

# “PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT”

**Text:** I Corinthians 14:1-33

**Subject:** “The Glorious Ministry of the Holy Spirit in Prayer”

## **Introduction**

**Fact:** I Corinthians chapters 12, 13, 14 are God’s instruction to us on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Fact:** The bible records three distinct lists of spiritual gifts.

### **I. The Support (or Leadership) Gifts Ephesians 4:11**

1. Apostles      2. Prophets      3. Evangelists      4 Pastors      5. Teachers

- These five gifts are for establishing and the maturing of the local church. They are public in nature and have to do with the ministry of the Word of God.

### **II. The Service (or Motivational) Gifts Romans 12:6-8**

1. Mercy    2. Teaching    3. Prophecy    4. Giving    5. Exhortation    6. Serving    7. Administration

- These Seven gifts are for service and outreach and function on a more personal basis.

### **III. The Sign (or Manifestation) Gifts I Corinthians 12:7-10**

1. Word of Wisdom                      4. Faith                                      7. Prophecy  
2. Word of Knowledge                  5. Healing                                  8. Tongues  
3. Discerning of Spirits                6. Miracles                                9. Interpretation of Tongues

- These nine supernatural manifestations are gifts for the edification and strengthening of the local church through individual members.
- They are supernatural and spontaneous in nature.

### **(Some Absolutes God Reveals to Us)**

1. The gifts of the Spirit are not natural endowments.
2. The gifts of the Spirit are not for promoting human popularity or personalities.
3. The gifts of the Spirit are expressions of God’s presence and power.

- They are God’s way of getting His work done. (To edify the entire church body).
- They are resident in the Holy Spirit (and manifested through believers).
- They are manifested and distributed according to God’s will. (Not ours)
- They always bring glory to God. (Never man)

**Question:** What is the most important gift?

**Answer:** The one that is needed at the time!

**Question:** Were the gifts of the Spirit manifested in the Old Testament?

**Answer:** All but two. The gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues followed Pentecost in the New Testament.

1. The Word of Wisdom – Solomon (I Kings 4:29-32)

2. The Word of Knowledge – Elisha (II Kings 5:25-27)
3. Discerning of Spirits – Saul’s servant (I Samuel 16:14,15)
4. Faith – Joshua (Joshua 10:12-14)
5. Miracles – Elijah (I Kings 17:17-24; 18:38)
6. Healings – Isaiah (II Kings 20:5)
7. Prophecy – Balaam (Numbers 23:24)

**Question:** Pastor, what is the “Spirit filled” life and what does it have to do with me personally?

**Answer:** The “Spirit filled” life is the Biblical term for a Pentecostal Christian.

**Question:** What is a Pentecostal Christian?

**Answer:** A Pentecostal is one who asks the Lord (and receives) the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

**Question:** What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

**Answer:** The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a work of God upon the believer where you are energized for service in God’s kingdom.

**Question:** Is the Baptism in the Spirit taught in Scripture?

**Answer:** Yes, in many different passages:

1. In Acts 2:4 (on the day of Pentecost)
2. In Acts 8:17,18 (Simon saw believers baptized in the Holy Spirit)
3. In Acts 9:17 (Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit)
4. In Acts 10:45,46 (The Gentiles received the Baptism in the Spirit at the house of Cornelius)
5. In Acts 19:9 (While Paul was on his second missionary journey, he prayed for some disciples in Ephesus, and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues.

**Fact:** On all five occasions (over a 30 year period) believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues as the Spirit flowed through them.

**Question:** Pastor, is this Holy Spirit Baptism for me? (It is unmistakable in Scripture):

- Acts 2:4; *“They were **all** filled with the Spirit and began to speak with other tongues.”*
- Acts 10:46, *“The Holy Spirit fell on **all** who heard the Word.”*
- Acts 19:7 *“**All** twelve were filled with the Spirit and spake with tongues.”*
- I Corinthians 14:5, *“I would that you **all** spoke in tongues.”*
- Acts 2:39 *“For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to **all** that are afar off.”*

**Question:** Pastor, why is I Corinthians 14 in the Scriptures?

**Answer:** Because Paul encountered a problem in Corinth:

1. The Corinthian Christians were being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
2. They all began to pray in tongues in their daily devotions.
3. But, when they came into the public worship service, their enthusiasm lead to disorder.

4. Their prayer language was authentic, but the manner they were using it in was out of place. (It became an exhibition.)

**(And Paul gently corrects the four abuses.)**

- There are two aspects (Paul reveals) for the use of praying in the Spirit (in tongues) I Cor 14:2, 3.
  1. There is the use of tongues when in personal prayer and devotion. (v. 2)
  2. There is the gift of tongues to be exercised publicly in a worship service. (v. 3)

**(The Corinthians needed instruction)**

1. There was **too much** speaking with tongues out loud in the public meetings. (I Cor 14:23, 27)
  - ◆ So God said, limit the public gift of tongues to three at any one meeting. (v. 27)
2. There was speaking with tongues in the assembly **without the interpretation.** (I Cor 14:5, 9)
  - ◆ So God says, there must be an interpretation in the known language so that all may be benefited. (v. 28)
3. There were those prophesying who claimed that their inspiration was **beyond criticism.** (vs. 29-31)
  - ◆ God says that the utterances could (and should) be judged (or evaluated) by the others in the meeting. (v. 29)
4. There were some Corinthians Pentecostals who spoke in tongues (out of order) and claimed that they “**could not help themselves.**” (vs. 28, 30)
  - ◆ God says “Not so” in verse 32, “*That the spirits of those speaking are subject to those speaking.*”

**(Which means)**

1. The gift of tongues is not to interrupt.
2. The gift of tongues is not disorderly (too soft that all can't hear or too loud that it alarms).
3. The gift of tongues is limited to three in any one service.
4. The gift of tongues is to edify, encourage and comfort the believers gathered. (v. 3)
5. The gift of tongues will be a sign to the unbeliever. (v. 22)
  - ◆ The believer doesn't need a sign to believe, he already believes.
  - ◆ The sign is to the unbeliever, causing them to respond to and accept the Lord and be saved. A sign points the way to something; genuine spiritual gifts do this.

**(It is clear in Scripture)**

1. That the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a goal to be reached, but a gateway that leads to spiritual ministry.
2. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit gives the believer his or her “prayer language” to use daily in personal prayer.

3. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit opens the door for God to use you (if He chooses) in the gift of tongues in a public service.
4. It is the will of God that every believer seek the Lord and ask Jesus to fill them, baptize them and endue them with power from on high.
  - ◆ *“I will 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.”* (Luke 24:49)
  - ◆ *“For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 1:5)
  - ◆ *“These signs shall follow them that believe, they shall speak with new tongues.”* (Mark 16:17)
  - ◆ *“He that believeth on me as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive.”* (John 7:38, 39)

**Question:** What are the great spiritual benefits of praying in tongues on a daily and consistent basis?

### **Five Prayer Benefits of Tongues for all Believers**

#### **1. Praying In The Spirit Allows You To Speak Directly To God**

*“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God.”*  
(I Cor. 14:2)

- Praying in tongues in your private devotions is speaking directly to God.
- It is communicating in your born-again spirit with the Lord.
- It allows you to be less restricted in your praying.
- You can pour out your heart to God from your innermost spirit in prayer.

#### **2. Praying In The Spirit Edifies The Prayer (I Cor. 14:4)**

*“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.”*

- This refers to tongues without an interpretation. It is personal and private prayer.
- Paul testified of this blessing in verse 18, *“I thank my God I speak with tongues more than ye all.”*
- This praying edifies, strengthens, builds up and lifts your inner man.
- This kind of praying releases tension, refreshes your spiritual man and is spiritual therapy.

#### **3. Praying In The Spirit Enables You To be an Effective Intercessor**

*“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 groaning which cannot be uttered.” “And He that searcheth the heart knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”* (Romans 8:26, 27)

**(What does it mean? It means that)**

1. The Holy Spirit is our helper in prayer.
2. He knows what the mind of God is.
3. He enables us to pray apart from our natural ability, in the will of God.

**Fact:** This is the glorious result of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- We receive a new prayer language to communicate directly with God.
- We can then pray effectively (with power) even when our natural mind doesn't know what to pray for:

*"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."* (Ephesians 6:18)

**Question:** How is prayer to be offered?

**Answer:** "In the Spirit"

**Question:** What does it mean to "pray in the Spirit"?

**Answer:** It means to pray:

- With the assistance of the Holy Spirit
- Energized by the power of the Holy Spirit

#### **4. Praying In The Spirit Leads You To More Intimate Worship**

*"I will sing with the Spirit."* (I Corinthians 14:15)

- Praying in tongues will increase your desire to worship, to praise and to exalt the Lord.
- You'll be lifted to a higher realm and deeper level of personal worship.
- You'll overcome the thief and robber of your "pent up potential" to worship from your heart.

#### **5. Praying In The Spirit Makes Jesus More Real To Your Heart**

**(John 16:7-16, Jesus Speaking)**

*"It is expedient for you that I go away...I will send the comforter unto you...and He shall glorify Me, for He shall receive of mine and shall show it unto you."* (vs. 7, 14)

- *"Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water."* (John 7:38)
- *Whoever drinks of My water shall never thirst again."* (John 4:14)

**(In other words)**

- Spirit filled people are not thirsty for dirty water.
- Spirit filled people are restful, contented, joyful, sweet, optimistic, with a good attitude.

**(Why?)**

- There is a well that never runs dry (it refreshes and renews the soul).
- There is a well with fresh water daily (that protects us from wandering into prohibited territory).
- There is a well with a supply of all we need!!! (Ephesians 5:18)

Amen  
Bill Kirk