

Mary Craig

From: Mary Craig**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 12:22 PM**Subject:** Mary Craig Ministries February 2011 email

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.
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When we're born again, saved, we enter a personal relationship with God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This relationship grows over the years and for its life depends upon the Word of God, communicating with God (prayer), and God's grace and faithfulness. It's a love relationship, and so, I think it appropriate this month to talk with you about growing your relationship with a holy God. Actually, it's what the Holy Spirit asked me to do.

I don't know when it is in a person's life when the truth about God's power hits home. For me it was during a time of squeezing pressure, a time when I felt like a rag doll with all the stuffing gone. The circumstances are unimportant for you; only the feeling of the moment. I think you can identify.

Anyway, it was at this time that I would end my gut-wrenching prayers to God with, "But You said..." As I did this in my frustration, I began to notice something. This thought kept coming back to me: God's Word doesn't return to Him void. There's power in the Word of God.

Okay. I knew the Bible speaks of the Word of God as living and active and sharper than any two-edged 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) I knew that the Word of God is truth (John 17.17). I had seen comparisons of the characteristics, ministry, and our responsibilities to the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ and to the Living Word of God as being the same. I knew that the Word of God is to guide us and that it is reliable, though subject to His will's timing.

I had also by this time grasped the power of Jesus when He spoke with authority. The winds and waves obeyed Him. The fig tree responded to His curse. Demons fled. People were healed with a Word. I wasn't one of those who spiritualized everything away, talking about the storms of one's life or giving some spiritual explanation to Jesus' activities. I got it.

So when the Holy Spirit began prompting me more and more to "pray the Word," I came to understand. He wanted, as I say today, God on God. He wanted His Words brought back to Him that He might fulfill them. But which ones for what?

At first I found a few prayer guides, prayers based on the Word of God. When I looked up the scripture references, however, I found that sometimes the verses were taken out of context or that important portions were left out. For example, in one prayer it had that Jesus would give us lands and families and such but left out "with persecutions." The prayers were all about prosperity without adversity; I knew better.

So I began to develop my own prayers using the Word of God. The process isn't too difficult once you get the hang of it. You have a situation. You do some research in the Bible pertaining to the situation. You might, say, declare out all the verses on peace, for example, back to God. You could work on turning those verses into a prayer. You might meditate on those verses and ask the Holy Spirit what they mean as you bring them before the Lord in prayer. And then you would ask the Holy Spirit to apply them in your life to your situation, remembering His

Lordship.

I have also found that an easy way to pray is to take a portion of Scripture, say Ephesians 4.17-32, read it out loud to God in some private place, and then ask the Holy Spirit to “make this so in my life”. Max it out to include the life of others you know, and the life of the elect around the world, especially those who are too weary and too burdened or under too much persecution to pray.

Many of the psalms are already in the first person and can be prayed back to God just as you find them. In this case you would “pray the psalm” instead of reading the psalm. The difference is in the attitude of the heart as the words are returned to God for Him to hear and answer.

Some people say to me that this is “vain repetition.” But the word “vain” has to do with something being empty of power. Something is “vain” when it has no real value, is worthless, or is without effect. That is not true of the Word of God. That’s why we are not to take the Name of God in vain, as having no real value or as being worthless, or as being without effect. Bringing God’s Word back to Him in prayer is never “vain.” Jesus’ Name is Word of God. (Revelation 19.13)

There was opposition to my praying like this at first; I remember that. I persevered and was encouraged as I saw God being faithful to His Word. I came to realize that God was moved more by His Word than by my tears or rants or whatever else I was doing to get His attention. After awhile the Holy Spirit began giving me strategies, orderly instructions for everything from breaking bondages to pulling down strongholds in people’s lives and for nations. I’ve been to 72 nations now doing strategic spiritual warfare, all by the grace of God.

I encourage you to pray God’s Word, bring it before Him for Him to perform and apply as He desires in your life and circumstances. Do this out loud. It’s not the only way to pray, as prayer is communicating with God, conversing; and there’s many ways to do that. God does, however, provide us with many prayers in His Word, and we can know that He will accept His Word brought to Him, especially when we leave it up to Him as to how He wants to apply it and as to what He wants to do with it.

On our web site, www.marycraig.org, there are sample prayers available to you free. You can learn from them. In the journey of my own prayer life before the Father, I have written four “prayer books.” These are available for purchase on our web site.

However you bring God’s Word back to Him in prayer, try to keep it “pure,” what I call bringing Him the “pure Word of God.” Don’t leave out part of a verse just because you don’t like it. Try to keep it in its context. Think about what you are praying in the process. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly and let Truth be in your inward parts.

It will renew your mind, strengthen your faith, nourish your spirit, and bring healing to your life. A Christ-centered life is a Word-centered life. Here are some scriptures to think about from my book, *The Weapons of Our Warfare*.

CHRIST: THE LIVING WORD A WEAPON OF OUR WARFARE

Christ – The Incarnate Word and The Bible – The Living Word – are identical. They are identical in essence, not in form. John 1.1, Revelation 19.13

- I. Their characteristics are identical.
 - A. Truth (Word – Ps 119.142; John 17.17)
(Christ- John 14.6)
 - B. Life (Word – John 6.63; Deut. 32.46, 47)
(Christ- John 14.6; 11.25)
 - C. Counselor (Word – Ps 119.24)
(Christ-Is. 9.6)
 - D. Eternal (Word – Matt 24.35, Is. 40.8)
(Christ-Hebrews 1.10, 11; 13.8; John 8.35)

- E. Lamp (Word – Ps 119.105)
(Christ-John 8.12; 2 Samuel 22.29)
- F. Shield (Word – Ps 91.4)
(Christ-Proverbs 30.5, Psalm 119.114)
- G. Precious (Word – 1 Sam 3.1, 2 Pet 1.4)
(Christ – 1 Pet 2.7)
- H. Pure (Word – Prov. 30.5)
(Christ – 1 John 3.3)

II. Their ministries are identical.

- A. To regenerate (Word – 1 Peter 1.23)
(Christ-John 1.12, 13)
- B. To free from sin (Word – John 5.31, 32)
(Christ-John 8.36)
- C. Sanctification (cleansing)
(Word – Jn 17.17, Ep 5.26, Jn 15.3)
(Christ-1 Cor 1.30, Matthew 8.2, 3)
- D. To discern thoughts and imaginations
(Word – Heb 4.12)
(Christ-Heb 4.13, 1 Chronicles 28.9)
- E. To indwell, abide or live within
(Word – Col. 3.16)
(Christ- Jn 15.3, 4)
- F. Creation of the universe
(Word – 2 Pet 3.5, Heb 11.3)
(Christ-John 1.3)
- G. Judgment in the last days
(Word – Jn 12.48, James 2.12)
(Christ-2 Cor. 5.10)
- H. Produces Righteousness
(Word – Is. 48.18)
(Christ-1 Cor. 1.30)
- I. Peace (Word – Is. 48.18)
(Christ-John 14.27, 16.33)
- J. Cause the disobedient to stumble
(Word – 1 Peter 2.8)
(Christ-1 Peter.2.4, 7, 8)
- K. Source of faith (Word – Romans 10.17)
(Christ-Heb 12.2, Lk 17.5)
- L. Give strength (Word – Zech. 8.9, Hag 2.4, 5)
(Christ-Phil. 4.13)

III. Our responsibilities to them are identical.

- A. To feed upon them
(Word-Josh 1.8, Heb. 6.5, Job 23.12)
(Christ-John 6.56,57; 1 Peter 2.3)
- B. To love (Word-Ps 119.97)
(Christ-John 14.21, 21.15-17)
- C. To obey (Word-1 Sam 15.22,23)
(Christ-14.21, 15.10; Acts 5.29)
- D. To preach (Word-Acts 4.29, 2 Tim 4.2)
(Christ-Acts 3.20, 8.4, 5)
- E. To meditate (Word-Josh 1.8, Ps 1.2)
(Christ-Ps 104.34, Ps 63.6)
- F. To glorify (Word-Acts 13.48, 2 Thess. 3.1)

(Christ-Acts 20.21, 2 Thess. 1.10, 12)
G. To allow them to indwell and abide within
(Word-Col 3.16, 1 John 2.24)
(Christ-John 15.4, Gal 2.20, Eph. 3.17)

(Craig, Mary J., DPM. *The Weapons of Our Warfare*. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., 2007)

Happy Valentine's Day!

To You

With much love