

Experiencing the Depths of Prayer

Chapter 2: Launching Out

{as told by Jeanne Guyon, edited by Bob Clarkson}

I would like to address you as though you were a beginner in Christ, one seeking to know Him. In so doing, let me suggest two ways for you to come to the Lord. I will call the first way "**praying the Scripture**." The second way I will call "**beholding the Lord**" or "**waiting in His presence**."

"**Praying the Scripture**" is a unique way of dealing with the Scripture; it involves both reading and prayer. Here is how you should begin. Turn to the Scripture; choose some passage that is simple and fairly practical. Next, come to the Lord. Come quietly and humbly. There, before Him, read a small portion of the passage of Scripture you have opened to. Be careful as you read. Take in fully, gently and carefully what you are reading. **Taste** it and **digest** it as you read.

In the past it may have been your habit, while reading, to move very quickly from one verse of Scripture to another until you had read the whole passage. Perhaps you were seeking to find the main point of the passage. But in coming to the Lord by means of "praying the Scripture," you **do not read quickly**. You read very slowly. You do not move from one passage to another until you have sensed the very heart of what you have read. You may then want to **take that portion of Scripture** that has **touched you** and **turn it immediately into prayer**.

After you have sensed something from the passage and after you know that the essence of that portion has been extracted and all the deeper sense of it is gone, then, very slowly, gently, and in a calm manner begin to read the next portion of the passage. You will be surprised that when your time with the Lord has ended, you will have read very little, probably no more than half a page.