

*Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.*

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Prayer Study #323

## **POWER OF THE SPIRIT-BAPTIZED BELIEVER'S PRAYER LIFE**

I grew up in a family that had nightly Bible reading and prayer as a family. We were also expected to do these activities on our own. As the children got older and more independent, we were often involved in other activities at night, and then my parents changed the devotional time to mornings so that we all could still participate. I believe this emphasis on the Word and on prayer laid a foundation in my life. We did not know anything about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, however, and I must admit that prayer became increasingly a burdensome task. It was not until I received the baptism in the Spirit that my prayer life took off. In fact, as a young school teacher I became obsessed, in a good way, with prayer, and I often prayed for people over the phone until late at night. Some health issues worn me out and slowed down my nightly phone prayers, but I still believe in the power of prayer and have observed how powerful it can be when lead by the Spirit in a spirit-baptized believer's life. Prayer can become an exciting, *look-forward-to*, kind of activity when it is in the Spirit and is an intimate communication with the Father. It involves not only speaking but also listening, and the Father will speak to our spirit man if we wait upon Him and listen.

The following is based on an outline from the New King James Thomas Nelson publishers. I thought it was information that would fit nicely in our study on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit:

### **PRAYER-A REQUEST TO GOD**

#### Kinds of Prayer

**SECRET-Matthew 6:6-***“but you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”*

**GROUP-Matthew 18:20-***“For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”* Acts 12:12-*So, when he had considered this, he[Peter]came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.*

**PUBLIC-Acts 21:5-6**-*When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed. When we had taken leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home.*

**PRAYER OF AGREEMENT-Matthew 18:19**-*“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”*

#### Parts of Prayer

**ADORATION-Daniel 4:34-35**-*And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”*

**CONFESSION-1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9**-*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**SUPPLICATION-Acts 1:14**-*These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with His brothers. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:1*-*Therefore I exhort first of all the supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.*

**INTERCESSION-1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:1-3**-*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks be made of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior... James 5:14-15*-*If anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

**THANKSGIVING-Philippians 4:6-***Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

Personal Conditions of Prayer

**PURITY OF HEART-Psalm 66:18-19-***If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.*

**FAITH-Matthew 21:22-***“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*

**IN JESUS NAME-John 14:13-***“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*

**ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL-1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN 5:14-***Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

General Conditions of Prayer

**FORGIVING SPIRIT-Matthew 6:14-15-***“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

**HUMILITY AND REPENTANCE-Luke 18:10-14-***“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men-extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other, for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

**UNITY OF BELIEVERS-Matthew 18:19-20-***“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”*

**TENACITY-Luke 18:1-8-***Then he spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’” Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”*

**PERSISTENCE-Luke 11:5-10-***And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”*

**INTENSITY-Matthew 7:7-11-***“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”*

**CONFIDENT EXPECTATION-Mark 11:24-***“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”*

**WITHOUT EMPTY PHRASES-Matthew 6:7-***“And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”*

**UNCEASINGLY-1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5: 17-Pray without ceasing.**

Answers refused because of:

**SIN-Psalm 66:18-If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.**

**SELFISHNESS-James 4:3-You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

**DOUBT-James 1:5-7-If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord...**

**LAWLESSNESS-Proverbs 28:9-One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.**

**INHUMANITY-Proverbs 21:13-Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.**

**PRIDE-Luke 18:11-12 &14-“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I think You that I am not like other men-extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess’...I tell you, this man [the tax collector] went down to his house justified rather than the other[the Pharisee]; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”**

**PRETENSE-Mark 12:38-40-He said to them in His teaching, “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.”**

Posture for Praying

**STANDING-Nehemiah 9:5-And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said: “Stand up and bless the LORD your God forever and ever! Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise!”**

**KNEELING-1<sup>ST</sup> Kings 8:54-***And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.*

**SITTING-1<sup>ST</sup> Chronicles 17:16-27-***The King David went in and sat before the LORD: and he said, “Who am I, O LORD God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O God; and You have also spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree, O LORD God. What more can David say to You for the honor of Your servant? For You know Your servant. O LORD, for Your servant’s sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness, in making known all these great things. O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people-to make for Yourself a name by great and awesome deeds, by driving out nations from before Your people whom You redeemed from Egypt? For You have made Your people, Israel, Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God. And now, O LORD, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, let it be established forever, and do as You have said. So let it be established, that Your name may be magnified forever, saying, ‘The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel’s God.’ And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. For You, O my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build him a house. Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray before You. And now, LORD, You are God, and have promised this goodness to Your servant. Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You have blessed it, O LORD, and it shall be blessed forever.”*

**BOWING-Exodus 34:8-***So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.*

**HANDS UPLIFTED-1<sup>ST</sup> Timothy 2:8-***I desire therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*