

“PRAY IN THE SPIRIT?”

Ephesians 6:18 – *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*



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"What is praying in the spirit? 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. It is praying for things the spirit leads us to pray for. (Romans 8:26) tells us, "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 with groans that words cannot express."

Some, based on (1 Corinthians 14:15), equate praying in the spirit with praying in tongues. How are we to pray with all kinds of prayers and requests and pray for the saints, if no one, including the person praying, understands what is being said? Therefore, praying in the spirit should be understood as praying in the power of the spirit, by the leading of the spirit, and according to His will, not as praying in tongues.

In order to properly or appropriately pray in the spirit, first you must know what to pray (Pray always with all prayer & supplication). What is supplication? Supplication is humble prayer, entreaty or petition. The text suggests that we do not always pray with supplication. When we pray we are entreating the ear of God to hear us and to answer us in our prayer requests. To be humble in prayer is not to practice what you are going to say, but that you truly begin to pray from the pit of your belly and allow the Holy Spirit to make intercession for you! Let the spirit pray for you and instruct you and lead you on what to pray for. Do not pray with eloquence of speech but with the utterance of the Holy Spirit! For we truly do not know what to pray for or how to pray except the Holy Spirit takes control!

Next, you must know how to pray (Watch thereunto with all perseverance and supplication). What is perseverance? Perseverance is continuance in a state of grace to the end, leading to eternal salvation. It is a steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, and a state, etc.; especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement. When you pray, you are to watch thereunto with all perseverance and supplication. In other words, you are to be intentional and persistent in your prayers. No matter what state you're in – mentally, physically, financially, relationally, emotionally; no matter the difficulties you are presently experiencing, no matter the obstacles that seem to always get in your way, no matter the discouragement that continues to come from those closest to you and those who claim to love you the most, you must, you've got to continue to pray, trusting and believing that God will hear you and is able to answer your prayer.

And lastly, you must know who to pray for (all Saints). What does "all" mean? All means the whole of (used in referring to quantity, extent, or duration). Every; or any. We are to pray for the saints in our inner circle, those we do not know, those saints that are located domestically as well as internationally - the free saints and the persecuted saints. Anyone who is calling upon the name of the Lord your God should be prayed for! That's why we pray for our world at large -- church doors and church leaders everywhere coast to coast, around the world and across this nation! Just pray! That's what you and I are required to do!

So when you pray in the spirit, pray always with all prayer and supplication; watch thereunto with all perseverance and supplication and pray for all saints! And watch God change things!

BBlessed!

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