

## Personalizing Scripture

Theresa of Avila once said, "Prayer is nothing more than an intimate conversation between friends." God has begun a conversation with us in scripture. In prayer, we can participate in that conversation and continue it. Personalizing scripture can lead us into a new depth of conversation with God. Personalize scripture by adding your name to the passage as you read it.

How to personalize scripture:

1. Select a scripture from the list below or another scripture you have chosen.
2. Prayerfully take the first line or phrase of the passage and insert your own name, as if it were addressed to you.
3. Meditate on the words as you read it. What is your response to the reading?
4. Return to the scripture text. Take the next line or phrase as if it were spoken to you. Respond again. Repeat. You may want to write down your responses; your replies to the personalized scripture from God.
5. Be aware that God may lead you on from what has been spoken to you in scripture. Respond to that leading and allow the conversation to flow naturally.

Scriptures to personalize:

Isaiah 55:1-3 Thirsty for more?

Isaiah 43:1-4 Do not fear

Jeremiah 1:4-8 God knows you

Jeremiah 18:1-6 The potter and the clay

Isaiah 43:15-19 A new thing

Isaiah 59:1-2 Sin is a barrier

Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous

1 Corinthians 10:13 Endurance in temptation

James 1:2-4 Testing leads to maturity

Or choose others!

## Try it!

Read Isaiah 43:1-2 as a basis for a conversation with God. Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to guide this time of meditation and prayer. Read silently or write the verse out, inserting your name. Hear it spoken to you in a personal way by God.

Vs. 1-But now, says the Lord--  
the one who created you, \_\_\_\_\_,  
the one who formed you, \_\_\_\_\_:  
Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

Vs. 2-When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you, \_\_\_\_\_.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.

Read the first verse. As these words sink in, what is God saying to you? Listen deeply to that message. Think or write your response to God as honestly as possible. It may be positive or negative, trusting or doubting. God wants you to be read.

Return to the next words in verse 2, again writing them personally to you. Repeat the process of hearing what God says to you in these scriptures and responding in thought or in writing to God, honestly. Allow the conversation to continue if that seems appropriate, depending on God's spirit to guide you.