

## Prayer, the Holy Spirit, and Discernment

<sup>14</sup>For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup>The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: .....<sup>6</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup>And he that searcheth the hearts knouted what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. <sup>28</sup>And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. Romans 8:14-

16 & 26-28

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice evermore. <sup>17</sup>Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup>In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. <sup>19</sup>Quench not the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Despise not prophesyings. <sup>21</sup>Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from all appearance of evil.

<sup>23</sup>And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*. <sup>25</sup>Brethren, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-25

One of the most valuable assets or benefits that we will derive from a prayer life (daily praying in tongues), is that it will help us to be led by the spirit. When we pray in tongues, it enables us to get over into the spirit. Your mind has the voice of reason and logic. Your body has the voice of feelings. Your soulish man has the voice of emotions. There is a fine line between the soulish realm and the realm of the spirit that only the Word of God and the Holy Spirit can separate, as we read in Hebrews 4:12: **For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

Through praying in that spirit and getting over into the realm of the spirit, you will begin to have spiritual perception; you'll begin to know things in your spirit man that your head never knew. And your biggest battle in life is probably going to be with your flesh and your mind, because Satan is going to use everything he can to get you thrown off course. And, the only way I know that you can outmaneuver the devil is to pray and seek God until you get a Word from God about what to do, as the scriptures teach us in 1 Corinthians 2:7-8: **<sup>7</sup>But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: <sup>8</sup>Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

In these verses, we can see that Satan fell right into God's trap, and when we pray in the spirit, we are praying divine secrets (mysteries). We may not be aware of what we're praying about, but all we have to know is, *what ever we need to know, God will let us know*. Our walk with God and our prayer life is on a "need to know" basis. If God doesn't reveal to us what exactly what we are praying about when we are praying in tongues, at least we can have peace in our heart that we're praying God's perfect will.

We can see in the book of Acts, as well as in the epistle letters that the Holy Spirit led the early church, and we've already found out in previous lessons that they were a praying church. When God speaks to us, He speaks to our spirit man through an *inward witness*, through *perceiving* in our spirit, through a *knowing* in our spirit, through *Holy Ghost guidance* in our spirit or our hearts, as well our spirit being *grieved*. We are also able to perceive a sort of *alarm* that goes off in our spirit, as we read in Acts 16:6: **.....and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach.....** Acts 16:7 : **..... but the Spirit suffered them not.....** Acts 16:18: **.....But Paul, being grieved.....** Acts 11:12: **And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting.....** Acts 10:19: **.....the Spirit said.....**

Mark 2:8 **And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?**

Mark 12:15 **But when Jesus knew *it*, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;**

It's amazing how we can know things in our spirit man that our heads have no other way of knowing. This is the Holy Spirit speaking to our heart, and I think that is one of the blessed gifts that God gave the church. We need to train our spirits to be led by the Holy Spirit. Have you ever heard somebody use the term, "*walking in the spirit*"? When I first heard statements like that, I wondered, "*What does that mean?*" It simply means, just obey what you have in your heart. You can teach on being led by the Holy Spirit forever --- but to encapsulate or bottom-line it, it just comes down to going with what you have in your heart, no matter what your head says. It's an ongoing learning process. But to me, it became a paramount issue in my life to be led by the Holy Spirit. Why? Well for several reasons

*~One reason is that it was the way Jesus lived.*

*~Another reason was because it sounded so supernatural, or spectacular.*

*~Another reason was that it took faith to do it, and I was very interested in faith, because without faith it is impossible to please God. And I figured, if the Holy Spirit could lead me, and if I always obey the prompting and leadings I got, I would always be at the right place, at the right time.*

*~Another reason was because I didn't want to be taken advantage of by people; I wanted spiritual discernment, where I could know in my heart if the person was telling me the truth and not.*

*~Finally, I wanted to hear God's voice for myself and that is what got me started seeking God.*

**If we are going to be people led by the Holy Spirit, then we have to be people that walk in the God-kind of love, we have to walk by faith and not by sight and we have to always and instantly obey the inward witness.**

Now, I'm going to share some scriptures with you that have been a great help to me. By my continually rereading them, it has helped me to stay zealous, and to stay in pursuit of hearing the voice of God. These verses help me to be able to discern the difference between what is of the spirit of God, and what is of the flesh. I want to encourage you to mark them in your Bible and read them, and Lord willing, maybe we'll get to teach more on them as time goes by.

John 4:24 **God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth**

John 14:16, 17, & 26 <sup>16</sup>**And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; <sup>17</sup>Even 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.**

<sup>26</sup>But 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 <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless 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. <sup>8</sup>And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup>Of sin, because they believe not on me; <sup>10</sup>Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; <sup>11</sup>Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup>I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>Howbeit 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. <sup>14</sup>He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

Romans 8:1-28 <sup>1</sup>*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: <sup>4</sup>That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. <sup>7</sup>Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. <sup>8</sup>So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

<sup>10</sup>And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. <sup>14</sup>For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup>The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

<sup>17</sup>And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. <sup>18</sup>For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup>For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, <sup>21</sup>Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. <sup>24</sup>For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope:

for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup>And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. <sup>28</sup>And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

1 Corinthians chapter 2 & 3:8 <sup>1</sup>And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup>For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: <sup>5</sup>That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Howbeit 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: <sup>7</sup>But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: <sup>8</sup>Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But 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. <sup>10</sup>But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup>For 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. <sup>12</sup>Now 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. <sup>13</sup>Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. <sup>14</sup>s24 But 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. <sup>15</sup>But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. <sup>16</sup>For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

<sup>3:1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able. <sup>3</sup>For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? <sup>4</sup>For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I *am* of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

<sup>5</sup>Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, *even* as the Lord gave to every man? <sup>6</sup>I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. <sup>7</sup>So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. <sup>8</sup>Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

The greatest blessings and rewards that we will receive in this life will be the result of doing the written Word of God and obeying the voice of God. Press into the spirit until you begin to get an inward witness and follow that prompting and step out in faith to do what God leads you to do. For the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God need your obedience to the voice of God.

I look forward to sharing with you tomorrow.

Brother Rich.

P.S. Remember, ***God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers*** (3 John 2).