

IGNITING PRAYER'S PASSION & POWER IN US

GUIDE FOR INTRODUCTION



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HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

This is a companion workbook for *Igniting Prayer's Passion and Power In Us* by Walter M. Brown, Jr. Though the issues addressed in this workbook can be examined and used separately from the source text, maximum appreciation for and understanding of the presented topics require use of the text. (Footnotes reference the source text.) To better understand the principles presented in the above text, five categories are applied to each chapter as a guide. **Personal, Biblical, Application, Reflections, and Questions** will provide focus and a systematic approach.

PERSONAL

We have opinions and, our opinions are important. One of my seminary professors would always encourage us to view life through prisms of our own experiences, first. Though our viewpoints are by no means our only sources, how we feel – contrary to quite a few respected sources – is important. There is no shame in examining our personal feelings/understandings with regard to presented issues and concerns. We will, therefore, *first* consider how important issues affect us personally. Before we consult our bibliographies and as we read our bibles, we should take an honest look at our informed opinions [informed by virtue of our life experiences and training]. In short, we must use what my ancestors called our *first mind* – that which immediately comes to us as a result of our experience and knowledge.



BIBLICAL

For most Christians, the bible is our guide for faith and practice. Confusing to many, however, is the fact that the bible is subject to interpretation. People, faith traditions, and individual churches can read a single passage and glean different meanings. Therefore, open discussion and study of the bible are important, and for that reason are encouraged throughout this workbook. We must become intimate with the bible because, as asserted in the source text, the bible is alive! Just as we would interact with a friend, we must interact with the scriptures ... on a continuum. I wrestled with whether or not to include the actual biblical text – immediately after its reference – or in the back of the workbook. I decided against their inclusion because proclaimers ought to become familiar with their own bibles.

APPLICATION

Application requires the blending of *Personal* concerns and *Biblical* principles. In a great many instances, the success of the church's mission is directly related to its proper application of biblical principles, as those principles intersect our personal lives. This workbook will explore their blending with regard to prayer and proclamation. We have responsibilities, and those responsibilities become apparent and appreciated through application.



QUESTIONS

Addressing the issues raised in *Igniting Prayer's Passion and Power In Us* will undoubtedly provoke more questions than it will answer. Isn't this, however, the purpose of trying to understand life's complex problems? In fact, this companion workbook is a response to questions that were raised in the writing, presenting, and studying of the source text, *Igniting Prayer's Passion and Power In Us*.

REFLECTION

Reflection is an oft-forgotten process but an important anchor for growth and change. Time set aside to consider decisions made and truths uncovered will lead us to even better decisions and greater truths. Though reflection may begin after reading, praxis, asking or answering questions, or at the conclusion of prayer; it should continue throughout the day or week. The pondering of uncovered truths and biblical principles is akin to the slow simmering of a delectable sauce, and (I might add) just as tasty, though spiritually so. To assist the reader with each item of reflection, I have included biblical passages designed to assist in this important process.



Before we discuss the call to prayer, consider the following:

PRAYER IS “A BIBLICALLY REQUIRED FORM OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE BELIEVER AND GOD THAT CONNECTS ONE TO GOD IN UNIQUE AND UNUSUAL WAYS.”

What is your personal definition of prayer? (Here, rely on your personal experience and ready-knowledge of scripture, your “first mind”). There is a section later that requires your use of scripture.



CONSIDERING THESE PASSAGES, GIVE A BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF PRAYER?

2 Chronicles 7: 14; Psalm 105:3,4; Ecclesiastes 5: 2; Matthew 6:5; Luke 11 (The Lord's Prayer).



- ❖ How are these two definitions of prayer – yours and the bible's – similar?
- ❖ How are they different?



- ❖ For most people, their definition of prayer has formed over time.
- ❖ In most cases, their definitions changed or expanded as their relationship with Jesus changed and expanded.
- ❖ As best you can detail your changing/expanding definition of prayer. Be as specific as possible.



- ✦ Think about the people in your life who have helped to shape your understanding of prayer. (Luke 11:1)
- ✦ Consider your understanding of prayer as a believer and before your covenant relationship with Jesus. (James 5:16) (Proverbs 15:8) (John 9:31)
- ✦ Reflect on why prayer is important in your life. Consider how you can assist others in appreciating its importance. (Philippians 4:6)
- ✦ Compile a mental list of the times in which prayer changed your life. (Numbers 11:2) (2Kings 4:33, 34) (Luke 22:44)



The chart below is designed to show that there is an intersecting point of prayer with regard to proclamation; this chart is taken from the source text.

P
PROCLAMATION
A
Y
E
R

P
R
PROCLAMATION
Y
E
R

P
R
PROCLAMATION
Y
E
R

PROCLAMATION
R
A
Y
E
R

(The intersection between prayer and proclamation is different for each person)



- ❖ Considering the above chart, what is the best time for you to pray?
- ❖ Do prayer's requirements change as we grow spiritually? If they do, how so?
- ❖ Is prayer for proclamation (and all of its resulting concerns) different than prayer for personal issues? If so, why and how?
- ❖ What do you hope to accomplish in your study of prayer?



Notes

Notes:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.