

Equip  
Session 7

Provisions for  
Powerful  
Prayer

Updated: June, 2013

PROVISIONS FOR POWERFUL PRAYER

- \* In this session we will continue instruction on a deepening prayer life in our walk with the Lord
- \* Most everything will flow out of our prayer experience
- \* That is why we are spending a number of sessions on prayer

THE PATTERN PRAYER

- \* In Jesus' day a Master would gather disciples around himself – sort of like a traveling university
- \* The Master would provide an outline of the lesson, give his teaching, and then show through “hands-on experience” how to fill in the outline and work the teaching into their life style
- \* The disciples asked Jesus, “Teach us to pray;” Jesus replied, “when you pray, say . . . “ (not think, but say)
  - Then Jesus gave an outline on how to pray
  - We call it the Lord's Prayer, memorize it and make it a cornerstone of our Liturgy, but that's not what Jesus intended
  - The Lord's Prayer was really a pattern Jesus gave for us to follow
  - He was teaching, “Here's how you pray like I do!”

PROVISIONS FOR POWERFUL PRAYER

1. THE PATTERN PRAYER —Luke 11:1-4, Matthew 6:9-13

—The Disciples Request

—Jesus Response

Topics —Corresponds to the major areas in the present move of the Spirit.

1. Worship and Praise *“Our Father in Heaven  
Hallowed be Your Name”*  
  
Know God as He really is and honoring Him.
2. Kingdom Authority *“Your Kingdom come, Your will be  
done on earth as it is in heaven.”*  
  
Walk in the priorities and authority of the kingdom.
3. Provision *“Give us this day our daily bread”*  
  
Pray in that which we need.
4. Relationships *“Forgive us our debts, as we also  
have forgiven our debtors”*  
  
Keep our relationships clear
5. Victory over the enemy *“Do not lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one”*  
  
Confront the enemy day by day—and win!

Desire is essential for effective prayer, but so also

is a discipline (a pattern) which we can follow.

*And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things.  
Therefore I run not with uncertainty. I fight; not as one who beats the air.  
But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached  
to others. I myself should become disqualified.*

I Corinthians 9:25-27

## TOPICS

Larry Lea points out that the five topics Jesus highlights in His Prayer are the major areas which the Holy Spirit is restoring and renewing to the church today:

1. **Worship and Praise** – an understanding and experiencing of true worship
2. **Kingdom Authority** – an understanding of the Kingdom and how it works
3. **Provision** – He has promised to supply and He will do it
4. **Relationships** – Forgiveness is the secret of how to get along with everybody all the time
  - He wants us to have our relationships right
  - we don't have to be out of sorts or at cross-purposes with others
  - this is a day when walls are coming down so that we can walk together in unity and love
5. **Victory** – This is the day of intense Spiritual Warfare: coming against the forces of darkness, tearing down strongholds, and casting out demons
  - the conflict is intensifying but God's people are learning how to confront the enemy and win

THE WHOLE SPIRIT-FILLED WALK  
IS COMPRESSED INTO THESE FIVE MAJOR AREAS

One after another during the past sixty years these areas have been renewed to the church and here they are, right in the midst of Jesus' Pattern Prayer

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—The Disciples Request

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <u>Worship and Praise</u>                         | <i>“Our Father in Heaven<br/>Hallowed be Your Name”</i>                           |
| Know God as He really is and honoring Him.           |   |
| 2. <u>Kingdom Authority</u>                          | <i>“Your Kingdom come, Your will be<br/>done on earth as it is in heaven.”</i>    |
| Walk in the priorities and authority of the kingdom. |   |
| 3. <u>Provision</u>                                  | <i>“Give us this day our daily bread”</i>   |
| Pray in that which we need.                          |   |
| 4. <u>Relationships</u>                              | <i>“Forgive us our debts, as we also<br/>have forgiven our debtors”</i>           |
| Keep our relationships clear                         |   |
| 5. <u>Victory over the enemy</u>                     | <i>“Do not lead us not into temptation,<br/>but deliver us from the evil one”</i> |
| Confront the enemy day by day—and win!               |   |

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I Corinthians 9:25-27

- \* Often we are hung up in our prayer experience between **DESIRE and DISCIPLINE**
- \* We have the desire to pray effectively, but how do we do it?
  - we ask, “teach us to pray, Lord” and He replies, “here’s how you do it”
  - the instruction He gives will never be dull, dumb, dry or useless
  - He does not give us something which is to be memorized and recited, but rather He teaches a dynamic way to pray; it is a discipline - a pattern - to follow
  - I need a pattern or else I lose my way (my mind wanders, interruptions come, etc.); when I use this pattern it gives substance and power to my praying
- \* Every discipline takes practice in order to learn and use it effectively, and so also will this pattern require practice for consistent, daily prayer
  - We must acknowledge that some people with stronger intuitive instincts may find a pattern like this will tend to inhibit their pray rather than be helpful

#### “ONE HOUR A DAY”

- \* Larry Lea points out that Jesus encountered His disciples slumbering in the garden and asked them, “could you not pray with me one hour?”
- \* Many spiritual leaders are saying that something supernatural happens in your spiritual life when you give an hour to the Lord
  - if you can’t give an hour initially, start off with 15 or 30 minutes
  - begin to follow the outline of the Pattern Prayer, but don’t be legalistic about it
- \* Let the Holy Spirit guide you:
  - vary the emphasis on different occasions
  - spend much time “praying in the Spirit”

AS WE FOLLOW THIS PATTERN WE WILL FIND OURSELVES MAKING:

**(1) Positive Declarations**

**(2) Daily choices**

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POSITIVE DECLARATIONS

**“What our ears hear our mouth say, our mind begins to believe”**

FIRST, WE HONOR THE NAMES OF GOD (See more information on p. 45)

\* God’s names represent everything God reveals Himself to be and all that He is

\* As we declare who He is, He becomes that for us

**Learning ----- Declaring ----- Appropriating**

(“This is who You are, God”)

**(Some of God’s Names)**

**“Tsidkenu”** – He is my righteousness. I don’t have to try to get Him to cleanse and forgive me. It’s already His nature to do so. He is my righteousness.

**“M’Kaddish”** – I can’t sanctify myself. It’s a losing battle. He sets me apart for Himself. He delivers me from the power and dominion of sin. As I declare Him to be my sanctifier, He continues the process of sanctifying me!

**“Shalom”** – It’s not just that He gives peace, but He is my peace. I don’t have to be frustrated, striving, or straining. He becomes my peace as I honor His name.

**“Shammah”** – Jehovah is always there – overflowing presence, filling my life. He is dwelling in me. I can live a supernatural life by the power of Your Spirit.

**“Jireh”** – Because this is His nature, even before I ever ask He has started to provide what I lack in personality, in ability, in strength, in wisdom, in finances – He provides all I need!

**“Rapha”** – You are my health and wholeness, energizing my body, soul and spirit

**“Rohi”** – I walk under your tutelage. You lead me to fresh water and rich pasture

**“Nissi”** – my banner of victory, my warrior-commander!

As I begin my prayer time praising Him for who He is, He will become that to me. My spirit rises up in worship and praise. It can get a little “Pentecostal.”

## Positive Declaration

Names of God Declaring and Appropriating.

(See accompanying notes)

Our covenant relationship with God is through the Blood of His Son.  
As you declare who He is, He will become what you need Him to be.

Come! Be Done!

Put your foot down declarations.

Four major areas in which to establish His kingdom

(See accompanying notes)

Give us!

Pray in Provision for our own lives.

(See accompanying notes)

Pray in provision for your church.

Deliver us!

Creates a hedge of protection

*Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, you shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.*

Psalms 91:9-13

*Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like Lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:17-19*

"God has a will in heaven. He is trying to get someone on earth to agree with His will in heaven. Once He finds a person or group who will agree with Him and put their foot down in the Spirit, then we are going to begin to see the kingdom of our Lord become the kingdoms of this world!"—Dr. Larry Lea

SECOND, **COME! BE DONE!!** (See more information on p. 46)

I DECLARE HIS KINGDOM TO COME AND HIS WILL TO BE DONE

The form of the Greek verb here does not make this a request. Rather it is a “put-your-foot-down” declaration: “Come, Your kingdom; be done, Your will!!”

\* God is not up there in heaven trying to make up His mind, so we are declaring on earth what He has already willed in heaven

\* Most of my prayer time is spent here, declaring “Come! Be Done!” for:

- my own life

In so doing I am establishing my priorities. I am “setting the rudder” on my boat for His Kingdom and His will, not mine, today.

- my family

What a joy it is to declare His Kingdom and His will for the lives of my spouse, my children, and my grandchildren every day. God will show me specific things to pray. “Satan tries to disrupt, but God is more powerful!”

- my church

I declare for my Pastors and elders, for those whom I fellowship with (in classes and groups). I declare their faithfulness and the harvest that they will bring.

- our nation and our world

I declare revival for our nation, an outpouring on our political leaders, upholding for key national spiritual leaders, support for our missionaries.

Our next session will deal with Intercession. Let me say right now that powerful intercession is basically declaring, “God, Your Kingdom Come! Your will be Done! On earth as it is in Heaven.”

As we declare his “Kingdom” and His “Will” all over the place - in hundreds of specific situations - amazing and powerful things are going to happen!!

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**THIRD, GIVE US!**

I DECLARE GOD’S PROVISION for my needs and His kingdom’s needs

- \* “Give us!” is an imperative, “put-your-foot-down” verb form also
- \* Accept that God want to bless you; declare it, receive it, and persist in it!
  - See page 47 mentioning the things which need to line up for you to receive
- \* Declare for your church fellowship’s needs also
  - What if all the adults in our church were declaring, “Lord, give us the \$9,000 we need every week for the ministry you have assigned to us?” WOW!!!

**FOURTH, DELIVER US!**

I DECLARE DELIVERANCE FROM THE EVIL ONE

- \* When I declare with my mouth that God is my refuge, my fortress, my help, and my Strength, the result: “He will deliver you!” Psalm 91:9-13
- \* Each day, create a hedge of protection around yourself, your family, your property by praying
 

*Lord, put your Holy Spirit’s powerful presence behind, before, and all around me; let all of the enemy’s attempts be rendered powerless in terms of:*

<i>- harm or danger</i>	<i>- accident or injury</i>
<i>- sickness or disease</i>	<i>- designs or deceptions</i>
- \* Someday God will show us just what all He has protected us from
- \* Victory is assured: Luke 10:17-19

Jesus is teaching His followers to go forth day by day and pray these powerful declarations!

Dr. Larry Lea declares,

*God has a will in heaven. He is trying to get someone on earth to agree with His will in heaven. Once he finds a person or group who will agree with Him and put their foot down in the Spirit, then we are going to begin to see the kingdom of our Lord become the kingdom of this world!*

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“Our Father which are in Heaven”

The eternal God is now our “father” by virtue of the eternal blood of Jesus Galatians 4:4-6

“Hallowed be Thy Name”

The names of God reveal different dimensions of His character and point to their fulfillment in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are eight compound names of God:

JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU – “Jehovah our righteousness”

- All my sins are forgiven and I am delivered from the penalty of sin I John 1:7-9
- I have been made righteous before God Rom. 5:17-19, Cor. 5:21

JEHOVAH-M’KADDESH – “Jehovah who Sanctifies”

- I am delivered from the dominion and power of sin Hebrews 13:12
- I Cor. 6:9-11, Thes 5:23

JEHOVAH SHALOM – “Jehovah is Peace”

- I am reconciled to God Colossians 10:20-22
- I am welcome in the very presence of God Hebrews 10:19, 20
- Wholeness and harmony with God; contentment and satisfaction in life are my portion

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH – “Jehovah is There”

- I am His living temple I Cor. 3:16, Eph. 2:21-22
- I can experience the fullness of His Holy Spirit Ephesians 5:18

JEHOVAH JIREH – “Jehovah’s Provision Shall be Seen”

- God will supply all need to walk successfully before Him Gen. 22:14, Rom. 8:32, Philippians 4:13,19

JEHOVAH-ROPHE – “Jehovah Heals”

- Health and healing: soundness in body, mind, and spirit are mine I Peter 2:24, Col. 1:22, 3 John 2

JEHOVAH-ROHI – “Jehovah my Shepard”

- He will lead me in blessed paths Psalms 23:1-3
- John 10:27, 28
- He will take me through the shadow of death and in the house of the Lord where I will dwell forever Psalms 23:4-6

JEHOVAH-NISSI – “Jehovah my Banner”

- I am free from death and hell; Jesus has conquered for me Romans 8:35-39, I Corinthians 15:55-57 Hebrews 2:14-15

“Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done”

Set your priorities

Declare by faith:

*Come Kingdom of God!*

*Be done, will of God!*

Romans 14:17

FOUR MAJOR AREAS TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM

1. Yourself

- \* Establish Jesus on the throne of your life
- \* Set the course of your day
- \* Pray over the particular concerns you will be involved with
- \* Ask the Spirit of God to implement your priorities and help you live them out

2. Your Family: spouse, children, other family members

- \* Pray over needs
- \* Make specific petitions
- \* Pray until the Spirit of God gives you release

3. Your church

- \* Pastor
  - ask for anointing, wisdom, direction
  - petition the Lord to give a Pastor's heart
- \* Leadership
  - pray specifically by name
  - uphold those doing the work of ministry which directly touches your life
  - ask the Lord to make your church and its members spiritually healthy
- \* Faithfulness: pray that God's people will be:
  - Planted firmly in the house of the Lord
  - Faithful to God's vision for our body
  - Faithful in bringing their tithes and offerings
  - Serving God as He deserves to be served
- \* Harvest
  - Pray for a Harvest of Souls (Isaiah 43:4-6)

4. Our Nation and World

- \* Village, town, city, state and national political leaders
- \* Court system
- \* Spiritual leaders
- \* Revival

“Give us this day our daily bread”

1. HOW TO PRAY IN WHAT YOU NEED

A. Be in the Will of God

- (1.) Ask the Holy Spirit to help you develop a consistent, daily personal prayer life and time in the Word where you daily fellowship with Jesus.
- (2.) Pray the Lord to make you a functioning healthy part of that body of believers with whom you worship.
- (3.) Examine your work habits. Are you slothful? Are you an over-worker? Ask the Lord to give you ability, efficiency, and balance in your life.
- (4.) Examine your giving. Are you obeying the Lord in bringing your tithes and offerings into the storehouse? Or are you greedy, stingy, or a poor manager? Do you pay your bills and have a reputation as a fair and honest person who keeps his word? Take time to pray along these lines.

B. Believe it is God’s Will to provide for you

- (1.) Meditate upon the Word of God until you truly believe it is God’s will to bless you
- (2.) Luke 6:38, Philippians 4:19.

C. Be specific

- (1.) Decide to pray instead of worry.
- (2.) Bring your specific needs daily before God: Philippians 4:6.

D. Be Tenacious

- (1.) Take back lost ground the devil has stolen from you.
- (2.) Praise the Lord because He is JEHOVAH-HIREH: He sees your need beforehand and makes provisions for it.

“DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE”

**Consistently defeat the devil by  
putting on the Armor of God**

<b>ARMOR</b>	<b>DECLARATION</b>	<b>PROMISE</b>
Lions girt about with TRUTH	Jesus is my truth	...I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. (John 14:6)
Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS	Jesus, You are my righteousness	Him who knew no sin, He was made to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (II Corinthians 5:21)
Feet shod with the PREPARATION of the gospel of peace.	Jesus, You are my readiness	I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)
The shield of FAITH	Jesus, You are my protection	... The life I now live in the body, live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:20)
Helmet of SALVATION	Jesus, You are my salvation	...once made perfect, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. (Hebrews 5: 9)  ... putting on ... the hope of salvation as a helmet (I Thessalonians 5:8)
Sword of the Spirit which is the WORD OF GOD	Jesus, You are my Living Word	The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us (John 1:14)  The Word of God is living and active. It is sharper than any double-edge sword. (Hebrews 4:12)

CRITICAL DAILY CHOICES

\* If I daily pray out loud using such phrases as: *I choose; I decide; I set my will to; I declare*, I will find myself constantly making critical choices about:

**FIRST: PRIORITIES**

- As I choose Your Kingdom and Your Righteousness, I reset my priorities each day.
- Yesterday I may have veered off course, but today I reassign myself to Him and to His path at the beginning of this day.
- If I speak before the Lord, “I choose You and Your Kingdom first,” something will start happening in the depth of my being.
- I can’t choose day after day without it becoming a reality:

*today I’m going to live for You;  
today I’m putting my kids in your hands;  
today I’m putting my spouse in your hands*

- I will find myself more and more aligning with the purposes of God.
- I had tried to make changes in my family for years - talking, preaching, pressuring, manipulating - none of it worked
- When I quit trying and started declaring and choosing in the Spirit as I prayed, marvelous things began to happen right before my eyes!

**SECOND: TEMPTATIONS**

- Each day I choose in advance to stay as far away from temptation as possible
- Before the occasion arises, I have declared that I am going to resist and flee; I am not going to be ruled by the flesh but by the Spirit.
- I’ll avoid situations that are apt to bring temptation
- I will not be caught unaware when temptation does come

Daily Choices

— **Priorities** —

Re-determine your priorities each day

“I chose You and Your kingdom, Lord—First and Foremost.”

Align with the purposes of God.

— **Temptations** —

Stay as far away as possible

Decide in advance

— **Protection** —

The Lord Jesus is our armor—Ephesians 6

(See accompanying notes)

Clothed we stand

Unclothed we fall

— **Forgiveness** —

The decision proceeds the provocation.

“I have already decided what I am going to do.”

The measure of response.

“Just as” = same spirit, same proportion.

Find what works for you —and start putting it in to practice.

Lets not ever look at the Lord’s prayer as something mainly to be recited in a church service, but may we grasp in it the key Jesus is giving His followers so that they may really learn how to pray, to get ahold of His heart, and to meet the needs in their lives and communities in a powerful way.

THIRD: **PROTECTION**

There is great power in literally putting the Lord Jesus on as my armor

Truth

I cover my midsection with Your Truth  
It will penetrate to my core  
“I’ll think truth, act truth, desire truth, propagate truth, and expel all untruth”

Righteousness

Righteousness will become the very atmosphere which I breathe  
I’ll cover my heart and my lungs, my decisions and my desires with Your righteousness

Readiness

Covering my feet, I’m ready me to go where you want me to spread the gospel

Protection

I raise up Your shield of faith to block all the enemies arrows and darts

Salvation

I cover my head with Your Helmet of Salvation  
I don’t want the enemy beating my head  
You guard my thoughts, protect and renew my mind, Lord Jesus

The Sword of the Spirit

You’ll enable me to use Your Living Word both offensively and defensively

IT IS MY CHOICE!!

I can take time to put Him on as my armor and I will stand. Or I can neglect to do so and spend my time getting beaten up. The enemy loves to find Christians undressed and vulnerable.

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**FOURTH: FORGIVENESS**

Forgiveness is the key to vital, godly relationships. As I chose to forgive, I hold in my hands the power for harmony in all of my relationships.

As I choose day-by-day to forgive, I have set my course. I have already decided what I will do before any provocation occurs. I can't remember when I've carried an offense more than a day.

Furthermore, I'm tired of responding from the flesh. So I choose to respond to my spouse, to my kids, to the people in my path, with forgiveness, love, graciousness, longsuffering, gentleness, patience – with the same spirit and in the same proportion as Jesus has always chosen to respond to me.

**CONCLUSION**

Let's never again look at the Lord's Prayer as something mainly to be recited in church. Rather, let's use it as Jesus' way for us to learn powerful prayers:

- \* For you to be a channel of the Holy Spirit, and
- \* For the preservation and spiritual welfare of your family

So day-by-day as you “say,” as you “choose,” as you “declare,” God will do great things in and through you.

- \* Any new habit takes some doing, so give it a good try!

**Illustration:**

learning to use a “Nordic Track” or to ride a horse

- \* And, if for some reason this pattern of prayer doesn't work for you, then find what does work! Ask yourself; does how you are praying . . .
  - . . . get you into His presence?
  - . . . keep you in His presence?
  - . . . get answers?
  - . . . change your life?

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Clothed we stand  
Unclothed we fall

— **Forgiveness** —

The decision proceeds the provocation.  
“I have already decided what I am going to do.”

The measure of response.  
“Just as” = same spirit, same proportion.

Find what works for you —and start putting it in to practice.

Lets not ever look at the Lord’s prayer as something mainly to be recited in a church service, but may we grasp in it the key Jesus is giving His followers so that they may really learn how to pray, to get ahold of His heart, and to meet the needs in their lives and communities in a powerful way.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

- \* In addition, there is a very special gift which Jesus has made available to us by His Holy Spirit which will enrich and expand all the other dimensions of our prayer life
- \* This gift is the ability to pray in the Spirit
  - The Bible refers to it as “praying in tongues”

Illustration: Pastor Joe’s encounter with David DuPlessis

Joe – *“Do I have to speak in tongues in order to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?”*

David - *“No, you don’t have to, but you will!”*

David was indicating: yes, you can be baptized in the Holy Spirit yet God won’t insist that you speak in tongues. But as you walk on in the Spirit, the day will come when you will desire this marvelous spiritual gift to add to your prayer life. The “Language of the Spirit” will become a real part of your growing experience.

It won’t be a matter of your “having” to speak in tongues, but of your “wanting” to!

READ the paragraph on p. 50 in the Pupil’s Manual which begins “Jesus has provided . . .”

- \* If you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, then He wants to add to your spiritual repertoire a Spirit-enabled capacity to communicate with Him in prayer and worship
- \* This will be in addition to your own natural abilities
- \* Misconceptions and abuses - some real and some fancied - have caused me and many others to totally misunderstand and thus reject outright this precious gift in my earlier days
  - I didn’t know, for example, that you can “speak” in tongues without “shouting”
  - I didn’t know that speaking in tongues in an “out of control” way is not Scriptural

## II. PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

At all levels of prayer this aspect of the Holy Spirit's manifestation in the life of the believer adds an important dimension to our prayer life. Spirit-baptized believers should use their prayer language daily. When this is used, it helps strengthen inner spiritual growth and inhibit the tendency to backslide.

Do I have to speak in tongues if I am baptized in the Holy Spirit?

*No, you don't have to but you will!*

—David duPlessis

Jesus has provided this additional language for us. Praying in tongues is not prerequisite to receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, although in many instances in the New Testament it accompanied the Baptism. Nor is praying in tongues necessary to have times of being filled with the Holy Spirit. But, if you want your prayer life to be all that it can be, you will want to enter into this wonderful opportunity which our Lord has provided for us.

I CORINTHIANS 14 gives a clear understanding and instruction in the use of tongues.

1. It is a language v.2

*For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him, however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

— A language for communication with God

Illustration: Pentecost Acts2:1-11

—It can be a language of men or angels (I Corinthians 13:1)

—The mind is at rest, the spirit is active—v. 14

*For I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

Not understanding the language being used our intellect is humbled; our soul is put in its place, which is subject to the spirit.

The most practical, explicit instruction about this wonderful gift is found in I Corinthians 14

- \* First and foremost, it is a language for **Communication with God!**
- \* Sometimes a message comes to the congregation through tongues and interpretation
  - however, 99% of the time this heavenly language is for you and God to communicate on a deeper level than you could without the aid of this particular gift
  - *For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.*  
I Corinthians 14:2
- \* You will use it like you would any other language
- \* You don't have to be in any particular state of emotion, you don't have to yell or shout, you can be very animated, or you can be very quiet
- \* This spiritual gift was first released among Jesus followers on the Day of Pentecost
  - the disciples began worshipping God and the people who had assembled suddenly heard these illiterate Galileans speaking in the languages of those assembled
  - they weren't holding conversations or preaching, or engaging in ethnic group meetings (such as, all the Medes come over here and Parthenian's over there)
  - they were just worshipping God in a variety of different languages
    - Had the disciples learned these languages? No.*
    - Did they know what language they were using? Of course not.*
    - Had they ever hear it before? Probably not.*
    - Did they understand what they were saying? Heavens, no.*
  - they were just worshipping God, anointed and enabled by the Holy Spirit to speak in languages which were new to them, but in this case the tongues were understood by various ones in the crowd as being their native language

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It can be a language of men or of angels

\* God has your own special language for you but it may be from earth or from heaven.

Illustration:

Baptist Pastor who discovered that he was speaking perfect Korean

Illustration:

Daughter Kimberly received a second new language while running out on the plains in Tanzania (sometimes we'll receive more than one language)

When using this language the MIND is at rest, the SPIRIT is active!

*\* For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful*  
I Corinthians 14:14

\* Not understanding the language being used, our intellect is humbled; our soul is put in its' place, which is subject to our spirit

\* We have deified the mind for so long, and it is so used to "running the show" that we can't think of saying anything which doesn't originate in the mind

Illustration: own personal experience

In my own spiritual pilgrimage, I finally came to the place where I was ready to speak in tongues. In fact, I had been ready for some time. All kinds of people had laid hands on me and prayed.

It all culminated for me at a conference in Grass Lake, Michigan. The Spirit made it very clear to the conference leaders that the Lord would release into my life this special gift that very day, if I would just receive it.

After the noon meal I went out into the woods on this crisp, cool October day, determined to stay there until whatever was necessary happened. Soon, I was standing under a tree and sweating. Why? Because I was embarrassed at myself. What would I do? Babble like a baby?

It took me half an hour to finally humble myself enough so that I could reach out in faith and try to say something that wasn't coming from my mind in English. Once I got over the hump of humbling my mind and allowing the Holy Spirit, through my spirit, to take over my vocal chords and begin to speak in a new language – there it was! I wasn't emotional, I just was blessed.

I was so thankful to the Lord that He did this for me, but it didn't come easy. I must confess that I started and stopped that day about 20 times to make sure if it still was there. Yes, it was still there! From that day on, I've been enriched in a way that I never would have been without the manifestation of this gift and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

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*For I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

Not understanding the language being used our intellect is humbled; our soul is put in its place, which is subject to the spirit.

A famous neurosurgeon comments:

*“I understand why God uses speaking in tongues. The speech centers in the brain are so dominant, I don’t see how God Himself could do much about the physical brain unless He got a hold of the speech centers.”*

Read the comment from Dr. Robert DeHaan at the top of page 51 in the Pupil’s Manual

\* Our speech is our chief means of expression; it’s no coincidence that often this is the first place where the Holy Spirit chooses to flow out

The Prayer Language will enrich your life:

\* As an aid in **praise and worship** (verse 2, “talking to God”)

- we are severely limited if we only have our native language to use in worshipping Him
- we find ourselves repeating the same things and long for more capacity to extol and bless Him in our worship
- it is so fulfilling to be able to “change gears” – to slip into your heavenly language – and find a whole new vehicle and vocabulary with which to praise

\* By helping you to **grow spiritually** (verse 4)

- some say, “See, it says that praying in tongues only benefits you”
- You are important to the Lord, and if it will help you become stronger, then great!

Illustration:

One day the pressures of ministry and the opposition we faced in the old church had me really uptight. I knew I needed to get alone and pray, but it was the last thing I felt like doing – especially praying in tongues. It was my choice, it didn’t depend on how I felt.

So I forced myself to use this gift that God had given me. Soon I didn’t have to force myself any more. A bit longer and I could feel relaxation coming into my soul and spirit. All those knots were untying.

About 15 minutes later I was ready to go back at it again with the presence and power of the Lord.

\* He had “edified,” strengthened, and built me up

One time I began to sing in the Spirit as I was driving home from Chicago. The presence of God was so real I didn’t want to stop. Two hours later I said to myself, “If it gets any better than this, I’m going to be “raptured” right now! I was so lifted up, it was incredible!

Illustration: Neurosurgeon

“As a psychologist I have no explanation for speaking in tongues. But as a Christian, I have a theory. It is that we have so contaminated our human speech by the uses to which we have put it that God must give us a whole new language, pure and undefiled, as a worthy vehicle for worship and praise.”

—Dr. Robert DeHaan, Chrm. Dept of Psychology, Hope College

## 2. The prayer language will enrich your prayer life by:

—Aiding you in \_\_\_\_praise and worship\_\_\_\_\_

From the beginning, speaking in tongues was part of the early Christian’s expression of worship. Worship of God is intened to be much more than just what man’s sense of reason can attain. Nevertheless, reason always seeks to remain in control since controlling our speech is the last resort of reason. Praying in toguesues lifts us beyond the activity of our minds as it becomes the expression of the mind of of the Spirit of God. That is why it brings such spnotaneous praise to God , why it hits the target so effectively, and why it is such a power against spiritual forces of evil.

In times of deep communion with the Lord, there is so much that we cannot express with our own mind and words. The Holy Spirit prays through our spirit as we slip into the prayer language and allow our vocal chords and mental processes to be completely dominated by the Spirit. We begin to express ourself as He wants us to, we begin to worship “in spirit and truth” in the highest sense.

—Helping you \_\_\_\_**grow spiritually**\_\_\_\_\_ vs. 4

*He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself*

(1) We are built up— “edified”

*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Spirit. Jude 20*

As we exercise our prayer language we are edifying our own inner being. As the Holy Spirit prays through us we are built up, strengthened, matured, completed, and made whole.

We are “cleansed” at the deepest levels

- \* “The Holy Spirit Himself prays for us with groans which cannot be uttered”  
Romans 8:26
- \* The Holy Spirit knows our needs; He knows what God wants to do even when we don’t
- \* As we yield our vocal chords and allow Him to pray through us, tremendous things can happen: our inner man is cleansed and healed, released, and re-created

We are kept from “backsliding”

- \* David DuPlessis stated that praying in tongues regularly is one of the greatest protections against backsliding that he knows
  - As he moved around the world, he observed that those Christian leaders who practiced praying in the Spirit regularly were far less susceptible to backsliding

It enables us to **PRAY FOR OTHERS** more effectively

Illustration:

A pastor friend’s wife had left him and he was in a terrible depression. We prayed together but the prayers seemed to bounce off the ceiling and not go anywhere.

Finally, I said, “Let’s pray together in the Spirit.” We could almost feel the cloud of depression breaking up, and five minutes later he said, “Joe, it’s gone! And God is ministering to me.”

What a joy that we are not limited to just our own understanding or knowledge.

Illustration:

Pastor Bill Nelson was called by a family whose 19-year-old daughter was in a coma, and the doctors were saying she probably wouldn’t survive the results of the accident.

Pastor Bill asked if he could be alone with the young lady for a few minutes. He laid hands on her and began to pray in the Spirit. About 10 minutes later a huge peace came over him; it was almost as if God was saying, “She’ll be all right.”

So he went out to the family and said, “She’ll be all right.” In the elevator, he realized what he had just said to the family. His knees buckled and he almost fell to the floor. The doctors had said she would not survive, or if she did, she would be severely mentally disabled. How dare he say that she would be all right?!

But you know what? It wasn’t his mind speaking, it was what the Holy Spirit had put within him. Amazingly, this young lady came out of the coma in a couple of days with no brain damage – totally restored! In his own mind, Bill had no clue as to what he should pray. But, the Holy Spirit prayed through him.

(2) We are cleansed at the deepest levels.

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weakness...the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

—Romans 8:26

(3) We are kept from backsliding

—Enabling us to pray for others more effectively.

*Likewise the Spirit also helps...for we do not know what we should pray for as we ought.—Romans 8:26*

He can use us to meet needs in someone else's life. Even when we do not know what to pray for as we lift this person before the Lord in our new prayer language.

3. Paul puts “tongues” in perspective:

v. 5a Desire it

*I wish you all spoke with tongues.*

v. 18 Thank God for it

*I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all.*

v. 39 Don't forbid it

*Therefore, brethren...do not forbid to speak with tongues.*

As we grow, in our worship, sooner or later we will begin to use the prayer language of the Spirit in order that we might be built up, edified, instructed, matured, and enabled for service.

*But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher—praying in the Holy Spirit.*

—Jude 20 (Amplified New Testament)

Final Perspective - Praying in tongues is a marvelous gift and you should:

**Desire it:** verse 5a

\* It's something that the Lord really wants you to have and to use

- it is not “bone china” to be reserved only for times of great spiritual emotion, it is for everyday use, like “cracked dishes”
- praying in the Spirit is part of the spiritual discipline you should be developing in your life every single day

**Illustration:**

My Aunt Kathryn was a missionary in Ecuador for years. She had extensive prayer lists which she brought before the Lord every day. She was baptized in the Spirit some time after we had been, and wrote to us, saying, “Joe, I'm new at this. Tell me if I am doing it right. I pray for the things I usually pray for and then I say, ‘Lord, I am sure that there are some other things You would like for me to talk with you about.’ Then I pray in tongues for a while and say, ‘O.K., I think everything is covered.’ Is that all right?”

I wrote back to say, “Bless your heart, that's perfect. That's just the way it should be.”

**Thank God for it:** verse 18

\* Paul, an influential Jesus' follower, depended upon, benefited from, longed to and practiced using his heavenly prayer language more than any of the rest

- we neglect using it at our peril
- if it will help us to be just a little bit like Paul, I'm for it!

**Don't forbid it:** verse 39

\* You may come across some church groups who will tell you that praying in tongues is of the devil; what a sad thing!

\* I quake in my spirit for them when they take this precious gift from the Holy Spirit and assign it to the devil; that is serious business

\* Paul says, “This is a special gift; don't forbid it”

- He devoted a whole chapter in I Corinthians detailing what the proper use of praying in tongues should look like
- He then indicated, “O.K., make these corrections and then use tongues and prophecy in the right way, as all of the other churches are doing”

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## CONCLUSION

Praying in the Spirit is not a “no account” gift. God wants us to have it and to use it. It is a vital part of the equipment He is giving us for living the Christian life. We are really lacking something without it because of:

- \* The dimension of praise & worship which it enables
- \* The up-building in our own spirit as we are in His presence
- \* The way it will aid our intercession as we pray for others

God doesn't speak in tongues, we speak – God enables

- \* Speaking in tongues is a child-like act
- \* We ask in faith and then with our voice, our vocal chords, our will, and our desire, we participate, believing the Lord will fill our mouth with a heavenly language
- \* Many have desired to receive their heavenly language
  - I want to encourage you to keep seeking after it
  - Jesus urges His followers to keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking and they will find, for the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Luke 11)
  - Don't get discouraged, and don't get uptight about it
  - God is not one who will put you under condemnation; He is not withholding from you because of your failures
  - The enemy will try to discourage you and keep you from it
  - Even when you do start to speak your new language, the enemy will make you think, “Oh, that's just me”
  - It *is* you, but it's you being moved upon and enabled by the Holy Spirit
- \* Many receive the gift of tongues immediately as soon as they ask for it
  - However, it took me well over two years of earnest seeking before all the internal barriers and adjustments had been dealt with and I could, in childlike faith, actually receive the gift that had been promised to me

(2) We are cleansed at the deepest levels.

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(3) We are kept from backsliding

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## THE GIFT OF TONGUES

*Tongues enables our spirits to communicate directly with God above and beyond the power of our minds to understand.*

Several years ago, I was invited to the University of Chicago Theological Seminary to meet with the “committee on Spiritual Renewal through Authentic Encounter.” Just before the meeting I was informed, “We don’t want you to lecture us or read a paper. We simply want you to share with us for an hour and a half from your experience with the Holy Spirit. Then we will quiz you for another hour.”

So I shared with them how, as a Lutheran pastor and public relations secretary for the World Council of Christian Education, I had once been presented with a challenge so great I knew that I would never be able to meet it without an endowment of supernatural power.\*\*

Up to that point I had loved God, but with reservation. I had served God, but with reservation. Therefore, I thought he loved me with reservation. But then through a message in tongues with interpretation, God opened my eyes to what grace is all about. In that moment I saw that all my failures and sins and shortcomings had no more power to shut out His love for me than a fly speck could shut out the sun. In spite of what I was, or what I was not, He loved me without reservation.

Overwhelmed and overjoyed, I involuntarily lifted my hands and burst out, “thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus!” I could not express the inexpressible. But to my great relief, the Holy Spirit did it for me. It was as if a bottle uncorked within me and a torrent of words poured out in a language I had never studied. It was as if my innermost being, which had been bound and dumb and gagged, had suddenly been given a voice. For the first time I was able to say everything to God I had ever wanted to say in a language I had never studied.

Immediately the theologians interrupted. “Did you understand what you were saying?”

I knew that if I replied “no,” then they would say “Well, what good is it?” Man defies the intellect, makes it his highest faculty and measures everything in terms of what it will do for him.

So instead of saying “No, I didn’t know what I was saying,” I replied “Praise God, no!”

What is the bottleneck in our praise and our worship? Isn’t it our own finite, earth-bound, carnal understanding? But once our spirits have been quickened by the Spirit of God, they yearn to communicate directly to Him.

As Paul says, “When I speak with tongues my understanding is unfruitful.” Of course it is unfruitful. It’s been bypassed. “But my spirit,” He says, “That part of me that is made for communion with God, my spirit, speaks mysteries unto God.”

*Tongues builds up the arm of faith to appropriate whatever gift is needed.*

\*\*Martin Luther says, “Faith is the arm that reaches out to appropriate the gift which God offers.” The problem is that our arm of faith is short and weak. So, as the first of the

nine gifts, God ordinarily gives us the one gift that builds up the user, which strengthens and lengthens that arm of faith so it can reach up and appropriate whichever of the nine gifts is required. That is why when we are confronted with a desperate need we instinctively begin praying in tongues. Why? To build up the arm of faith to appropriate the gift of ministry needed.

*Tongues enable the spirit to take its place of ascendancy over soul and body.*

Watchman Nee has described the Christian in terms of a pyramid. In the lowest position at the base, he says, should be the body and over it, the soul. At the apex should be the spirit, controlled by the Spirit of God. In some people, he points out, the pyramid is completely inverted. Their bodies, controlled by their physical appetites, are dominant. Such persons we call “carnal Christians.”

In other cases the soul, or some part of it, such as the mind, is dominant. Such a person measures the value of everything in terms of what it will do for that poor little mind of his. If he can't understand it, for him it has no value. Or he may be dominated by his emotions. He measures everything in terms of what he feels. Or perhaps his will may be paramount; he is willful, unyielded. But if any part of the soul (mind, will, or emotions) is dominant, that person is “soulish.”

What God intends is for everyone of us to be “spiritual Christians” with our spirits under the sway of the Spirit of God, controlling both soul and body. To take its proper place, the spirit must be edified. Of all the nine gifts, the only one for personal edification, Paul says, is tongues.

*Tongues is God's provision for catharsis, therefore important to mental health.*

“Who knows what is in the mind of man, save the spirit of the man that is within him?” Paul asks. If he had said, “who knows what is in the mind of man save the man's own mind?” he would have been on faulty ground psychiatrically. We do not consciously know what we are harboring subconsciously.

I was speaking in Riverside, California, when a young surgeon came to me and said, “I've decided you are an ankylotic-glossal surgeon. When we are born into the family of God, we are tongue-tied.” He said, “the tongue is tied to the mind with all of its limitations and can only express that which the mind has previously conceived of. Meanwhile, the spirit is left bound and dumb. Apparently, in this experience, God severs the frenulum, that little string at the base of the tongue, and looses the tongue from its bondage to the mind so that the spirit might find full, free expression through it.”

That's a good picture. In terms of it, I might say that many people . . . have had their frenulum stretched, but not severed.\*\* Though they do speak in tongues, their minds have not completely relinquished control and therefore their speech is not clear. But if they will continue time and again, I've seen how the frenulum in the terms of this picture, gets more and more stretched until it finally breaks loose and the person's spirit has full and complete use of the tongue and is thus able to pour itself out to God with utter freedom.

*Tongues meets our needs for a whole new language for worship, prayer and praise.*

I'll never forget that morning at First Reformed Church in Mount Vernon, New York, when Pat Robertson, then my student assistant, was preaching. I sensed that God was saying, "As soon as Pat concludes his message, I'm going to give you a message in tongues with interpretation."

It was in 1959. My congregation had never heard speaking in tongues. My heart was literally in my throat, but I heard the command: "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it." I opened my mouth and he filled it. He gave me a powerful message in tongues, and the interpretation.

With three bounds, the chairman of the finance committee was standing beside Dr. Robert DeHaan, chairman of the Department of Psychology of Hope College and a member of the church. "Has our preacher gone off his rocker?" he asked. Dr. DeHaan announced to the entire congregation, "Something has begun here which I believe is going to revive our entire denomination. How fortunate you are to be in on the ground floor. I covet this experience myself." He had come to me the day before to study, as he said, the deeper work of the Holy Spirit in the subconscious mind.

He later wrote, "As a psychologist, I have no explanation for the gift of speaking in tongues. But as a Christian, I have a theory. It is that we have so contaminated our human speech by the uses to which we have put it that God must give us a whole new language, pure and undefiled, as a worthy vehicle for worship and praise."

How scriptural! In the old temple there were vessels of wood, brass, clay and iron for menial use—carrying out the garbage from the temple, the ashes of the sacrifices. There were other vessels of purest gold, consecrated solely to the worship of Almighty God. God has given us our human speech for menial use; not so menial as we may sometimes put it, for gossip, misrepresentation, even uncleanness. But he has given us this vessel of purest gold, in which we've never gossiped, we've never told an unclean story, we've never even exaggerated. This vessel of purest gold is consecrated solely to the worship of the Almighty God.

*Excerpts from an article by Harold Bredesen which appeared in the March/April 1978 Logos Journal)*

*\*\*Harold Bredesen's position is that speaking in tongues is part and parcel of the experience described as "The Baptism with the Holy Spirit." This is not our position. However, everything else about this article is so positive in regard to the value and experience of speaking in tongues that I have reproduced a good portion of it omitting along the way several references which could cause confusion from our point of view.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Question sheet

1. Why do you think Jesus disciples came to the point where they asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray?”
2. How do you feel Jesus “pattern prayer” might help you to pray more effectively?

Refer to Harold Bredeesen’s article, “The Gift of Tongues” for the rest of the questions

3. What frequently serves as a bottleneck in our praise and worship?
4. According to Harold Bredeesen, what is one of the major difference between “carnal/soulish Christians” and “spiritual Christians?”
5. When confronted with a desperate need, why does the Spirit-filled Christian instinctively begin praying in tongues?
6. What was Dr. Robert DeHann’s theory about speaking in tongues?

FIRST

1. Let each group member share about their first week of journaling.
2. Share briefly from last week's "feeding" passage - Romans 8:1-17

THEN

1. Discuss the advantages or disadvantages they would personally find in following a pattern such as the Lord's Prayer in their own prayer time.

NOW - Explore further "Prayer Language"

1. Please share how you have found the heavenly prayer language to be of real value in your own experience.
2. Discuss the difference between the private "Prayer Language" and the public "use of tongues" for the assembly of believers.
3. Let the group ask any questions which they still may have after tonight's session.

FINALLY - In Your Prayer Time

1. Pray for anyone who wishes to receive a language from the Spirit.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR NEXT TIME

1. Complete Question Sheet for Session 7.
2. Record in your journal your feelings and insights about tonight's teaching on the pattern prayer and prayer language. Continue with other insights as God may reveal them to you. Bring your journal with you to the next session.
3. "Eat" Luke 11:1-13 and Romans 12:9-12.