

PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction

Jude writes to confront “scoffers who follow their own ungodly evil desires” (v. 18).

They divide the church, bring down the weak, wreak havoc in the body of Christ.

Hence, Jude urges them to build themselves up and to pray in the Holy Spirit.

Notice, there are a number of commands in Scripture concerning the Holy Spirit:

1. Grieve not the Spirit. (Eph. 4:30)
2. Quench not the Spirit. (1 Thess. 5:19)
3. Walk in the Spirit. (Gal. 5:2)

Here in Jude 20-21 the command to “Pray in the Holy Spirit” is given:

²⁰ But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. ²¹ Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. (Jude 20-21)

In fact in Jude “praying in the holy spirit” is one of seven exhortations to believers:

1. Remember the words of the apostles.
2. Build up yourselves in the faith.
3. Pray in the Holy Spirit.
4. Keep in the love of God.
5. Look for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. Have compassion.
7. Save others with fear.

But prayer is the vital factor in the Christian life which activates the other departments of the Christian experience.

True prayer is exercised in the sphere of the Holy Spirit.

It is motivated and empowered by him.

We must be Spirit-filled and Spirit-controlled to really pray.

The Holy Spirit of God leads us in our petitions
and generates within us
the faith necessary for acceptable and answerable prayer.

Besides Jude there are two basic passages
which deal with the matter of “praying in the Holy Spirit.”

It is to these that we now turn in order to get a better understanding of what
it means to “Pray in the Holy Spirit.”

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 saints.* (Eph 6:18)

- 1) In Eph 6:1-17, Paul says to take the whole armor of God and stand (Eph 6:11-17).
 - a) This armor is permanent. It's the Christian's sustained, long-life attire.
 - b) It's because the devil is clever and we are weak.
 - c) The ruler of demons, the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air must be stopped.
 - d) He hinders God's servants, he snares the righteous and masquerades as a child of light.
 - e) That's why we need the whole armor of God.
 - f) Paul mentions six pieces of armor:
 - A. Truth
 - B. Righteousness
 - C. Peace
 - D. Faith
 - E. Salvation
 - F. Word of God

2) Praying in the Spirit

- a) This focuses on submission, as we line up with the will of God.
- b) I'll come back to this point later when we get to Romans 8:27.

3) Watching with perseverance.

A. Why is perseverance needed for watching? Satan never quits.

B. Who are we to watch and pray for? The enemy

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶In 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 with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. (Rom 8:26-27)

- 1) 'Groans' = inaudible prayers; inward and unexpressed feelings.
- 2) Just as creation 'groans together', and we 'groan within ourselves',
- 3) likewise the Spirit also helps our weakness 'with groans'.
- 4) Why does He help us?
 - A. We know not what we should pray for, even when we try.
 - B. We simply cannot do this on our own. God must help!
- 5) How does he help us?
 - a. He 'intercedes for us' in verse 26. He speaks on our behalf.
 - b. He 'intercedes for the saints' in verse 27.
 - c. Although these two statements appear to be exactly the same, they are not:

1. He goes with us to the Father and intercedes on our behalf when we ask (v. 26).
 2. He makes intercession for us for things we do not ask (v. 27).
 - a) He has insight into deep things.
 - b) Even things we don't grasp.
- 6) Basically, He is our prayer partner (v. 26)

A. Notice some principles of 'praying in the spirit':

1. We don't know what we need.
2. The Holy Spirit does know what we need.
3. He will help us in our weaknesses.
4. He will reveal to us our real needs.
5. He will go with us and intercede on our behalf.

B. That means we need to be in harmony with the Holy Spirit when we pray.

C. Notice: Acts 15:28,

²⁸ It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: (Acts 15:28)

1. This verse is part of the letters sent to the Gentile converts in Antioch.
2. The church at Jerusalem was in agreement with the Holy Spirit on the matter.
3. This is a similar principle as found in John 15:7

⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:7)

D. 'Praying in the Holy Spirit is when we have gone to the Holy Spirit for help in knowing what we should pray for,

and then he goes with us to the Father to present the petitions that we have agreed upon.

7) He also prays for us concerning things for which we do not ask.

A. Remember, he knows our needs.

1. Sometimes we forget to ask for things that we need

2. When we do, he intercedes for us and asks for them

B. He knows what we need, even if it may be something we wouldn't ask for in our prayers.

1. We may want all sunny days, but he knows we need some cloudy ones.

2. We may want all victories, but he knows that we need a defeat.

3. This is where we can really understand (v. 28)

4. The Holy Spirit always prays according to God's will.

5. 1 Thess. 5:18,

'in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

CONCLUSION

To pray with the Spirit is to allow the Spirit of God to control our prayer life.

To be in harmony with Him is to realize answered prayer.

He is our prayer partner...

He is our intercessor.

He knows exactly what we need
and will help us in our prayers.

Are we in tune with Him?