

Day Twenty-Eight

*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit;
-Jude 1:20*

Praying in the Holy Spirit

To say that there is much confusion on the subject of the Holy Spirit would be an understatement. Notwithstanding, the Holy Spirit plays a vital role in our salvation and our daily living. Jesus gave us our orders of the Great Commission with these words: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* -Matthew 28:19-20. But, we don't often give enough time and study to the aid the Holy Spirit gives us in our lives. If there was ever a case of missing persons in our spiritual life, the Holy Spirit would certainly be a candidate.

While much controversy exists among believers about the miraculous manifestations, it is clear from a study of the Holy Spirit that His work in the first century, which consisted of confirming the Word of God through signs, wonders and tongues, is now finished because we have that which is perfect.

These things we know by the Word of God about the Holy Spirit that works in us today:

- We must be born of the Spirit in order to enter the Kingdom of God.

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. -John 3:5-6

- God gives us the Holy Spirit when we are baptized.

And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. -Acts 2:38

Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. -1 Thessalonians 4:8

And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. -1 John 3:24

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. -1 John 4:13

- The Holy Spirit will lead us as sons of God.

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" -Romans 8:15

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. -Galatians 4:6-7

- Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? -1 Corinthians 6:19*

Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? -1 Corinthians 3:16

- The Holy Spirit helps us: *In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. -Romans 8:26-27*

- We are built up in the Holy Spirit. *in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. -Ephesians 2:22*

- We must not quench or grieve the Holy Spirit. *Do not quench the Spirit; -1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. -Ephesians 4:30*

➤ We are renewed by the Holy Spirit.

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, - Titus 3:5-6

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. -1 Corinthians 6:11

If all these things are observed about the Holy Spirit within us, then His influence will guide us when we pray and lead us in our lives. Perhaps a clarifying part of the whole workings of the Holy Spirit might be identified in Paul's letter to the Ephesians when he tells us of the armor of God in the sixth chapter. He identifies the Holy Spirit thusly: *And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. -Ephesians 6:17* So, the Word of God is the Spirit of God. It was the Spirit of God that moved men to record the Word of God.

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. -2 Peter 1:20-21

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ. -1 Corinthians 2:11-16

We have invested much time in our study today looking at the work of the Holy Spirit. We find that the main workings of the Holy Spirit is found within the Word of God. For the Word of God is the Word of the Holy Spirit and the Word of Christ. The three are in perfect agreement. God's

Word testifies all things concerning God for our salvation. So we may conclude that to pray in the Spirit is certainly to pray as we are influenced by God's Word. For, if we want to know the mind of God we must search His Word.

God's will is made known to us through His Word. The more we read the more we can be led by the Holy Spirit. Yet, as Paul instructs, there are times when we don't know what to pray. It is then that the Holy Spirit, that knows our mind and the mind of God intercedes for us. *In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. -Romans 8:26-27*

We ought not think that we must have a special language to pray in the Holy Spirit. Neither should we think that if we do not speak in tongues that the Holy Spirit is not manifested completely in us. The Holy Spirit is alive in those that have obeyed the Gospel and do not grieve nor quench Him. The Holy Spirit lives in His Word and when we follow the Word of God we please the Holy Spirit.

Prayerful Thoughts: Holy Father, we pray with the Holy Spirit's guidance in the name of Jesus, asking to help us in all things to know You.

