

Hiding God’s Word in Your Heart to Pray Effectively

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” Psalms 119:9-11 NKJV

The Bible teaches us there are numerous expressions of prayer. Christians around the world desire to properly approach God, yearning to communicate with Him. The result is there are millions of people who pray, using a multitude of languages and dialects, but God responds to prayers spoken from His Word, no matter which dialect He hears.

When we pray, God asks us to remind Him of His Word—He delights in His Word. The Bible also tells us in Isaiah 55:11, *“It is the same with My Word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.” NLT* When we pray, God’s Word is “sent” through our confessions that agree with His Word. His spoken Word will “produce fruit,” which is to say it will *accomplish all that He wanted, prospering everywhere He sends it.*

Communication is at the very heart of any relationship, especially our relationship with God. For that reason, we want our prayers (communication) with Him to be effective. When we use His Word (Scripture) in prayer, He hears us. But just as important, we must understand His response so that we can obey Him correctly—this is absolutely vital. This means that we use God’s Word when we speak to Him, and He uses His Word to speak to us.

For instance, if I only spoke the Greek language and you were not fluent in Greek, it would be difficult for you to know my true intentions. There would be a lot of hit-and-miss in our communications and a lot of misunderstandings. It is the same if you are not fluent in His Word. There is a good chance you will obey Him incorrectly by leaning to your own understanding rather than according to His Scriptural precepts. This is why many people become frustrated in knowing God—they don’t know or understand His language—*His language is His Word in Scripture.*

Considering how important prayer is, our goal is to be fluent in His language. In other words, the more we know His Word, the better we can communicate with Him, and the more effective our prayers will be. John 15:7 says it this way, *“But if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!” NLT*

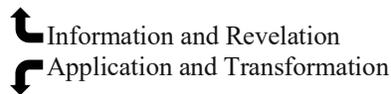
God gave every human being the ability to connect with Him through His Word. If you do not believe this, then carefully read and study Psalms 119. Every verse, all 176 of them, clearly tells us this truth. We were designed to operate with His Word infused in our lives—*for His purposes.* This is why it is so important to have God’s Word hidden in your heart. Proverbs 4:20-22 tells us, *“My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to My words. Don’t lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.” NLT*

God will always use His Word or a Scriptural principle to speak to you. God will never speak to you or prompt you outside of the confines of Scripture. This means that knowing His Word ensures your ability to properly discern God’s voice, enabling you to pray His will to bring about

an abundant harvest, as explained in John 15:5-7, *“I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with Me and I with you, the relation is intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from Me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with Me and My words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.”* John 15:5-7 *The Message Bible*

Summary: I have discovered that one of the top concerns for many Christians is to know when, in fact, God is speaking to them. How many times have you heard someone say, *“I wish I knew what God was saying to me?”* And just as important, the unspoken thought, *“I wonder if God will answer my prayer?”* Praying amiss is often the outcome when a Christian doesn't intimately know God's Word. Faith in answered prayer comes from hearing God's Word and having His Word hidden in your heart. Andrew Murray writes,

“What God's words are to me, is the test-of what He Himself is to me, and so of the uprightness of my desire after Him in prayer.”



Heavenly Father, You are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. You spoke the universe into existence with your Word. The universe is governed by Your Word, and You have given Your Word to keep me. I want to glorify You with effective prayer. So, LORD, I ask You to work the truths of Your Word into my life.

LORD, help me to prioritize my time so that I may put You first and have the desire and courage to choose to read Your Word, to study Your Word, to meditate on Your Word and thereby hide Your Word in my heart. I want to experience the Life You have reserved for me as I eat the Bread of Life, which is Your Word. Holy Spirit, thank You for illuminating Jesus' Word and writing it on my heart. Thank You that You have given me a firm foundation on which to build Your kingdom— *the Spirit-revealed knowledge of Jesus written upon my heart*.

LORD, I commit my time, talent and treasure to hiding Your Word in my heart. Thank You for the Bread of Life that sustains me both in my temporal needs now and in the spiritual, eternal realm. I praise You and ask these petitions in Jesus' precious name, Amen.

Continue to pray, knowing the change you experience may be subtle and accomplished from the inside out.

By David E. McFadden©2025

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