

PRAYING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Request: “Would you elaborate on how praying in power of the Holy Spirit, according to the Will of God produces an effective prayer life?”

This request came as a result of a study of Joshua dealing with defeat at Ai. We were discussing his initial response to this defeat with prayer. It was during this study that I mentioned three important requirements for an effective prayer life.

- Praying in the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph.6:18).
- Praying according to will of God (1 John 5:14-15).
- Praying with confidence (James 1:6-8; Heb.4:16).

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Praying in the power of The Holy Spirit and how these three things are important requirements for an effective prayer life.

1. All Believers have the same access to an effective prayer life yet not all have one. The question is why?

Paul instructed us to “pray at all times in the Holy Spirit.” (Eph.6:18). One interesting factor about Eph.6:18 is that it is part of ONE long Greek sentence (Eph.6:14-20).

Another interesting factor is that this ONE long Greek sentence contains the spiritual armor necessary to fight and win in the angelic conflict.

Therefore praying at all times in the Holy Spirit follows putting on the full armor of God and both are necessary for fighting and winning in the angelic conflict.

This passage (Eph.6:14-20) reminds us that the angelic conflict must be fought in Lord’s strength, depending on God’s word and praying in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Every church age Believer is indwelled by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation (1 Cor.6:19-20).

“This is the only thing I want to find out from you; did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” (Gal.3:2-3; Rom.1:16)

3. Every church age Believer is commanded to walk by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

“But I say walk (peripateo / p.a.impv.2pl) by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desires against the Spirit, and Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” (Gal.5:16-17)

“And 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 searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Rom.8:26-27)

4. Gratifying the lusts of the OSN by means of personal sins (MAS, ST, and OS) hinders walking and praying in the power of The Holy Spirit (Rom.13:13-14; Gal.5:19-25; James 1:14-15).

“If I regard wickedness in my heart, **the Lord** will not hear me.” (Ps.66:18; Mark 14:29-42)

“If we confess our sins, **He is** faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

Therefore personal sin hinders an effective prayer life: “You ask and do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”(James 4:3; 1 John 3:21-22)

5. Praying in the power of The Holy Spirit according to the will of God with confidence in God to answer are essentials to an effective prayer life.

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit.” (Jude 20)

“And this is **the confidence** which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if **we know** that He hears us in whatever we ask, **we know** that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.” (1 John 5:14-15; John 15:7)

“Let us therefore draw near with **confidence** to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb.4:16; James 1:6-8)

“Be anxious for nothing, **but in** everything by prayer and supplication **with** thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.4:6-7)

6. A Believer with an effective prayer life receives his request and must accept it as God’s will.

- Jesus prayed three times regarding the cross (Matt.26:36-44).
- Paul prayed three times regarding the thorn in the flesh (2 Cor.12:7-10).
- **My will must be God’s will and God’s will must be my prayer.**
- **God’s NO is as good as His YES.**

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” (James 5:16)