your location has ample wattage available to plug in all necessary equipment. Be sure all outlets are protected from the elements.**
- ☐ Platform or Stand for Readers -- Also provide an extra stool or platform for small readers, especially if you have children involved. A platform is a good place to display your banner and any other type of decorations you may want.**
- ☐ Podium -- If possible, set up two lecterns [one for the current reader; the other for the next reader] to avoid delays. Each lectern should have a good microphone attached to it.**
- ☐ Bible -- Have large or giant print Bibles available for easier reading, but encourage readers to bring their own personal Bibles. Some Marathons have had readers read their own Bibles in different languages, which can be an encouragement to illustrate that the Word of God is being proclaimed and is applicable and relevant in every language.**

If your Marathon is being conducted in a multinational area, you may wish to provide Bibles in various languages.

- **Banner or identifying sign -- A waterproof banner is best. You may choose your own wording. A picture is enclosed of the banner that was used on the Mount of Olives on January 1, 1990, beginning the *International Year of Bible Reading*. A suggested wording might be: "*Celebrate the Century of Bible Reading*" or "*Read the Bible -- the Pathway to Life*" or "*Read the Bible -- It Is God's Word*"**
- **Seating -- You will want chairs for those who are participating and for groups waiting to read, as well as sufficient chairs for spectators.**
- **Umbrellas, water jugs, cups, etc. -- Have these items all located in one spot, off to the side and out of the way. Oversize umbrellas are a great help in rainy conditions!**
- **Large plastic bags -- Have several on hand that are large enough to cover sound equipment if it should rain. You will also need a few trash bags during and after the Marathon. We represent Christ and need to leave the reading area cleaner than when we began.**
- **Small emergency kit -- Keep a first aid kit handy, just in case of minor accidents.**
- **Camera, video, etc. -- You may need to obtain a special permit if you plan to use photographers or video cameras. Check out well in advance. We would greatly appreciate it if you would send us photos from your Marathon so that we can make them a part of the history of the *Century of Bible Reading*.**
- **Telephone -- It is wise to have a cellular phone available for security purposes as well as for Co-ordinators and media people.**
- **Refreshments -- Providing refreshments for readers is a nice touch of hospitality. A caterer or restaurant might be willing to contribute this free of charge.**
- **Be sure to publicly acknowledge those businesses and/or organizations who help supply equipment, refreshments, and other items for the Marathon.**

# **MARATHON CO-ORDINATOR**

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**Yours is an important task -- you are responsible for the overall implementation of the Marathon. This includes assigning duties to your committee, as well as to leaders and facilitators involved in this event. Consider asking a close friend to act as your prayer intercessor during the time you are preparing for the Marathon.**

**One of the most important responsibilities of the Co-ordinator and Assistant Co-ordinator is the selection of your team captains. These individuals must be willing to commit to organizing readers to fill each of their 15-minute reading slots for the block of time allotted to them.**

**The role of each Team Captain is to keep the Marathon going -- to make sure that each reader is ready to read in succession and to deal with any scheduling challenges that arise. Basically, the Team Captain acts as the stage manager for his or her designated time.**

**The team captains have the ultimate responsibility of seeing that the Word continues to be read, even if they need to fill in for a missing partner and read it themselves.**

**Team captains should be spiritually mature individuals, such as deacons, Sunday School teachers, Sunday School superintendents, etc. and be known by those they will be working with. They do not necessarily need to be pastors or ministers. Team captains must be kind, faithful, and committed to the Lord.**

**Three captains stationed at one time would not be too many. Each could be responsible for a different task. One could be lining up readers, one making sure each individual reader signs in so that a record can be kept, and one could encourage the group waiting to read to be praying for the actual readers.**

**Here is a list of items that you will need to address:**

## **1. Scheduling Assistant Co-ordinator**

### **Church Team Captain**

**Youth Group Captain -- Find someone willing to organize the youth and college groups and to encourage them to get involved.**

**Children's Group Captain -- Find someone willing to organize the children's groups and to encourage them to get involved.**

**Senior Citizen Group Captain -- Find someone willing to organize the senior citizen groups and to encourage their participation. Arranging for transportation for this group will greatly increase the number of people who will sign up.**

**Community Groups Team Captain**

**2. Publicity/Media Assistant Co-ordinator**

**Phone Calls Team Captain**

**3. On-Site Assistant Co-ordinator**

**4. Prayer Assistant Co-ordinator**

**5. Financial Assistant Co-ordinator -- You will very probably need to raise money to cover expenses. The Marathon should not be a fund-raising event, but it does take finances to put it all together.**

# GUIDELINES FOR SIGNING UP, SCHEDULING READING, AND DIRECTING READING TIME

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Many different groups of people will enjoy participating in the Bible Reading Marathon by volunteering as readers. It is good to find out how widespread and all-inclusive your achievement was in reaching every segment of your society. We have included a sample commitment form in this How-to Kit. Enlistment of readers will be easier if you publish a description of the project early on. Be sure to include the purpose of the Marathon, the dates and location, other people who will be involved, as well as information telling how to volunteer to become a reader.

It is important to have readers from as many sources as possible regardless of their faith. A reader can be anyone. This, of course, would include different cultures and languages, even religions. Our first marathon in Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, included Jews and Arabs. Many an atheist, Hindu and Muslim has been saved by reading the Bible. Even active church members have been convicted that they were only "members of churches" when they began reading the Bible, and then experienced being born again (John 3:5). It would be most unfortunate to eliminate non-Christians from reading the Bible because that is the whole purpose of God giving His Word, just as the Lord said: *The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost* (Luke 19:10). And then the Holy Spirit makes it clear: *As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God* (John 1:12). It is the Word of God that has power to enlighten, convict, and convert all who will sincerely read His Direction. God has said: *My Word . . . shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it* (Isaiah 55:11). Furthermore, *the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart* (Hebrews 4:12).

A Bible Reading Marathon is a way that the Holy Spirit can witness to those who read God's Word, while others are blessed as they hear it being read. Bible Reading Marathons call our attention to the fact that God has esteemed His Word even above His Name (Psalms 138:2). It is the Bible that clearly reveals who God is, as well as who we are -- lost sinners who can receive eternal life and a home in Heaven when we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord of our lives.

Follow your heart and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to include everyone for your Marathon. We have had many different languages read, such as Korean, Spanish, Swedish, as well as African, Indian, Japanese, and Chinese dialects. It is important not to limit the reading only to English. Even though we may not all understand the language being read, it is God's Word going forth and it will not return void. God has a many-faceted Church!

For a complete reading of the Bible, approximately 365 people would need to participate if each is to read 15 minutes. Some may read 30 minutes or more, and some will

return to read more than once. Schedule celebrities and VIPs first, as most have busy schedules and are booked far in advance. Ask churches, synagogues, government officials, civic clubs, Boy Scouts, and other youth groups to enlist readers for a particular block of time. College students might enjoy covering the hours later in the evening when they may not be in class. Children are valuable members of our society and it is a special blessing to include them. Their desire to participate in this momentous event will be something you will never forget, nor will they. Also include teenagers, the elderly, and the handicapped. Don't leave out the hearing-impaired -- signing is a language too. Consider asking for volunteers to sign for segments of the reading.

Structure your schedule for 15-minute reading segments. Experienced readers may desire to read as long as 30 minutes at a time. Approximately three chapters can be read in 15 minutes. You might wish to use the Bible Pathway reading schedule [copy enclosed] as a pattern since it is based on 15 minutes of reading each day. However, the reading schedule is only a guide -- an estimate of where each individual will be reading since some people read much faster than others. It is important not to assign chapters with scheduled times because this could create time gaps when nothing is being read due to fast readers.

Communicate ahead of time with your readers. Once enlisted and assigned a time period, send your readers a program schedule and instructions to confirm the assignment in writing. Emphasize that they are a vital part of the Marathon and that they should be committed to being there at least 30 minutes in advance of their scheduled time, in order to prepare themselves spiritually and mentally. They can be praying for those who are reading ahead of them as well as being there to support and encourage other readers.

Not all people read at the same rate, which will not affect the schedule when following a time schedule rather than a chapter schedule. Some individuals may read several times if the group is small or if scheduled readers do not come. If chapters are assigned some groups will read faster and finish ahead of schedule, and often the next team of readers may be slow readers, leading to confusion and times of silence. When time blocks are not tied to chapter assignments, this problem will not occur. Team captains are responsible for finishing their group's assigned time block of reading.

Also, prepare maps and directions to the site for your readers. More people will sign up when the directions are clear and precise.

We have yet to see what God can do with a people who are truly united in His Spirit and His Word. May we say: "Lord, make us one." Let us give Him a chance to do something great in and through us, a people united under His Lordship!

In Heaven we will be part of that great multitude *of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues* [Revelation 7:9], standing before the throne, proclaiming the glories of God. Participation in a Bible Reading Marathon can be a small foretaste of that heavenly one, and it will advance the coming of the Kingdom. May God bless you and enable you to accomplish His will.



## GETTING THE WORD OUT

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Good publicity before and during the Marathon is essential. Realize that the main reason you are doing this is to glorify God and speak His life-changing Word to your city, state, or nation. It will be encouraging for other believers near and far to hear what God is doing.

Designate one Media Co-ordinator to handle all media contacts. This person should have as many helpers to assist as needed for the kind of publicity you want. This will take a great deal of time and attention. These helpers should have some experience with the media, writing press releases, etc. Also, be sure to get all radio and television stations involved. This is a great opportunity for them to do some "live" footage, if they are able. Be sure to let all the print and broadcast media outlets know well in advance about your Marathon. The Media Co-ordinator should talk in advance with TV and radio news directors, and public service directors, and newspaper editors to get news coverage of the actual event. [See enclosed pages with copies of Newspaper articles and photos from previous Marathons. Upon completion of your Marathon, we would greatly appreciate it if you would send us photos from your Marathon so that we can make them a part of the history of the *Century of Bible Reading*.]

Have the mayor or other top civic leader declare an official Marathon. Newspapers can take pictures of the official signing the declaration. This makes an excellent opening article to announce official Bible Reading Marathon event.

Have your Media Co-ordinator prepare news releases, radio spots, and interviews with committee members and readers to let the general public know about your Marathon.

Plan a special opening ceremony for your Marathon with civic leaders and celebrities to attract as much media coverage as possible. Also, organize a special closing ceremony and again invite the press. This may give participants a chance to tell what their Marathon experience meant to them. If you have several ethnic groups participating, you may wish to have them dressed in native costume to complete the Bible Reading. This will draw extra press coverage.

# **ON-SITE FACILITATOR**

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**You will work with the Co-ordinator for many of the set up and dismantling tasks. You will need a committee of dedicated people who are willing to work behind the scenes in order that the Lord may be glorified through the Marathon. Here is a list of areas to cover with your committee:**

- 1. Setting up the physical preparations for Bible reading.**
- 2. Your primary responsibility during the Marathon will be to see to the needs and comfort of your readers as well as spectators.**
- 3. Lighting and Electrical outlets -- You may need technical help in this area.**
- 4. Sound -- You may need technical help in this area.**
- 5. Volunteers to locate podiums and other equipment.**
- 6. As we know, Satan is not pleased by the reading of God's Word and will do much to oppose it. You may encounter hecklers trying to disrupt the Marathon. This seldom happens, but it is wise to have at least 4 people on-site at all times, with at least one of these four designated to deal with difficult persons and situations. You should plan to meet with the group of people who will be serving in these capacities to work through possible scenarios and solutions ahead of time. Opposition comes from people whom God loves and who need to be saved. It is good to contact local law enforcement to patrol the reading area during nighttime hours.**
- 7. Stand-ins -- There may be times when groups or individuals who were scheduled to read are not on-site at their scheduled time. The above four people, on-site at all times, need to be prepared to step in and read if necessary. Have a phone list of all readers, as well as standbys who would be willing to come to the Marathon and read or help out at a moment's notice.**
- 8. Dismantling and returning all equipment, chairs, etc. You will need physical help to dismantle the podium, platform, public-address system, lighting, etc. at the close of the Marathon as well as appropriate vehicles to return equipment to appropriate owners.**
- 9. You will often need "go-fors" to refill coffee, juice, water, and soft drink containers. Also, you need to keep a fresh supply of disposable cups and napkins. This group could also take care of picking up trash, etc., keeping the area clean during and after the Marathon.**

## **PRAYER ASSISTANT CO-ORDINATOR**

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**Your responsibility is of vital importance! The most successful and anointed Marathons are those which have ongoing prayer, prior to and during the event. You may wish to enlist a small committee to help you. Here are some ideas to make your prayer efforts more effective.**

**Have people sign up to pray both on-site and at their own homes. Contact those who have agreed to be readers to see if they will also commit to pray for the reader immediately after them. Encourage people to commit to pray for groups of readers. For example, in a city-wide Marathon enlist a group of intercessors and assign each one a list of groups or churches that will be reading.**

**As the Prayer Co-ordinator, consider praying personally with each reader or group of readers before they read, or have members of your committee do so. Pastors or Christian workers often stop by for a coffee break and prayer on their way to work in the early hours of the morning.**

**During the reading, intercessors should pray quietly to one side, away from the podium. All the praying on-site should be done discreetly and without fanfare. The focus should always be on the Word.**

**If your Bible Reading Marathon is held preceding the National Day of Prayer, it is of utmost importance that throughout all prayer assemblies all National Day of Prayer leaders be remembered in prayer. It is the conviction of the International Bible Reading Association, based upon biblical history, that when the nation begins reading the Word of God, followed by prayer, revival takes place. The Bible alone often leads to legalism, and prayer without the Word of God is powerless. But, together the will of God is accomplished. [Please note enclosed pages listing a few of the many ways that the Bible speaks to our hearts, how to *Imitate Christ in our Prayers*, and how important it is to *Pray the Word for Areas of Influence*.]**

## **INCIDENTALS**

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**It is good to let the readers realize they are acting as one big team speaking God's Word for His purposes to be accomplished [Isaiah 55:10-11]. There should be no readers "more important" than the others. No reader's name should be announced before they read or after they finish. Let each one realize they are there to lift up Jesus.**

**There may be some readers from out of town or on a tight time schedule who must be worked in at a designated time. These may include various senators, representatives, and others who will only commit to a specified time. Every effort should be made to schedule these people at the time they have requested.**

## **DAY OF THE PRODUCTION**

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**Leave no detail to chance! Do not assume that something will happen -- it will not if you do not plan and prepare for it. Double-check your arrangements for staging, sound systems, lighting, food services, seating for your audience, a place for your readers to wait, setting decorations, and large-print Bibles.**

**We suggest that you have preprinted certificates on hand to give to each reader as he/she finishes reading. This is a nice gesture of appreciation as well as a reminder to the reader of his participation in lifting up God's Word.**

**[A sample certificate is enclosed and quantities will be provided by the International Bible Reading Association upon request.]**

## **FOLLOW UP**

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**Send thank you letters to your participants, to the media outlets who gave publicity or news coverage, and to all others who helped in the event in any way. Don't forget the leaders who served as the Honorary Committee.**

# **BIBLE READING MARATHON READER APPLICATION**

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I would like to be a part of the Bible Reading Marathon to be held at \_\_\_\_\_.

I prefer reading from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm [circle one] on \_\_\_\_\_

[day and date], but I would be willing to read \_\_\_\_\_.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE [include area code] \_\_\_\_\_

I am a child [3-12] \_\_\_\_\_ youth [13-19] \_\_\_\_\_ college student \_\_\_\_\_

adult \_\_\_\_\_ senior citizen [55+] \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

# **SAMPLE LETTER TO MAYOR OR COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

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[This letter should come from prominent citizens, ministers, etc., and should be hand delivered. We suggest including a copy of President Bush's Proclamation or the Joint Resolution, which are available upon request from the International Bible Reading Association.]

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The year 1990 was proclaimed by a Joint Congressional Resolution and Presidential Proclamation as *International Year of Bible Reading*. Since then, the majority of our Governors have signed similar proclamations, as well as a number of individual city officials.

With the world in complete chaos and events breaking daily from every section of the globe, we are all aware that we have many needs today in our nation and in our world! Many of us believe these needs can be met and these problems solved only through our return to the basic Christian beliefs this nation was founded upon.

Therefore, we are making a special request. Your help could be monumental in bringing about an awareness of the source of moral values so visibly needed to solve the problems confronting our nation.

Our prayer is that you will lend your support by proclaiming the week of \_\_\_\_\_ as Bible Reading Week in \_\_\_\_\_. In celebration of this week, Christians in this \_\_\_\_\_ [city/county] would like to conduct a Bible Reading Marathon beginning at \_\_\_\_\_ and ending at \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ [courthouse steps, town square, central park, etc.].

We appreciate the work you have done while in office. [Reword accordingly.] Any thing you can do to help further this particular event will also be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

# LETTER SUGGESTION TO ALL PASTORS WITHIN 50 MILES

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

*Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ [Ephesians 1:2].*

As a prominent Christian leader in this community, I am writing you about the annual Bible Reading Marathon taking place here in \_\_\_\_\_.

Individuals, churches, school groups, families, and organizations are needed in our Bible Reading Marathon -- all taking their turn to open their Bibles and read aloud a portion of Scripture that *God has esteemed even above His Name* [Psalms 138:2]. It is a glorious privilege to honor our God, and a memory that each participant will cherish forever.

This year, on \_\_\_\_\_, May \_\_\_\_\_, we will begin reading with Genesis 1:1 and continue through Revelation until the entire Bible is read aloud, culminating on Thursday, May \_\_\_\_\_, the National Day of Prayer.

Our Marathon will be one of many going on simultaneously in our nation, including one that has been held every year since 1990 on the steps of our nation's capitol. We anticipate an exciting time in the weeks ahead as we plan for this event. Our goal is to schedule people from \_\_\_\_\_ and the surrounding area to join together at \_\_\_\_\_ to read all of God's Word. Christians of all ages are invited to participate.

Our earnest desire is to expose our community to the powerful Word of God. The Bible's transforming power is guaranteed. Jesus quoted from the Old Testament when He gave us the key to victory over Satan's temptations when He said: *Man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord* [Matthew 4:4; see Deuteronomy 8:3]. However, it is essential that we open our hearts and read what He says or our prayers will not be heard: *One who turns away his ear from hearing the Law, even his prayer shall be abomination* [Proverbs 28:9].

Through the Bible Reading Marathon, we celebrate our faith in three ways. First, we proclaim the importance of the Bible to our nation's past, present, and future. Second, we celebrate the religious freedom we enjoy in this nation. Third, we demonstrate our desire that all for whom Christ died be saved. We welcome everyone to read the only inspired revelation to mankind. As Dr. Hash, Founder of the International Bible Reading Association, says: "It is the Word of God that has power to enlighten, convict,

**and convert all who will sincerely read His direction. [Please note the enclosed pages listing a few of the many ways that the Bible speaks to our hearts.] I personally know former Jehovah's Witnesses, atheists, and Hindus who were saved when they read the Bible."**

**The prayer of the International Bible Reading Association is that this Marathon will cause people to realize how important reading all the Bible is for them personally and to our entire nation.**

**As you read through the Bible, may the Lord Himself open the eyes of your understanding that you may recognize that *all Scripture is . . . profitable* [II Timothy 3:16].**

**We are presently scheduling and reserving reading time. Individual readers are usually scheduled to read for 15 minutes, while groups are invited to sign up for "blocks" of time. I urge you to contact us to reserve a time for you and your church to read.**

**We need volunteers from your church to assist with the Bible Reading Marathon in other areas, such as set up and prayer support. I encourage you to involve your congregation in this great event. Challenge them to take the time to honor God in this Bible Reading Marathon national event. *My Word . . . shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper* [Isaiah 55:11]. I assure you that the Bible Reading Marathon will be one of the highlights of your church.**

**Sincerely,**

**Co-ordinator**



# SAMPLE LETTER TO INDIVIDUALS

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The Holy Spirit guided King David to write: *I will . . . praise Your Name for Your lovingkindness and for Your Truth: for You have esteemed [exalted above all else] Your Word above all Your Name [Psalms 138:2].*

A historical event is taking place here in \_\_\_\_\_ that will give all of us an opportunity to publicly "magnify" the only inspired Word of God. You are invited to participate in our Bible Reading Marathon -- a continuous reading of the whole Bible, beginning in Genesis and concluding in Revelation -- culminating on Thursday, May 6, with the National Day of Prayer. Many volunteers will be needed to participate in this rewarding opportunity, each taking their turn to open their Bible and read aloud a portion of Scripture that God has exalted above all else.

Our Marathon will be one of many going on simultaneously in our nation, including one that has been held every year since 1990 on the steps of our nation's capitol. Many Christians have expressed how much they have enjoyed publicly reading aloud at the Bible Reading Marathons. Readers, as well as listeners, are often overwhelmed with the awesome experience of proclaiming God's Word aloud. Participating in a Bible Reading Marathon will be a memory that everyone will treasure.

We anticipate an exciting time in the weeks ahead as we plan for this event. Our goal is to schedule people from \_\_\_\_\_ and the surrounding area to join together at \_\_\_\_\_ to read all of God's Word. We invite people of all ages -- adults, children, senior adults, high school and college students, businessmen, government and state officials -- to participate in this momentous event. Some individuals may read several times if the group is small or if scheduled readers do not come.

Our earnest desire is to expose our community to the powerful words of our Creator. The Bible's transforming power is guaranteed: *My Word . . . shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [Isaiah 55:11].* However, it is essential that we open our hearts and read what He says or our prayers will not be heard: *One who turns away his ear from hearing the Law, even his prayer shall be abomination [Proverbs 28:9].*

Our prayer is that this Marathon will cause people to realize how important reading all the Bible is for them personally and for our entire country.

As you read through the Bible, may the Lord Himself open the eyes of your understanding that you may recognize that *all Scripture is . . . profitable [II Timothy 3:16].*

**I will be in touch in the next few days with all who respond to discuss plans and preparations for the Marathon and how you can become involved.**

**Please fill out the enclosed Reader Application Form and return it as soon as possible in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope to let us know that you will be participating in this historic event and to reserve a time for you to read.**

**Sincerely,**

**Co-ordinator**

# **SAMPLE PROCLAMATION** FOR CHURCH, DENOMINATION, MINISTERIAL ASSOC.

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**WHEREAS**, this century has been proclaimed *International Century of Bible Reading* by millions around the world who recognize the Bible as the inspired Word of God to mankind which is *profitable for instruction in righteousness* [II Timothy 3:16]; and

**WHEREAS**, all Scripture is essential to prepare us to be the people God wants us to be and to accomplish the purpose for which he created us; and

**WHEREAS**, America, being founded upon biblical principles and Judeo-Christian ethics as taught in the Bible, paid tribute to the Bible for its important influence upon the development of our Nation by many of our great national leaders such as Presidents Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, and Wilson; and

**WHEREAS**, President Andrew Jackson called the Bible "the Book on which this Republic rests" and President Abraham Lincoln called the Bible "the best gift God has given to man"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bible is recognized as the one true revelation from God, showing the way of Salvation, Truth, and Life, and enriching the daily lives of millions of men and women who through the ages have looked to it for comfort, hope, and guidance; and

**WHEREAS**, the decline in the moral fabric of our country can be directly traced to the time when the reading of the Bible was removed from our schools; and

**WHEREAS**, lawmakers, law enforcement, social scientists, civic and church leaders are searching for solutions to the critical problems facing our nation, such as the drug crisis, violence, and social injustice, all of which can be found within God's revealed will for mankind; and

**WHEREAS**, regular Bible reading renews the mind of men, thus transforming the life of the individual which ultimately affects the lives of those in the family, the local community, the state, and the Nation;

**NOW THEREFORE**, we joyfully encourage everyone in our \_\_\_\_\_ to read through the Bible on a daily basis this year and to continue until the Lord comes.

**WE SEE** the *International Century of Bible Reading* as a major opportunity to create an awareness of the message of Truth and Hope with our communities and neighbors.

Name of Church, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Title [Pastor, Minister, Elder, etc.] \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# **SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE**

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The annual Bible Reading Marathon, sponsored by the International Bible Reading Association (IBRA) and hosted by \_\_\_\_\_, will be held on/ at \_\_\_\_\_ [time, day, and date].

This Marathon is part of the IBRA's goal to encourage reading all of the Bible worldwide and to affirm this as the *Century of Bible Reading*.

Opening ceremonies for our Marathon will begin promptly with \_\_\_\_\_ [name of individual, possibly a dignitary] beginning the reading.

According to \_\_\_\_\_, Co-ordinator of the event, local churches, businessmen, and interested individuals will participate by starting to read in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, and then reading publicly and continuously in 15-minute segments through the last chapter the Book of Revelation, the final book of the Bible, in preparation for the National Day of Prayer, May 6. Last year it required approximately 90 hours to complete the Bible reading.

\_\_\_\_\_ noted that the purpose of a Bible Reading Marathon is to create an awareness of reading the only God-inspired Guide for successful living. An open invitation has been extended to those in the county, as well as in surrounding areas, who wish to participate. Billed as an interdenominational event, all churches, Christian groups, and individuals are welcome to take part. Churches are encouraged to take blocks of time where members can read consecutively and are urged to sign up early in order to reserve their times.

\_\_\_\_\_ also noted that last year there were many participants from the majority of churches, school groups, families, and other organizations. Christians from a number of other nations and ethnic groups also read the Bible in their own languages, including \_\_\_\_\_. In recognition of the international power of the Word of God, tentative plans for this year include a designated portion of the ceremony for groups, dressed in their cultural attire, to read the Bible in their own language.

Those interested in participating in any part of the event are welcome and may contact \_\_\_\_\_. For additional information you may contact Barbara Ann Bivens, International Bible Reading Marathon Co-ordinator, International Bible Reading Association, P.O. Box 1501, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1501, 615-896-4200, Fax: 615-893-1744, or e-mail: BPathway@aol.com.

The IBRA noted that a thousand Bible Reading Marathons are expected to be held simultaneously this year around the world. The Marathon held in Washington, DC, on the West Steps of the Capitol Building will notably be the most visible in our nation. For the seventh consecutive year, the State of Ohio will conduct the largest number of Bible Reading Marathons of any state in the majority of its 88 counties.

# BIBLE READING MARATHON RESPONSE CARD FOR CHURCHES TEAM CAPTAINS

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We love the Lord and reverence His Word.

*I will . . . praise Your Name for Your lovingkindness and for Your Truth: for You have esteemed Your Word above all Your Name [Psalms 138:2].*

We would like to be a part of the \_\_\_\_\_ Bible Reading Marathon  
to be held \_\_\_\_\_.

We prefer reading from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm [circle one]  
on \_\_\_\_\_ [day and date].

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone [include area code] \_\_\_\_\_

Position held [deacon, elder, SS superintendent, teacher]: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone [include area code] \_\_\_\_\_

The best time and day for a planning meeting is [ ] morning [ ] afternoon [ ] evening  
on Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat [circle one]

# ROUND THE CLOCK SCHEDULE

MARATHON CO-ORDINATOR \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM CAPTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DAY/DATE	START TIME [15-MIN. SEGMENTS]	READER'S NAME & PHONE NO.	
Sun/April 30	2:00 -- 3:00 PM	Opening Remarks/Song/Praise/Prayer	
Sun/April 30	3:00 -- 4:00 PM [Genesis 1]	Beginning Readers -- 1 chapter each Marathon Co-ordinator or Special Guest Readers	
Sun/April 30	4:00 -- 4:15 PM	James Smith	XXX-XXXX
Sun/April 30	4:15 -- 4:30 PM	Judy Smith	XXX-XXXX
Sun/April 30	4:30 -- 4:45 PM	George Brown	XXX-XXXX
Sun/April 30	4:45 -- 5:00 PM	Mrs. George Brown	XXX-XXXX
Sun/April 30	5:00 -- 5:15 PM	Jim Jones	XXX-XXXX

Continue at 15-minute intervals -- The reading should be completed at approximately:

Thur/May 4	10:00 -- 10:15 AM [Revelation 19-20]	Harry Hill	XXX-XXXX
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However, if the reading of Revelation 19-20 finishes sooner, designate a Scripture which the readers may reread [possibly Revelation]. Then proceed with the following:

Thur/May 4	11:15 -- 11:30 AM [Revelation 21-22]	NDP Co-ordinator or Special Guest Reader	
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This time could vary as it should be just before beginning of the National Day of Prayer ceremonies or whatever event is scheduled!

The Bible Pathway reading schedule is available in this Kit for checklist.

When you assign chapters, rather than a time frame, no one knows what hour to show up since there will always be either fast or slow readers. With time assignments there is no guesswork.

When a person has read for 15 minutes, they should finish the chapter and yield to the next reader, who should be positioned and ready to begin reading.

When using assigned chapters, do not expect designated time to coincide with the Scripture schedule since many are slow readers while others are much faster. There is less confusion when readers are simply following a time to read which everyone can count on as the Marathon proceeds.

# BOOK MARK

Check as you read each day

Date Day	Reading
1	Genesis 1 - 3
2	Genesis 4 - 6
3	Genesis 7 - 9
4	Genesis 10 - 12
5	Genesis 13 - 15
6	Genesis 16 - 18
7	Genesis 19 - 21
8	Genesis 22 - 24
9	Genesis 25 - 27
10	Genesis 28 - 30
11	Genesis 31 - 33
12	Genesis 34 - 36
13	Genesis 37 - 39
14	Genesis 40 - 42
15	Genesis 43 - 45
16	Genesis 46 - 48
17	Genesis 49 - Ex. 1
18	Exodus 2 - 4
19	Exodus 5 - 7
20	Exodus 8 - 10
21	Exodus 11 - 13
22	Exodus 14 - 16
23	Exodus 17 - 19
24	Exodus 20 - 22
25	Exodus 23 - 25
26	Exodus 26 - 28
27	Exodus 29 - 31
28	Exodus 32 - 34
29	Exodus 35 - 37
30	Exodus 38 - 39
31	Exodus 40

# BOOK MARK

Check as you read each day

Date Day	Reading
1	Deuteronomy 1 - 2
2	Deuteronomy 3 - 4
3	Deuteronomy 5 - 7
4	Deuteronomy 8 - 10
5	Deuteronomy 11 - 13
6	Deuteronomy 14 - 16
7	Deuteronomy 17 - 20
8	Deuteronomy 21 - 23
9	Deuteronomy 24 - 27
10	Deuteronomy 28
11	Deuteronomy 29 - 31
12	Deuteronomy 32 - 34
13	Joshua 1 - 3
14	Joshua 4 - 6
15	Joshua 7 - 8
16	Joshua 9 - 10
17	Joshua 11 - 13
18	Joshua 14 - 16
19	Joshua 17 - 19
20	Joshua 20 - 21
21	Joshua 22 - 24
22	Judges 1 - 2
23	Judges 3 - 5
24	Judges 6 - 7
25	Judges 8 - 9
26	Judges 10 - 11
27	Judges 12 - 14
28	Judges 15 - 17
29	Judges 18 - 19
30	Judges 20 - 21
31	Ruth 1 - 4

# BOOK MARK

Check as you read each day

Date Day	Reading
1	Samuel 1 - 3
2	Samuel 4 - 7
3	Samuel 8 - 11
4	Samuel 12 - 14, 23
5	Samuel 14, 24 - 16
6	Samuel 17 - 18
7	Samuel 19 - 21
8	Samuel 22 - 24
9	Samuel 25 - 27
10	Samuel 28 - 31
11	Samuel 1 - 2
12	Samuel 3 - 5
13	Samuel 6 - 9
14	Samuel 10 - 12
15	Samuel 13 - 14
16	Samuel 15 - 16
17	Samuel 17 - 18
18	Samuel 19 - 20
19	Samuel 21 - 22
20	Samuel 23 - 24
21	Kings 1 - 2, 25
22	Kings 2, 26 - 4
23	Kings 5 - 7
24	Kings 8
25	Kings 9 - 11
26	Kings 12 - 13
27	Kings 14 - 15
28	Kings 16 - 18
29	Kings 19 - 20
30	Kings 21 - 22

# BOOK MARK

Check as you read each day

Date Day	Reading
1	II Kings 1 - 3
2	II Kings 4 - 5
3	II Kings 6 - 8
4	II Kings 9 - 10
5	II Kings 11 - 13
6	II Kings 14 - 15
7	II Kings 16 - 17
8	II Kings 18 - 20
9	II Kings 21 - 23, 20
10	II Kings 23, 21 - 25
11	Chronicles 1 - 2
12	Chronicles 3 - 5
13	Chronicles 6 - 7
14	Chronicles 8 - 10
15	Chronicles 11 - 13
16	Chronicles 14 - 16
17	Chronicles 17 - 20
18	Chronicles 21 - 23
19	Chronicles 24 - 26
20	Chronicles 27 - 29
21	Chronicles 1 - 3
22	Chronicles 4 - 6
23	Chronicles 7 - 9
24	Chronicles 10 - 13
25	Chronicles 14 - 17
26	Chronicles 18 - 20
27	Chronicles 21 - 24
28	Chronicles 25 - 27
29	Chronicles 28 - 30
30	Chronicles 31 - 33
31	Chronicles 34 - 36

# BOOK MARK

Check as you read each day

Date Day	Reading
1	Ezra 1 - 2
2	Ezra 3 - 5
3	Ezra 6 - 7
4	Ezra 8 - 9
5	Ezra 10
6	Nehemiah 1 - 3
7	Nehemiah 4 - 6
8	Nehemiah 7 - 8
9	Nehemiah 9 - 10
10	Nehemiah 11 - 12
11	Nehemiah 13
12	Esther 1 - 3
13	Esther 4 - 7
14	Esther 8 - 10
15	Job 1 - 4
16	Job 5 - 8
17	Job 9 - 12
18	Job 13 - 16
19	Job 17 - 20
20	Job 21 - 24
21	Job 25 - 29
22	Job 30 - 33
23	Job 34 - 37
24	Job 38 - 40
25	Job 41 - 42
26	Psalms 1 - 9
27	Psalms 10 - 17
28	Psalms 18 - 22
29	Psalms 23 - 30
30	Psalms 31 - 35

# BOOK MARK

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# BOOK MARK

Check as you read each day

Date	Day	Reading
1	183	Psalms 36 - 39
2	184	Psalms 40 - 45
3	185	Psalms 46 - 51
4	186	Psalms 52 - 59
5	187	Psalms 60 - 66
6	188	Psalms 67 - 71
7	189	Psalms 72 - 77
8	190	Psalms 78 - 80
9	191	Psalms 81 - 87
10	192	Psalms 88 - 91
11	193	Psalms 92 - 100
12	194	Psalms 101 - 105
13	195	Psalms 106 - 107
14	196	Psalms 108 - 118
15	197	Psalms 119
16	198	Psalms 120 - 131
17	199	Psalms 132 - 138
18	200	Psalms 139 - 143
19	201	Psalms 144 - 150
20	202	Proverbs 1 - 3
21	203	Proverbs 4 - 7
22	204	Proverbs 8 - 11
23	205	Proverbs 12 - 15
24	206	Proverbs 16 - 19
25	207	Proverbs 20 - 22
26	208	Proverbs 23 - 26
27	209	Proverbs 27 - 31
28	210	Ecclesiastes 1 - 4
29	211	Ecclesiastes 5 - 8
30	212	Ecclesiastes 9 - 12
31	213	Song of Sol. 1 - 8

Check as you read each day

Date	Day	Reading
1	245	Ezekiel 1 - 4
2	246	Ezekiel 5 - 9
3	247	Ezekiel 10 - 13
4	248	Ezekiel 14 - 16
5	249	Ezekiel 17 - 19
6	250	Ezekiel 20 - 21
7	251	Ezekiel 22 - 24
8	252	Ezekiel 25 - 28
9	253	Ezekiel 29 - 32
10	254	Ezekiel 33 - 36
11	255	Ezekiel 37 - 39
12	256	Ezekiel 40 - 42
13	257	Ezekiel 43 - 45
14	258	Ezekiel 46 - 48
15	259	Daniel 1 - 3
16	260	Daniel 4 - 6
17	261	Daniel 7 - 9
18	262	Daniel 10 - 12
19	263	Hosea 1 - 6
20	264	Hosea 7 - 14
21	265	Joel 1 - 3
22	266	Amos 1 - 5
23	267	Amos 6 - 9
24	268	Obadiah 1
25	269	Jonah 1 - 4
26	270	Micah 1 - 7
27	271	Nahum 1 - 3
28	272	Habakkuk 1 - 3
29	273	Zephaniah 1 - 3
30	274	Haggai 1 - 2
31	275	Zechariah 1 - 7

Check as you read each day

Date	Day	Reading
1	275	Matthew 1 - 3
2	276	Matthew 4 - 6
3	277	Matthew 7 - 9
4	278	Matthew 10 - 11
5	279	Matthew 12
6	280	Matthew 13 - 14
7	281	Matthew 15 - 17
8	282	Matthew 18 - 20
9	283	Matthew 21 - 22
10	284	Matthew 23 - 24
11	285	Matthew 25 - 26
12	286	Matthew 27 - 28
13	287	Mark 1 - 3
14	288	Mark 4 - 5
15	289	Mark 6 - 7
16	290	Mark 8 - 9
17	291	Mark 10 - 11
18	292	Mark 12 - 13
19	293	Mark 14 - 16
20	294	Luke 1
21	295	Luke 2 - 3
22	296	Luke 4 - 5
23	297	Luke 6 - 7
24	298	Luke 8 - 9
25	299	Luke 10 - 11
26	300	Luke 12 - 13
27	301	Luke 14 - 16
28	302	Luke 17 - 18
29	303	Luke 19 - 20
30	304	Luke 21 - 22
31	305	Luke 23 - 24

Check as you read each day

Date	Day	Reading
1	306	John 1 - 3
2	307	John 4 - 5
3	308	John 6 - 8
4	309	John 9 - 10
5	310	John 11 - 12
6	311	John 13 - 16
7	312	John 17 - 18
8	313	John 19 - 21
9	314	Acts 1 - 3
10	315	Acts 4 - 6
11	316	Acts 7 - 8
12	317	Acts 9 - 10
13	318	Acts 11 - 13
14	319	Acts 14 - 16
15	320	Acts 17 - 19
16	321	Acts 20 - 22
17	322	Acts 23 - 25
18	323	Acts 26 - 28
19	324	Romans 1 - 3
20	325	Romans 4 - 7
21	326	Romans 8 - 10
22	327	Romans 11 - 13
23	328	Romans 14 - 16
24	329	I Corinthians 1 - 4
25	330	I Corinthians 5 - 9
26	331	I Corinthians 10 - 13
27	332	I Corinthians 14 - 16
28	333	II Corinthians 1 - 4
29	334	II Corinthians 5 - 8
30	335	II Corinthians 9 - 13

Check as you read each day

Date	Day	Reading
1	336	Galatians 1 - 3
2	337	Galatians 4 - 6
3	338	Ephesians 1 - 3
4	339	Ephesians 4 - 6
5	340	Philippians 1 - 4
6	341	Colossians 1 - 4
7	342	I Thessalonians 1 - 5
8	343	II Thessalonians 1 - 3
9	344	I Timothy 1 - 6
10	345	II Timothy 1 - 4
11	346	Titus 1 - 3
12	347	Philemon 1
13	348	Hebrews 1 - 4
14	349	Hebrews 5 - 7
15	350	Hebrews 8 - 10
16	351	Hebrews 11 - 13
17	352	James 1 - 5
18	353	I Peter 1 - 2
19	354	II Peter 1 - 3
20	355	I John 1 - 3
21	356	I John 4 - 5
22	357	II John 1
23	358	Revelation 1 - 2
24	359	Revelation 3 - 5
25	360	Revelation 6 - 8
26	361	Revelation 9 - 11
27	362	Revelation 12 - 13
28	363	Revelation 14 - 16
29	364	Revelation 17 - 18
30	365	Revelation 19 - 20
31	366	Revelation 21 - 22



# IMITATING CHRIST

## IN RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

Jesus Christ set the example of how important the Old Testament was to Him and should be to us. His emphasis started with the first recorded words of our Lord following His baptism. After 40 days of fasting, He was tempted of the devil, who said: *If You be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.* And Jesus answered and said: *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone [physical necessities], but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God [spiritual necessities]* [Matthew 4:3-4; compare Deuteronomy 8:3]. By quoting this Old Testament Scripture, our Lord revealed the "Key to Victory" over satanic deceptions. We can have that same victory over Satan as we become familiar with *every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*

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### SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL FOOD

- Matthew 4:4      *It is written, MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.* (You can't live by "every Word" if you have never read it.)
- I Peter 2:2      *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.* (The strength of our spiritual life and our ability to please the Lord will be in exact proportion to the time we set aside to read through the Bible.)

### MEANS OF CLEANSING

- John 15:3      *Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.*
- Ephesians 5:26      *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.*
- Psalms 119:9,11      *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word. . . . Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.*

### GUIDE TO ALL TRUTH

- John 16:13      *Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all Truth.* (We are all dependent upon the Holy Spirit to reveal His will as we read His Word. But the Holy Spirit will not reveal what we refuse or neglect to read.)
- Proverbs 3:5-6      *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*

### INSTILLS PEACE

- John 16:33      *These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*
- Psalms 119:165      *Great peace have they which love Thy Law: and nothing shall offend them.*

### SOURCE OF SANCTIFICATION

- John 17:17      *Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.*
- I Peter 1:22      *You have purified your souls in obeying the Truth through the Spirit.*

### ASSURANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

- John 8:31-32      *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free.*
- John 8:51      *Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death.*

### GIVES JOY

- John 15:11      *These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*
- Jeremiah 15:16      *Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.*

### **ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER**

- John 15:7 *If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*
- I John 3:22 *Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*
- John 15:10 *If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.*

### **IT WILL JUDGE US**

- John 12:47-48 *And if any man hear My words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejects Me, and receives not My words, hath One that judges him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*
- Rev. 22:18-19 *For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this Book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this Book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the Book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this Book.*

### **IT IS INDESTRUCTIBLE**

- Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.*

### **BLESSED WHEN ONE DELIGHTS TO DO HIS COMMANDS**

- Revelation 22:14 *Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*
- Psalms 1:2 *But his delight is in the Law of the LORD; and in His Law does he meditate day and night.*

### **SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

- James 1:18 *Of His Own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*
- I Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which lives and abides for ever.*

### **SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL POWER**

- Hebrews 4:12 *For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **SOURCE OF WISDOM**

- Colossians 3:16 *Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admon-ishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*
- II Timothy 3:15 *That from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

### **DESTRUCTION INEVITABLE WHEN GOD'S WORD IS IGNORED**

- Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to Me: seeing thou hast forgotten the Law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*
- Proverbs 13:13 *Whoso despises the Word shall be destroyed: but he that fears the commandment shall be rewarded.*

### **PRAYERS AN ABOMINATION WHEN GOD'S WORD IS IGNORED**

- Proverbs 28:9 *He that turns away his ear from hearing the Law, even his prayer shall be abomination.*
- I Corinthians 2:14 *But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness*

unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (speaking about the Spirit of God giving understanding of His Word).

### **TO NEGLECT: RESULTS IN TWO EVILS**

Jeremiah 2:13 *For My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me the Fountain of Living Waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*

### **ESSENTIAL TO KEEP FROM BEING ASHAMED**

II Timothy 2:15 *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*

### **COMFORTS**

I Thess. 4:18 *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

John 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit . . . He shall teach you.*

### **ENLIGHTENS**

Psalms 119:130 *The entrance of Thy words gives light; it gives understanding unto the simple.*

### **PRODUCES FAITH**

Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*

### **STRENGTHENS**

Psalms 119:28 *My soul melts for heaviness: strengthen Thou me according unto Thy Word.*

### **IMPARTS LIFE**

Psalms 119:50 *This is my comfort in my affliction: for Thy Word hath quickened me.*

### **INSTRUCTS**

II Tim. 3:16-17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

### **ENDURES FOREVER**

Psalms 119:160 *Thy Word is true from the beginning: and every one of Thy righteous judgments endures for ever.*

I Peter 1:25 *BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOR EVER. And this is the Word which by the Gospel is preached unto you.*

### **SUSTAINS**

Philippians 2:16 *Holding forth the Word of Life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.*

Psalms 119:92 *Unless Your Law had been my delights, I should then have perished in my affliction.*

### **WILL NOT RETURN VOID**

Isaiah 55:11 *So shall My Word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

### **THE BIBLE IS THE MILK TO NOURISH**

I Peter 2:2 *As newborn babes, desire the sincere Milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.*

### **MEAT TO STRENGTHEN**

Hebrews 5:14 *But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

### **PERFECTS GOD'S LOVE**

I John 2:5 *Whoso keeps His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.*

### **FOOD TO SATISFY**

Jeremiah 15:16 *Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy Name, O LORD God of hosts.*

Job 23:12 *Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.*

### **POWER TO SAVE**

James 1:21 *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls.*

I Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which lives and abides for ever.*

### **SWORD TO DISCERN**

Hebrews 4:12 *For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **HELMET TO DEFEND**

Ephesians 6:17 *Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.*

### **FIRE TO INSPIRE**

Jeremiah 20:9 *Then I said, I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His Name. But His Word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.*

### **HAMMER TO BREAK**

Jeremiah 23:29 *Is not My Word like as a fire? says the LORD; and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?*

### **MIRROR TO REVEAL**

James 1:23 *For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass.*

### **LIGHT TO GUIDE**

Psalms 119:105 *Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet, and a Light unto my path.*

### **GOLD TO TREASURE**

Psalms 19:10 *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

### **GUIDE TO SUCCESS**

Joshua 1:8 *This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

I Kings 2:3 *Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper (do wisely).*

# PRAYING THE WORD FOR AREAS OF INFLUENCE

*Pray without ceasing [I Thessalonians 5:17]  
The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much [James 5:16]  
Seek from the Book of the LORD [Isaiah 34:16]*

## PRAYERS PROCLAIMING GOD'S POWER

*The Power that created the universe is available to His people to guide and answer prayers. We are to cease striving and be still and know that He is God [Psalms 46:10; Philippians 3:7-11]. We are to humbly submit to Him so we may know His guidance [James 3:13,17]. Heaven's wisdom and power [I Corinthians 1:18-31] is available to His children [John 1:12-13], His representatives on earth [Mark 13:33-34], to build and plant His Word [Jeremiah 31:27-34] in prayer [James 5:7-10; Jeremiah 1:9-10].*

*There is power in agreement. When two or more are gathered in His Name, I AM is in their midst [Matthew 18:20]. When we gather in the Lord's Name, we gather as ambassadors of His nature, character, and authority. We gather as the Lord's earthly representatives to seek His council, so that we may proclaim His intentions in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. When we gather in the Lord's Name, we invite His Holy Spirit to guide us into prayers that are based on the perspective of His Word which He promises to answer [Jeremiah 51:12,15,19-22].*

*Praying in the Name of the Lord is proclaiming agreement with the Lord and one another. His Sovereign authority, character and attributes are solicited and instructions received for prayers that conform to His wisdom, knowledge and understanding [Proverbs 3:19-26; Jeremiah 1:6-9]. We gather together because we agree that our obedience to His guidance will bring forth His answer [1:12]. In thankful anticipation and faith we believe [John 7:38] that the Lord will respond to our active participation in the advancement of His Kingdom [James 5:16].*

*The following prayer samples illustrate the value of effectual prayers and reflect the power of praying within God's principles, conditions, and character. [Scripture references] are to confirm the source and content of the prayers. You are encouraged to look up the [Scriptures], refer to corresponding references, and invite the Holy Spirit to enlarge and deepen prayers appropriately so that many may be blessed. Actual names are to be inserted in the [parentheses] for righteous effectual fervent prayers.*

**Father God,** Triumphant Spirit of Christ, revive us according to Your Word [Psalms 119:25] which is a fire and hammer that breaks a rock in pieces [Jeremiah 23:29]. Energize our prayers through Your Living Word that is active and sharper than any two-edged sword [Hebrews 4:12]. Motivate our prayers by the riches of Christ's wisdom and knowledge [Colossians 2:2-3]. Encourage us, knit our hearts in love that we may triumph in Christ's fullness over every power and authority [Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 2:9-15].

**Father,** We ask You to fill us with the Spirit of Christ [Philippians 1:19]. We praise and thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit. We invite Your Spirit to teach us how to pray [Luke 12:12] so that we may go boldly to Your throne [Hebrews 4:16] and receive prayers from Your perspective, proclaim Your revealed Word into circumstances, then in faith and anticipation wait for the success of Your Word in the matter for which You bring it forth [James 1:5-12,17-18].

**Lord,** Your Word tells us that Your ways are not our ways [Isaiah 55:8] and that Your Word will not return without accomplishing Your intentions [55:11]. Give us assurance and confirmation [Daniel 9:12] so that we can understand how You would have us proclaim Your Holy Living Word.

**Father,** Put Your Word into our mouths, as Your appointed ambassadors, intercessors, emissaries over nations and kingdoms so that we may be Your builders and planters [Jeremiah 1:10]. Show us how You would have us make entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings on behalf of all men, kings, and all of those in authority so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity [I Timothy 2:1-2].

## PRAYERS FOR OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM

**Father**, May [judge/bailiff, etc.] allow you to be the Judge and Lawgiver. Your Word says that You are Lawgiver and King; that You will save us [Isaiah 33:22]. May [he/she] understand You, know that You exercise lovingkindness and justice and may You delight in [Jeremiah 9:23]. We pray that [Justice/Judge/bailiff, etc.] will be righteous and obedient to the morality of Your Commandments [Matthew 28:20; Exodus 20:1-17], endeavor to restore families [Psalms 127:3-5; Ephesians 5:22-23] and conduct [himself/herself] in holiness and godly sincerity.

**Father**, We pray that [Attorney General/Prosecutor/Recorder] will walk in Your house with a blameless heart [Psalms 101:2] and guard our State [127:1] with a commitment to You [I Samuel 7:3] and judge the poor in righteousness [Isaiah 11:4]. Lord, please grant [Safety official/ police/guard/dispatcher] Your counsel and strength through the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord [11:2] and protect them, preserve [his/her] life and bless [him/her] [Psalms 41:2].

## PRAYERS FOR OUR GOVERNMENT

### **Suggestions for General Prayers:**

**Father**, Enable us to select able men of truth who hate dishonest gain. Appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens [Exodus 18:21] then enable them to approve the things that are excellent in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ [Philippians 1:10].

**Father**, Your Word says righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people [Proverbs 14:34]. Please forgive us, and our leaders, for sinning against You. Give us humble hearts, changed hearts, that can be actively involved in healing our land [II Corinthians 7:14].

### **Suggestions for Specific Prayers:**

**Father**, May [President/Governor/Mayor] honor You [Proverbs 3:6], learn righteousness [Isaiah 26:9] and be courageous and responsible to confront threats to the moral fabric of our nation [35:4; Romans 13:11-14].

**Father**, Enable [Director of Energy/Health/Education, etc.] to trust in You with all of their heart and rely not upon their own understanding [Proverbs 3:5].

**Lord**, Protect and keep [President/Governor/Congressman/Councilman] and their families from evil [John 17:15]. Give [him/her] the fear of the Lord so that they may attend You in truth [I Samuel 12:24], know You as Lord [Philippians 2:10-11], and be people of prayer [Luke 22:46].

**Father God**, May [elected/appointed official] listen to what You have to say, have a compassionate heart for the poor, and be charitable [Proverbs 29:14] so that we may have peace [Psalms 85:8]. Lord, we put the heart of [name of elected/appointed official] into Your hands [Proverbs 21:1] and pray that they will hold fast to the Word of Life [Philippians 2:16]. May [he/she] encourage the work of Your people in Your house [Ezra 6:22].

## PRAYERS FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH

**Lord,** We pray that [spiritual leader] will be full of Your Spirit and Wisdom [Acts 6:3]. Sanctify [him/her] in Your Word of Truth [John 17:17]. Give [spiritual leader] Your words when they open their mouth so they will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel for which they are ambassadors in chains [Ephesians 6:20; Romans 1:5].

**Lord,** May [pastor/elder/deacon/deaconess/teacher/organist, etc.] lead us with a servant's humility in paths of righteousness for Your Name's sake [Proverbs 2:20] so that You may exalt [him/her/them] [Matthew 23:11-12]. May [same leader] make Your Name known through the revelation of Your Christlike character to the people of this [county/city/state/nation].

**Father,** May [religious leaders] be one in You, as an example of unity, without regard to ethnic differences or previous divisions, that they may join together to pray and seek Your face for our [municipality/county/state/nation, etc.]. May the world see that [they] represent the Lord, Whom You sent [John 1:21], and may they glorify You [II Chronicles 5:11-14]. Protect and enable our [spiritual leaders], Your stewards, to be above reproach [James 4:7-12], hospitable, lovers of what is good, sensible, just, devout, and exercise self-control [Titus 1:7-8].

**Lord,** We pray that [elders/deacons/choir directors, etc.] will hold fast the faithful Word in accordance with Your teachings, so that they may be able to both exhort sound doctrine and refute those in contradiction to The Way, The Truth and The Life [1:6; John 14:6]. Provide for [custodian/organist/secretary/etc.] so that [he/she] shall not want [Psalms 23:1]. Vindicate those who have been wrongly judged [26:1] so that all may reach forward to gain what lies ahead [Philippians 3:13].

**Lord,** We lift up [missionary/ministry/fellowship/etc.] and pray that everywhere their feet shall tread You will give it to them [Joshua 1:3], that they will be strong and courageous, and know that You are with them wherever they go [1:9].

**Lord,** May Your people love the habitation of Your house and see Your Glory dwell therein [Psalms 26:8]. Give us the desire to meditate in Your house, plant Your Word in good soil to bring forth a great harvest, learn to behold your beauty and sing praises to Your Name [27:4-6]. Father, may Your house of worship [denomination/church/etc.] once more be called Your house of prayer [Matthew 21:13] that CHRIST MAY BE ALL and IN ALL [Colossians 3:11].

## **IMITATING CHRIST IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Christ's Word is . . .** *A lamp to our feet, a light for our path [Psalms 119:105]; the entrance of His words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple [119:130].*

**His Word instructs us . . .** *Be still and know that I am God [46:10]; serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling [2:11]; he who has clean hands and a pure heart . . . Will receive blessings from the Lord [24:4-5].*

**Imitators of Christ . . .** *Know and speak His Word with assurance. His Word is like a fire and a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces [Jeremiah 29:30].*

**The Lord declared . . .** *My thoughts are not like your thoughts, neither are My ways your ways [Isaiah 55:10]; My Word goes out from My mouth and will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire [55:11].*

**The Word teaches . . .** *The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword . . . Able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart [Hebrews 4:12].*

**We are told to . . .** *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee. . . . Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded. . . . Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you [James 4:7-10].*

**We are to . . .** *Confess your sins to each other, and pray for each other, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much [5:16].*

**Christ proclaimed that He is . . .** *The Way, The Truth, and The Life [John 14:16]. Our prayers are to reflect His Way, His Truth, and His Life.*

**Christ prayed for His disciples . . .** *Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them. . . . Sanctify them through Your truth; Your word is truth [17:7-8,17].*

**The Lord asked our Righteous Father to . . .** *Give us another Counselor who would be with us forever . . . The Spirit of Truth [14:16-17]; to teach us all things, to remind us of the words that the Lord has taught [14:25].*

**Christ resisted the devil . . .** *During His wilderness temptations Jesus paraphrased the Eternal Word when He told the Devil: It is written [Matthew 4:4].*

**We ask Christ to guide our prayers . . .** *Remembering that the Lord is our Shepherd; we shall not want. . . . He leads us in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake [Psalms 23:1-3].*

**We are informed that . . .** *Whatever ye ask the Father in My Name (character), He will give you [John 16:23].*

**We are promised . . .** *You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind (both its inclination and its character) is stayed upon You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You, and hopes confidently in You [Isaiah 26:3].*

**We are challenged to . . .** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes [Ephesians 6:10]. Take up the shield of faith, with which to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God [6:16].*

**We are advised . . .** *Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms [6:12].*

**We are alerted . . .** *Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace [6:13-15].*

**We are prompted . . .** *Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead [James 2:17].*

**We are assured . . .** *Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God [Matthew 4:4].*



**The Lord instructed . . .** His house is to be called a house of prayer for all nations [Isaiah 56:7].

**We are exhorted to . . .** Pray for spiritual leaders so that whenever they open their mouths, words may be given so that they will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which they are ambassadors in chains [Ephesians 6:20].

**We are commissioned . . .** Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints [10:18].

**We are admonished . . .** First of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness [I Timothy 2:10].

**We learn that . . .** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth [2:3].

**We are invited to . . .** Trust in the Lord -- commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him -- forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting rock . . . The Rock of ages [Isaiah 26:4].

**We are reminded to . . .** Lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing [I Timothy 2:8].

**As imitators of Christ . . .** We know, speak and pray His Word with assurance that His Triumph on the Cross, and ask our Father to teach us to pray His Living Word for others [and circumstances], will prevail over the enemy!

**As imitators of Christ . . . We pray as the Lord Prayed:**

**Father,** Forgive [example: John or Margaret], for they know not what they do.

**Father,** Sanctify [example: Tom or Jane] by Your truth; Your word is truth.

**Father,** Give [example: Adam or Evelyn] Your abundant grace and gift of righteousness.

**Father,** May [example: Jim or Pat] trust in the Lord with all their heart and lean not upon their own understanding.

**Pray for another person using Paul's letter that imitates Christ's heart in prayer:**

**Dear Lord,** Thank You for \_\_\_\_\_, for You Who have begun a good work in \_\_\_\_\_ will continue developing it. \_\_\_\_\_ is very dear to me [the Word prayed can convict us when our heart is in the wrong place. Can we tell the Lord something that is not true, yet should be?]. I share Your grace with \_\_\_\_\_ [we need to remind ourselves that we share His grace].

**Father,** I long with the deep love and affection of Christ for \_\_\_\_\_'s spiritual companionship [change my heart]. I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ may have still more love -- a love full of knowledge and every wise insight, and Lord, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will recognize the highest and best and live a sincere and blameless life until Christ comes.

**Father,** May \_\_\_\_\_'s life be full of goodness, produced by the power of the Holy Spirit. Please empower \_\_\_\_\_ to be a credit and a joy to Your praise and glory. May \_\_\_\_\_'s bondage/s [and mine] be changed in order that \_\_\_\_\_ [and I] will glorify You. May \_\_\_\_\_'s circumstances turn around so that \_\_\_\_\_ may become a personal witness of You, and that \_\_\_\_\_ will daily take fresh heart in Christ and have courage in the Word of God. [Excerpted from Philippians One]

**Our Lord prayed:** Holy Father, keep them in Your own care-- all those You have given Me -- so that they will be united just as we are, with none missing . . . Make them pure and holy through teaching them Your words of truth. . . And I consecrate Myself to meet their need for growth in truth and holiness [John 17:11,17-19].

For you have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God [Colossians 3:3]

**Bible Reading Marathon**

**BRM**

I will praise Thy Name for Thy truth;  
for Thou hast magnified thy Word  
above all Thy Name

[Psalms 138:2]

He that turns away his ear from hearing the Law,  
even his prayer shall be abomination

[Proverbs 28:9]

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:  
because thou hast rejected knowledge,  
I will also reject thee,  
that thou shalt be no priest to Me:  
seeing thou hast forgotten the Law of thy God,  
I will also forget thy children

[Hosea 4:6]

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,  
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof,  
for correction, for instruction in righteousness:  
That the man of God may be perfect,  
thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

[II Tim. 3:16-17]

Study to show thyself approved unto God,  
a workman that needs not to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the Word of Truth

[II Timothy 2:15]

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