



THE  
HEART  
OF  
GOD

*Praying the Scriptures  
to Expand Your Vision*

KENNETH BOA

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# CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
The First Month .....	3
The Second Month .....	103
The Third Month .....	203
One-Week Prayer Guide .....	309
Perspectives on Prayer .....	369





# INTRODUCTION

People who follow Christ desire to know the heart of God through Scripture and prayer, but many are frustrated with their Bible reading and dissatisfied with their prayer lives. *The Heart of God* is designed to help you overcome these obstacles by enriching the quality of your time with the Lord. Combining Scripture reading and prayer, you will enhance your devotional life and move toward genuine understanding and wisdom.

Over the centuries, people have tended to two extremes in prayer: excessive form (repetition to the point of losing meaning) and excessive freedom (praying whatever comes to mind). *The Heart of God* encourages a combination of form and freedom. It modifies biblical passages into personal prayers and guides you through several kinds of prayer. But within this structure, it also stresses flexibility, personalization, and spontaneous response.

*The Heart of God* is simple to use, and it gives you the advantage of praying Scripture back to God. Because it is

Scripture, you can be confident that these are things the Lord would want you to pray. This promotes the process of cleansing and transforming you into a new person “by changing the way you think” (Romans 12:2).

By using this daily guide to prayer and renewal, you will achieve greater skill in the art of prayer. You will be better equipped to worship the Lord in spirit and truth (John 4:24), and you will be better prepared to love him by serving others (Matthew 22:37–40; Ephesians 2:10).

Each day consists of these forms of prayer:

- Praise and Worship: Focusing on the heart of God
- Personal Examination: Focusing on my own heart
- Commitment: Devoting myself to God
- Personal Concerns: Cultivating a sensitive heart
- Concerns for Others: Developing a heart for others
- Prayer of Thanksgiving: Assuming an attitude of humility and grace
- Concluding Prayer: Experiencing God’s love and favor

Be sure to use the prayer prompts that follow the prayers and affirmations so that you do not merely read the prayers. Instead, personalize them so that they can become part of your own thoughts and experience and expand your vision for your own needs and the needs of the world.



THE  
FIRST  
MONTH

# DAY 1

## PRAISE AND WORSHIP

I have been chosen to know you, believe in you, and understand that you alone are God. There is no other God; there never has been and never will be. (Isaiah 43:10)

This is what the LORD, Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty, says: "I am the First and the Last; there is no other God." (Isaiah 44:6)

*Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.*

## PERSONAL EXAMINATION

What are mere mortals, that you should make so much of us? For you examine us every morning and test us every moment. (Job 7:17–18)

*Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank him for his forgiveness.*

## COMMITMENT

He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less. (John 3:30)

You are the true vine, and your Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch that doesn't produce fruit, and



he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. May I remain in you, and you in me. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and I cannot be fruitful apart from you. (John 15:1–2, 4)

*Pause to add your own prayers for commitment and renewal.*

## PERSONAL CONCERNS

May I fight a good fight, finish the race, and remain faithful. And may the prize await me—the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his glorious return. (2 Timothy 4:7–8)

*Love and Compassion*

*Pause to ask for the grace of greater love and compassion for others. Pray that you will become a more Christlike person who considers the needs of others above your own, knowing that God is your provider and sustainer.*

## CONCERNS FOR OTHERS

I pray that you will give me the right words as I boldly explain your secret plan. (Ephesians 6:19)

*Christian Witness*

*Pray on behalf of the people you personally know who have not yet entered into the joy of a personal relationship*