[**The Leverage of Prayer**](http://info.truthforlife.org/email/v1/click?v=3&e=f18dQhb0S66X2dYTs8N12dMP0843Y9W5pjgkQ7J3d6DW3QtplZ7D8Bc.N1CfyM8lB0lzW1gwVqz8KRr4jW8.dD4377D5B0N5JzhcNC6rpZW4NStmX4pHYj7V.fF1N8Ng7kSN3kDP14CR260W1ZHWtT5kcj8YW2.qDW42JlMqyW2twnRt7JHvH3W6Q90L815.1tLW4RWJdV13f7B7W72NYFx1swGfvW7h3hJc2.Z340W9hhhbW2lL2fhW6k9Vz51SSDnzW1t2v3Q16DWsRW40n.DH7dyTK5W5SdlWP5gXHf3W7rjLND7G3kkJW831c8c8hHmRnW52T93r71XkjPN1nG9_98CmtVW3qqbkf8R7wRkW4vQfFD5CfkrcW2D52tV6XLVqXW20VTfC6ksQzDN305HZswjjysW6FT8NX7DSfS1W6XWhR18WZqS9W8K11Km7l7kxf102)

*As Philip ran up, he heard the Ethiopian reading from Yesha’yahu [Isaiah] the prophet “Do you understand what you’re reading?” he asked. “How can I,” he said, ‘unless someone explains it to me?” Ad he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him.*

 *---*[**Acts 8:30**](http://info.truthforlife.org/email/v1/click?v=3&e=f18dQhb0SmZb1VdT9lW81PWrl30WmmJW2KBfjW8ZkD0BW7sr01d2KBLjTW8TzfRK7KZQLHW55VMc91SPH.PW8ZF91X52Z0bMW1F7T4p8Zg3YmW4bH_qw2N33B5W3_t0gL32Gf2QW4dy9906Pkt_VW62_rT04MhPlCW5mKjF63l3GJ1M6QwnBKW6hPW8hz0Ys806yj3W70ml3s85Z_ptW5.sjr64K2TySW1Ml7Z.8kBL4cW3NQClV4ngVhqW3Cc_h46KDBsgVBKQQ_95by.HW32_R5l82T0nGW1XZr8w68pPgmW3DZj944HhMF4W4_lFw244pq3gW3cx_mb4cp7kyW1Y42gm1gcV.3W4b2m.55CMvfhW2wPPQs54SnNHW4c7dqK54G1QnW8XlKqq2MnV0ZW3vDNzH780jpmW8FChrP8MyvFVdGxfx.04) **[CJB]**

*Philip obeyed without and hesitation the monitions of the Spirit, and ran to him. It is well to follow the first suggestions of the Spirit; to yield to the clear indications of duty and to perform it at once. Especially in conversing with others on the subject of religion our first thoughts are commonly safest and best. If we do not follow the, the calculations of avarice, or fear, or some worldly prudence, are very apt to come in. We become alarmed; and we suppose that our conversation and admonitions will be unacceptable. We may learn from this case, [1] to do our duty at once, with hesitation or debate. [2] We shall often be disappointed in regard to subjects of this kind. We should find candid, humble, Christian conversation far more acceptable to strangers, to the rich, and to the great, than we commonly suppose.*

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We would be more able teachers, and not so easily carried away by every wind of doctrine, if we sought to have a more intelligent understanding of the Word of God. As the Holy Spirit, the Author of the Scriptures, is the only one who can enlighten us rightly to understand them, we should constantly ask His help to lead us into truth. When the prophet Daniel was called upon to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream, what did he do? He set himself to earnest prayer that God would open up the vision.

The Apostle John, in his vision at Patmos, saw a book sealed with seven seals that none was found worthy to open or so much as to look upon. The book was afterward opened by the Lion of the tribe of Judah, who had prevailed to open it; but it is written first, "I wept much." The tears of John, which were his liquid prayers, were, so far as he was concerned, the sacred keys by which the folded book was opened.

Therefore, if, for your own and others' profiting, you desire to be "filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,"1 remember that prayer is your best means of study.

Like Daniel, you shall understand the dream and its interpretation when you have sought it from God; and like John you shall see the seven seals of precious truth unloosed after you have wept much.

Stones are not broken except by a constant, diligent use of the hammer; and the stone-breaker must go down on his knees. Use the hammer of diligence, and let the knee of prayer be exercised, and there is not a stony doctrine in revelation that is useful for you to understand that will not fly into shivers under the exercise of prayer and faith. You may force your way through anything with the leverage of prayer. Thoughts and reasoning are like the steel wedges that give a hold upon truth; but prayer is the lever that pries open the iron chest of sacred mystery, that we may get the treasure hidden inside.

1 Colossians 1:9