

## **Asking God to Work in Our Hearts As We Pray over His Word**

(from John Piper, When I Don't Desire God, pp.150-151)

"To fight for joy, every day we must not just go to the Word, but pray over the Word.

"Almost every day I pray early in the morning that God would give me desires for him and his Word, because the desires I ought to have are absent or weak ... Here's the way I pray over the Word in my fight for joy:

### **I — Incline!**

Psalm 119:36 — "Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain."

We ask God to take our hearts, which are more inclined to breakfast and the newspaper, and change that inclination. We are asking God to create desires that are not there.

### **O — Open!**

Psalm 119:18 — "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

So many times we read the Bible and see nothing wonderful. Its reading does not produce joy. So what can we do? Cry to God — "Open my eyes!"

### **U — Unite!**

My heart is badly fragmented. Parts of it are inclined, and parts of it are not. What I long for is a united heart where all the parts say a joyful *Yes!* to what God reveals in His Word. This comes from God, by praying —

Psalm 86:11 — "Unite my heart to fear your name."

### **S — Satisfy!**

Psalm 90:14 — "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."

What I really want from this engagement with the Word of God and the work of His Spirit for my heart to be satisfied with God and not with the world. Where does that satisfaction come from? It comes from God.

