

Praying in the Spirit

In his letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul tells the church to *pray in the Spirit on all occasions*. Since Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, exhorts the Church to pray in the Spirit, the believer should *eagerly desire* to find out what praying in the Spirit is, and how to *excel* in this spiritual gift. *Eph. 6:18; 1 Cor. 14:1;12*

God and the Church are supernatural!

1. God, who is a supernatural God, doesn't change and He has chosen to make the Church His habitation. His people are therefore a supernatural people! *Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8; James 1:17; Eph. 2:21,22; 3:20; 1 John 4:13*
2. The Church was birthed supernaturally with a manifestation of the supernatural! *Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-46; 19:6*
3. The believer enters a supernatural life at conversion! *John 3:3-8; Col. 1:13*
4. God wants to saturate the believer's spirit, soul (*mind, heart and will*) and body with His supernatural presence and power. *Eph. 1:17,18; 3:16; 5:18; Rom. 8:9*
5. God wants us to eagerly desire the supernatural. *1 Cor. 14:1*
6. God wants us to try to excel in the supernatural. *1 Cor. 14:12*
7. God wants us to release the supernatural in our lives. *Eph. 6:18*

The importance of faith!

1. The greatest hindrance to releasing "the things of the Spirit" (*1 Cor.12:1*) is unbelief!
2. The believer must settle the fact that he received the fullness of God at conversion by faith. *Eph. 1:3,22,23; Col.2:9; Gal.3:14*
3. The gift of the Holy Spirit is received by faith at regeneration when a person is born again. *John 3:3-8; Gal. 3:14; Eph. 1:13,14*
4. The believer also needs to settle the fact that the Spirit is released by faith. *Gal. 3:5; 1 Cor. 14:12; Mark 16:17,18; 2 Cor. 4:13*
5. The believer must enter the supernatural by faith. *Heb. 3:19-4:2,11*
6. Faith is the gate to the things of the Spirit. It is the "substance" (KJV) that connects Heaven and earth (Heb. 11:1) - the supernatural with the natural.

What is praying in the Spirit?

1. Praying in the Spirit is a supernatural, God-enabled speaking to a supernatural God.
1 Cor. 14:2
2. Praying in the Spirit or praying in tongues is different to speaking in tongues - praying in tongues is talking to God whereas speaking in tongues with interpretation is talking to man.
1 Cor. 14:2, 5
3. Speaking to man in one's own language as directed by God is called prophecy. *1 Cor. 14:3*
4. Praying in the Spirit builds you up as you worship God in the Spirit. *1 Cor. 12:2,4; Jude 20*
5. When the believer prays in the Spirit, he initially prays with his spirit and not with his understanding. As the believer prays in the Spirit, he must also pray with his mind by faith in order to understand what he is praying. It is by faith that the believer understands.
1 Cor.14:14,15; Heb. 11:3
6. The spiritual language is spiritual and requires interpretation and not translation.
1 Cor. 14:5,14
7. It is God's will that every believer pray in the Spirit. *1 Cor. 14:5; Eph.6:18*

How do I release this gift?

1. Be sure you have surrendered your life to Jesus and that you believe that He is your Lord and Saviour. *Rom. 10:9,10; John 3:3-8*
2. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit by faith. *Gal. 3:14; Luke 11:13*
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to expose any sin in your life and confess it to God.
4. Receive God's forgiveness by faith and not by feeling. *1 John 1:9*
5. Remember that the things of the Spirit are gifts that cannot be earned! God doesn't give us His Spirit or release the Spirit when we are "good" enough - the things of the Spirit are received and released by grace through faith and not by works. *Eph. 2:9; Gal. 3:5,14*
6. Trust in the Lord to give you the words to speak when you begin to speak by faith. *1 Cor. 12:11*
7. Remember that God has already given you His Spirit who will release spiritual language as you trust in Him and cooperate with Him (*1 Cor. 14:12*) - you are not initiating; you are cooperating with what God has already placed in you!

8. You can only release the gift if you exercise it! This principle applies to all the gracings of God! The believer must release the spiritual gifts by faith and the Holy Spirit manifests the gift as He determines (1 Cor.12:11). God will not force your mouth open - you must begin by faith. The apostle Paul would not tell us to “pray in the Spirit” if the believer weren’t able to! *Eph.6:18*
9. Begin by praising and worshipping God in your own language. It is important to keep your focus on Jesus and not yourself. If you are self-conscious you cannot be God-conscious! True worship is addressed to God as one’s attention is fixed on Him alone.
10. Begin to pray in the Spirit as the Holy Spirit enables you. Just let it begin, even if it’s just one “word.” Continue to speak what God gives you and then go back to speaking in your own language. Alternate between speaking in your own language and speaking in the Spirit so that you remain focused on God and not on what is coming out of your mouth!
11. The apostle Paul tells us to “try to excel” in the gifts of the Spirit so pray in the Spirit as much as possible and as often as possible and on every occasion. This way you will learn to flow in the Spirit and make room for God to manifest His Spirit through you in other ways (prophecy, revelation, words of knowledge etc).
12. Expect God to fill your spirit, soul and body as you spend time releasing the supernatural in and through your life! Let the streams of living water flow through you. Freely you have received, freely give! *Matt. 10:8; John 7:38,39*

Pastor Richard Morschel, Kingdom Life Frankfurt, June 2008