

Developing Your Personal Prayer Life

One of the greatest benefits we have available to us as believers is *our personal, private prayer life*. Each believer needs to develop their prayer life to help them in their spiritual growth, development, edification and refreshing. Prayer is usually the one area that most believers never take the time to develop. It requires spending time daily in prayer and fellowshiping with the Lord. Normally, a person may pray daily a little bit, but not enough for them to get over into the Spirit to hear and receive direction from the Lord concerning their life and what He desires for them to do *for Him*.

I know that in my life, when I first received Jesus as my Lord and Savior, it was vitally important for me to find out what God wanted me to do in life. I noticed that when I put time into fasting and praying, I'd begin to sense and know in my heart that God had called me to preach. But when I'd get caught up in carnal activities, such as putting my job first, running errands, going to

church, and other things, my prayer life began to suffer. This was due to the fact that I wasn't putting enough time into prayer. Not only did this cause me to waver and wonder if I was even called of God or not, but I seemed to have more confidence in and place more value on what other people believed that God wanted me to do than in following what I had in my spirit.

When we get behind in prayer, it's very difficult for us to hear from the Lord. Things of the world suddenly begin to creep in and play more of an important role than our prayer life. It also becomes very difficult to overcome the flesh, walk in love, and keep our tongue under.

When we are no longer able to walk in love, overcome the flesh or keep our tongue under, we become carnally minded. Carnal Christians are those people who cause all of the trouble in the body of Christ. They sow discord and strife and have damaged, wrecked or hindered many people from stepping out to obey God.

You will find out that the Christian that you have the most difficulty with, who gossips about you and persecutes

you (whether they are a deacon, an elder, a pastor or lay person), is among those who have backslidden in prayer. They are not paying the prayer price that they should be paying. They'll never agree with or understand what you are doing for the Lord, so they judge things with their carnal mind. They'll do all they can to keep you from obeying God. We see some scriptural illustrations of this in the following scriptures:

1 Corinthians 1:10

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1 Corinthians, Chapter 2

¹And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

²For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

³And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

⁴And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

⁵That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

⁶Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

⁷But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

⁸Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

¹⁰But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

¹¹For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

¹³Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

¹⁴But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

¹⁶For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Maintaining our prayer life *by putting a lot of time praying in tongues every day* is the only way that we're ever going to know in our heart the perfect will of God for our lives. It will also build up our faith to the point where we can move mountains, walk consistently in the God-kind of love, overcome the dictates of the flesh and have the confidence to step out and obey what we have in our heart to do.

If you are saved and you're not filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, I want

to encourage you to wholeheartedly seek the Lord for the in-filling of the Holy Spirit.

Sooner or later, a believer is going to realize that if they're going to walk in total victory and get through all the tests and trials that come their way, they will have to develop their prayer life and maintain it by putting it first above everything else. This is the last thing that a person ever wants to do, but it is the most important thing the believer must do if he or she is going to walk in the Spirit.

*You will **never** fulfill the plan of God for your life with a shallow prayer life.* To fulfill God's perfect plan for your life, you will have to put a lot of time in, day and night, praying in tongues.

Once a believer receives the in-filling of the Holy Spirit and begins to speak in tongues, they can start to take advantage of the power that is available to them through praying in an unknown language (as well as their known language). Putting two to three hours a day into praying in other tongues will help you build up your faith, which will cause God to become bigger to you to the point where you will believe God to do greater things in your life and others' lives and walk in victory. You will, also, receive spiritual edification, rest and refreshing through spending time praying in tongues.

Another benefit of praying in tongues is that it eliminates fear, worry and confusion, while producing confidence and boldness and will enhance a believer's anointing. I know from experience, as well as from God's Word, that the more time I spend praying in tongues, my anointing to minister His Word is much greater, and I receive a holy boldness and courage to not compromise but to obey God by doing what ever He asks me to do. The direction I receive from the Lord is clearer the more time I spend praying in the Spirit.

Praying in tongues also helps me to see where I've missed God so that I can judge myself and make the correction. At our best, we make mistakes, and the Holy Spirit, through our prayer life, can reveal to us where we've missed it.

I want to encourage you to seek the Lord daily, putting Him first. Get to the place that you can pray one hour a day, as Jesus said in Matthew 26:40,41,

⁴⁰And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

⁴¹Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Then, stretch that into two and three hours a day. All the time that we are driving and running errands, we can be praying in the Holy Ghost. And, whatever God leads you to do, obey Him and when you don't know what else to do, just keep praying in the spirit.

Along with this month's newsletter, I've enclosed our scripture card, Romans 8:26-28. Carry it with you and read it frequently. It will build up your faith as well as remind you to keep praying in the spirit. God needs you to avail yourself to prayer so He can work out His perfect will in your life, as well as use you to build His kingdom, reaching others with the Word of faith.

If you want to receive the in-filling of the Holy Spirit, use the following scriptures when asking the Lord to fill you with the Spirit. Reading these scriptures will help you to step out in faith to receive the in-filling of the Holy Spirit in His fullness.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Luke 11:9-13

⁹And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

¹⁰For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

¹¹If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

¹²Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

¹³If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

John 14:16,17 & 26

¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

¹⁷Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

²⁶But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:7-14

⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

⁸And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

⁹Of sin, because they believe not on me;

¹⁰Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

¹¹Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

¹²I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

¹³Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

¹⁴He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:1-4

¹And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

⁴⁵And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

⁴⁷Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 19:1-6

¹And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

²He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

³And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

⁴Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

⁶And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

1 Corinthians 14:2,4,13-18

²For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

⁴He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

¹³Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

¹⁴For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

¹⁵What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

¹⁶Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

¹⁷For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

¹⁸I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Jude 20,21

²⁰But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

²¹Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

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