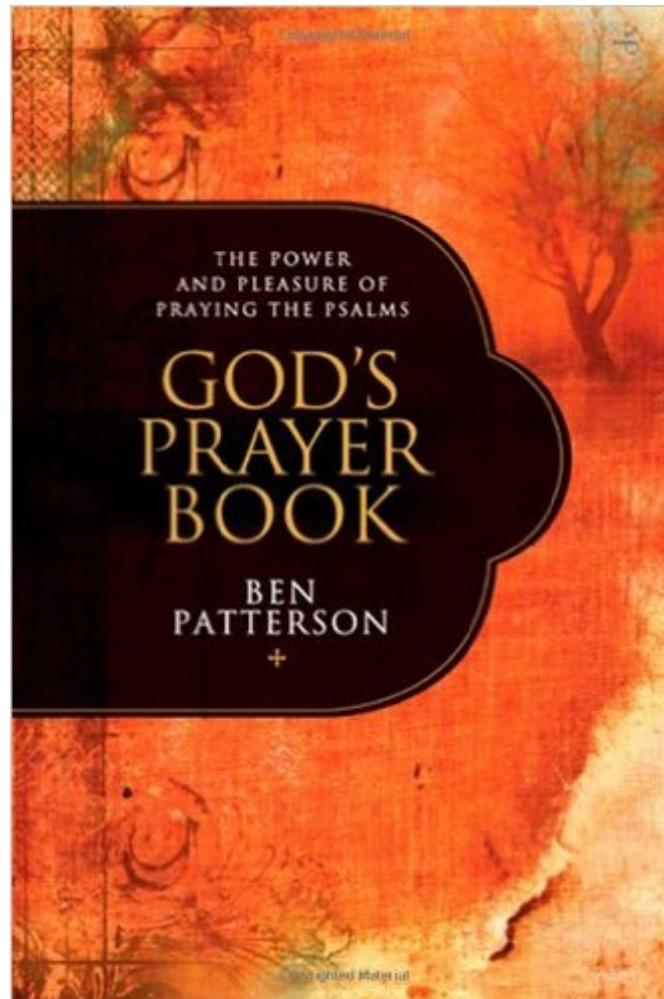


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# God's Prayer Book: The Power And Pleasure Of Praying The Psalms



## Synopsis

There is no better place in all of Scripture than the Psalms to learn to be with God and see with the eyes of faith the face of the One who longs to form us fully in his image. The psalms often stretch and perplex as they teach, but they open a divine window on prayer. How could it be otherwise? The Psalms are God's prayer book, and they teach us to talk to God in his own language. Features meditations for more than 75 psalms, arranged in numerical order, Scripture and topical indexes. Each devotional includes the complete text of the Psalm(s) from the New Living Translation, a devotional window • (brief meditative thoughts and/or background on the Psalm), a prayer route (one or more key phrases or verses from the Psalm, followed by suggested ways to use the Psalm in prayer).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

God's Prayer Book, subtitled The Power and Pleasure of Praying the Psalms, is written by a man I believe has sought God to teach him how to pray. On page 7, the author states, "To be taught by the Bible to pray is to learn to want and feel what the Bible expresses - to say what it means and mean what it says." (p. 7) Ben Patterson currently serves as the campus pastor at Westmont College, and his book on praying the Psalms is really a powerful testimony of what God can do in our lives when we ask Him to teach us. Again, quoting the author on page 10, "So learning to pray is learning to ask for the things that God wants to give." God's Prayer Book is not a book of rote prayer, but instead it is more of a guidebook of ideas. (a textbook, not a workbook) There are texts

of 62 complete Psalms in the book, and each Psalm is followed by a brief aide and encouragement to pray as well as a suggested way to pray and apply that particular Psalm. The author suggests the lens of prayer to be tri-fold, one of Rejoicing, Repentance and Request. He also states that, "Prayer is not escape; it is engagement." (p. 24) To pray is to engage in spiritual warfare against the enemy that seeks to destroy the souls of men. That concept alone should change the way each of us approaches our prayer life! I have decided that this is a book to be savored. I have not read every single chapter at this point, but I intend to do so in a slow, methodical manner. I want to become a powerful prayer warrior. I want to seek God's heart and His will for my life - especially my prayer life. God's Prayer Book is one I can recommend for those who want to strengthen their faith and draw into closer fellowship with Christ. I know I have been personally challenged already and I'm not finished with the book yet!

I once read that Billy Graham prays five psalms a day (completing all 150 in a month). The more I consider that practice, the more I am convinced that such spiritual discipline is much needed in our fast-paced lives. We too often lack time for prayer and Bible reading. Most people admit that they would like to pray more. But how to start? How to continue? What to say? We fail to realize that we have a divine prayer book available to us! Open up the Psalms and you will discover some of the most powerful prayers ever written - powerful because they were inspired by the Holy Spirit himself. If you are looking for a resource to help you understand how to pray the psalms, then I encourage you to pick up God's Prayer Book: The Power and Pleasure of Praying the Psalms by pastor Ben Patterson. God's Prayer Book leads you through a selection of psalms, illuminating ways in which you can make these ancient prayers the cry of your own heart. This is not a book of prayers inspired by the psalms. It is a book that puts the actual psalms in the spotlight. Patterson says just enough to stir our hearts to pray. He is a guide. He does not do the praying for you. Neither should you expect a scholarly commentary on the psalms (though I admit I will consult this book whenever I preach through the psalms). God's Prayer Book is the best kind of devotional - one that shines light on the psalms and offers some specific prayer points to get you started, without weighing you down with too many details. The best part of Patterson's work is his focus on spiritual formation. Patterson believes that praying the psalms changes our desires: "Prayer is more than a tool for self-expression, a means to get God to give us what we want."

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