

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Study Series: Life-Changing Prayers
Part 5: Praying in the Spirit**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2023
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

What is Praying in the Spirit?

***Ephesians 6:18** “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*

***Jude 1:20** “But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.”*

***Romans 8:26-27** “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”*

The Greek word translated “pray in” can have several different meanings. It can mean “by means of,” “with the help of,” “in the sphere of,” and “in connection to.” Praying in the Spirit does not refer to the words we are saying. Rather, it refers to how we are praying. Praying in the Spirit is praying according to the Spirit’s leading. However, the Bible is also clear that praying in the Spirit (or with the spirit) also means speaking or praying in (unknown) tongues.

***1 Corinthians 14:2** “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.”*

***1 Corinthians 14:14-15** “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.”*

Benefits of Praying in the Spirit

1. Praying in the Spirit edifies our spirit.

When we pray in tongues, our spirit is in contact with the Holy Spirit who supplies the words and gives the utterance to our spirit-man (Acts 2:4). The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of life (Romans 8:2). He is the source of life. He is the breath of God that gave life to Adam. When we pray in the Spirit, we are plugged into the power supply and the switch is on.

***1 Corinthians 14:4** “He who speaks in a TONGUE EDIFIES HIMSELF...”*

***Jude 20** “but you, beloved, BUILDING YOURSELVES UP on your most holy FAITH, PRAYING in the HOLY SPIRIT...”*

While the 9 spiritual gifts are for the edification of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:7), the private language of tongues is for personal edification. Praying in tongues is therefore a powerful key to stir up the gifts of the Spirit (2 Tim 1:6-7).

2. Praying in the Spirit leads to greater sensitivity to being led by the Holy Spirit

Praying in tongues also trains us to let the spirit take the lead instead of our mind. Sometimes, the leading of the Spirit seems opposed to the natural mind. It does not seem logical. That is why it takes faith to follow the leading. After we had taken the step of faith, then our mind begins to understand the plan of God. In addition to being sensitive to God’s voice, praying in tongues also magnifies our discernment in the spiritual realm.

***1 Corinthians 14:14-15** – “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will PRAY WITH THE SPIRIT, and I will also PRAY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING. I will SING WITH THE SPIRIT, and I will also SING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING.”*

3. Praying in the Spirit leads to receiving wisdom and revelation from God

The more interaction we have with the Holy Spirit, the more access we have to His wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17). 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 says that the Holy Spirit knows the deep things of God; the things that God has prepared for us who love Him.

When we pray a lot in tongues, the revelations of God will be transmitted to our understanding as an overflow. When we receive the wisdom and the revelations of God, our understanding grows.

4. Praying in the Spirit introduces us to the mysteries of God.

A “mystery” in the New Testament is something that had at one time been hidden but is now revealed to God’s people. God’s plans are always referred to as the mysteries of God.

1 Corinthians 14:2 “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.”

5. Praying in the Spirit build Us up in our most holy faith:

When we pray in tongues, we do so by faith because we do not know what we will say next. We allow the Holy Spirit to be in total control, as we trust Him, speaking out by faith. This helps us to exercise and activate our faith in Him. In doing so, we build ourselves up on our most holy faith.

Jude 20 - but you, beloved, BUILDING YOURSELVES UP on your most holy FAITH, PRAYING in the HOLY SPIRIT...

6. Praying in the Spirit is praying in God’s perfect will

With our limited understanding, we do not know God’s perfect will in every situation. So, how do we pray in the will of God? When we pray in tongues, we move beyond our finite minds & human limitation to pray in the perfect will of God.

Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes INTERCESSIONS FOR THE SAINTS ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD.

7. For intercession by the Holy Spirit

Have you been in a situation when you were weak; you needed help and you did not know how to pray. You needed someone to pray for you. Through the prayer language of the Spirit, He makes intercessions for us and for the saints according to God’s perfect will.

Rom 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes INTERCESSION FOR US with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes INTERCESSIONS FOR THE SAINTS according to the will of God.

8. Praying in the Spirit helps us in spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:10-18 is written in the context of spiritual warfare. After putting on our armor of God by establishing our lives in Jesus with regard to truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation and sword of the Spirit, we are ready for battle and to take the victory that Jesus has won for us. We are all dressed up, but how do we engage in battle? It is by praying the Spirit.

Ephesians 6:17-18 - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; PRAYING ALWAYS with all prayer and supplication IN THE SPIRIT, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

9. Praying in the Spirit is worshipping in a new dimension in the Spirit

Just like praying in tongues, worshipping in the spirit is unique to the New Covenant believer. Tongues were used on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 to declare the wonderful works of God. Among all the benefits of tongues, it was used first and foremost for the purpose worship.

Acts 2:11...we hear them speaking in our own tongues the WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD.

Acts 10:45-46 - And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them SPEAK WITH TONGUES AND MAGNIFY GOD.

John 4:23-24 - “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the TRUE WORSHIPPERS will worship the Father in SPIRIT AND TRUTH; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH.”

With the Spirit in us and through the prayer language of tongues, we can worship God in a new spiritual location with a new spiritual language. This is the worship that God desires from true worshippers.