

Prayers of the Righteous

Spirit Led Prayer

February 3rd, 2021
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The Vine Christian Ministries

If you are a born-again believer prayer should be as natural to you spiritually as breathing is to you physically.

Is 56:7 - We are the House of Prayer (covenant community for all nations who came to a living faith)

- OT God's House building/temple
- NT we are the temple, the place where God dwells – **1Cor 3:16**

1. The House of Prayer isn't a church building or sanctuary; you are the House of Prayer.

- Stop trying to manifest elegant, super sounding spiritual phrases from our head and start expressing our heart.
- Prayer spoken from the heart will produce greater results than the grandest of prayers designed by the mind of man.

James 5:17 "The effective fervent prayer of the righteous..."

- Effective prayers – praying to get results
- Fervent – heartfelt coming from the heart vs head felt prayers
- Many put more effort into developing their intellect over their spirit
- Learn to distinguish our hearts from our head by spending more time in the Word – **Heb 4:12**
- Meditating in the Word cultivates our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit- You are a spirit; God is a Spirit and the way we contact Him is spirit to Spirit.

2. Learn How to Flow with the Holy Spirit

If you are accustomed to praying a certain way or following a rigid prescribed formula it will hinder you from praying from your heart. E.g P&W, forgiveness, gratitude etc..

- Praying a certain way one time and getting results is no guarantee you will always get results praying that way. E.g. Husband expressing heartfelt love.
- We learn to pray not by memorizing formulas or following an outline but following the promptings of the Holy Spirit as he teaches and guides. **John 16:13**
- The Holy Spirit has been given to teach us how to follow him. **John 14:25**
- Before I begin to pray, I check my heart (I look w/in) because that's where He dwells and see how God is leading me to pray. These promptings are to lead you in the right direction (cue cards) and most times will bypass your mental intellect and understanding.
- The more time you spend reading and meditating in the Word it will be easier to discern the difference between your mind and heart.
- You will experience greater manifestations of God's power in your prayer time when you yield to the Spirit vs following formulas and prayer lists.
- Joy is removed and replaced with drudgery, regimented, powerless prayers when we lose sight of our relationship to Him.

Praying by the unction of the Holy Spirit is the biblical way to pray – **1John 2:20**

- We have an anointing from the Holy One so we can know the truth (spiritual insight)
- He guards and illuminates our minds and guards us from error (protects us from being flakey)
- Praying in the Spirit is not limited to praying in other tongues but to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit and pray as He directs.

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- Be sensitive to how He directs, **E.g tongues, worship, bind & loose, supplication**
- To pray in the Spirit, you must flow with Him – Not enough to just know a form of prayer you need to know the power of prayer.

3. The Faith Connection

It takes faith to believe and trust the help of the Holy Spirit to direct our prayers. If you desire to flow in the Spirit you have to develop faith in that area, just like you develop your faith for healing, finances etc.

- If I reach out to God, He'll reach out to me, If I talk to God, I believe he'll talk to me, and if I seek Him, then I will find Him.
- Faith is not an option when it comes to Spirit led prayer
 - **Hebrews 11:6** "he who comes to God must **first** believe that God is..."
 - **James 4:8** "Draw near to God... (come close)"
 - **Jeremiah 33:3** "Call unto me and I will answer and show you... (things which are hidden, fenced in, mysterious, remarkable secrets, things you don't know or understand.)"

4. Gifts of Tongue – 1Corinthians 14:2 "He who speaks in a tongue does not speak to me...."

Praying in tongues is a precious and powerful tool God has given us to assist us and cause use to be more effective and productive in our prayer life. Yet many operate under a falsehood or disbelief about this wonderful gift we have been given.

- Tongues no longer necessary in our day, it's passed away
- Some believe the validity of tongues as valid scripturally but think its for the privileged few
- Ignorant to what the Word says
- Don't believe – simply made up gibberish/foolishness
- Baptism of the Holy Ghost given on the day of Pentecost – initial evidence of the baptism
- Language unknown to the speaker yet given to the person by the supernatural power of God
- Other times it's an unknown heavenly language; **Acts 2:1-11, 8:14-17, 10:44-46, 19:1-6**
- The baptism of the Holy Ghost is available to every believer and is yours for the asking
 - **Luke 11:12** "...how much more will He give the Holy Ghost to those who ask"

5. Understanding the Purpose of Tongues

- Public Ministry – edifies the hearers when there is an interpretation **1Corinthians 14:18**
- Personal devotional life – edifies himself, speaks mysteries **v:2-4**

Be careful that you don't grieve the Holy Spirit by mindlessly turning your mouth on autopilot. For tongues to be a genuine form of communication our hearts/minds must be hooked up to Him.

- I pray and sing with the spirit and I also pray and sing with understanding
- My worship can be enhanced and extended (when you reach the limits of your understanding, yet your heart yearns to say more) **v:15-17**
- ▢ Tongues are invaluable when you are praying about specific people or situations and you're not sure exactly what to pray. **E.g. A new job, moving to a new city, dating**

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- Our weakness/infirmities: mental ignorance, inability to produce results “we don’t know what we should pray for as we should) **Romans 8:26**
- You have desires in your heart yet are not able to articulate w/natural words, the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and helps us express those desires w/spiritual language. It is the perfect prayer with no personal agendas or selfishness attached.

“The Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness. For example, at times we don’t even know how to pray, or know the best things to ask for. But the Holy Spirit rises up within us to super-intercede on our behalf....” TPT

- We cannot pray our way to victory by our own means and strength
- Stop trying to figure out and work it out in your own mind – pray in your heavenly language and believe God will answer, lead, guide and direct you in the way that you should go.