

# Praying In The Spirit

By Elder Harry L. Jackson

It has been well established that laying a foundation of prayer is essential to us defeating the demonic strongholds that have oppressed our churches and cities. We also know that it will also be one of the keys to us maintaining and enforcing the victory that even now is being accomplished on our behalf in the heavenly places.



I believe that one of the factors that has been slowing us down as we seek to enforce on Earth what Christ has already won for us in Heaven is that when we pray, many of us do not pray in the Spirit. One statement that I have heard many well-meaning Christians using that lets me know that the enemy is perpetrating a deception in our midst is that “the devil speaks in tongues!” That is true (only because satan does try to counterfeit anything that God is doing), but SO DO THE SAINTS!! The Bible says that “the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (Rom 8:26). What that means is that we don’t always have the understanding, either of the depth of the things that we must pray about, or what God’s will is for a particular situation, but the Holy Spirit, who is and has the mind of God, knows exactly what and how we need to pray, and so He intercedes for us in order to make up for our “infirmities”, our lack of understanding, our inability to discern the will of God, the fact that our bodies fail us, that our minds get tired, etc. When we pray in the Spirit, He prays for things that we may not even know about, but He always prays right. There is so much that we need to pray about that we could not cover it all in one say, Sunday morning or midweek prayer service. “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Rom. 8:27). It is the devil who does not want us to pray in the Spirit, because he knows that he cannot intercept prayers that he cannot understand. Think about this: satan knows every human language known to man, but he DOES NOT KNOW THE LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD. Can you see why he would not want us to pray in the Holy Ghost? He knows that when the Spirit prays, he prays directly to the Father, and according to His will. There is neither flesh, nor souliness, nor selfishness when we pray in the Holy Ghost. Although everyone in the church does not have the gift of tongues according to 1 Cor. 12:10, everyone who asks God for it can pray in the language of the Spirit. We don’t do it because we don’t understand what it means. I know that for me, sometimes all that I can do is lift my hands to the Father, and cry “help!” I don’t have the words in English to express what I need. But the Holy Ghost knows just what I need because He *is* the Spirit of truth (Jn:14:17, Jn:15:26, Jn:16:13). As long as we allow the devil to deceive us into not using this most potent weapon against him, the strongholds that are over our cities and churches will not be completely broken and destroyed.

Reference scriptures: Rom 8:26-27, 1 Cor. 12, 1 Cor. 14:2\*

*\*I believe that for some of us, this chapter is one of the sources of our confusion about tongues. Many people don’t understand that there are two types of tongues being spoken of here. One has to do with God sending a*

*message through a brother or sister to the church. This kind needs an interpretation (vs.13), whereas the other type (vs. 2 and 14) needs no interpretation, because the speaker speaks not unto men, but “unto God.” So it’s like a spiritual telephone line, wherein in one instance God rings us, and in the other, we call Him. I thought that I would share some of what I feel God has been sharing with me, and I hope, as always, that this helps.*