

Spirit-Empowered Prayer: The Holy Spirit Helps In Our Weaknesses



Foundations (Day 201)
by Derek Prince

A fourth main purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit concerns the prayer life of the believer.

> "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Rom. 8:26-27)

Paul mentions one form of weakness which is common to all believers in their own natural condition and apart from the Holy Spirit. It is defined by Paul in the words "for we do not know what we should pray for as we ought." This weakness is not knowing how to pray in accordance with God's will.

The only One to whom we can turn for help in this weakness is the Holy Spirit, for Paul says:

> "The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses... the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us... because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Rom. 8:26-27).

Paul here speaks of the Spirit as a Person who indwells the believer and who makes the believer a vessel, or a channel, through which He offers prayer and intercession.

This is prayer of a kind which is far above the level of the believer's own natural understanding or ability. In this kind of prayer the believer does not rely on his feelings or his understanding. He yields his body to the Holy Spirit as a temple in which the Spirit Himself conducts prayer, and he yields his members as instruments which the Spirit controls for purposes of supernatural intercession.

Concerning prayer, the New Testament sets a standard to which the believer can never attain in his own natural strength or understanding. In this way God deliberately shuts the believer up in a place where he is obliged either to fall below the divine standard or else to depend upon the supernatural assistance of the indwelling Spirit.

For example, Paul says:

> "...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." (Eph. 6:18)

And again:

> "Pray without ceasing... Do not quench the Spirit." (1 Thess. 5:17, 19)

No person in his own unaided strength or understanding can fulfil these commandments. No person can "pray always" or "pray without ceasing." But that which is impossible in the natural is made possible by the indwelling, supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, Paul is careful to emphasise the believer's dependence upon the Holy Spirit. He says, "Praying always... in the Spirit," and again, "Pray without ceasing .. Do not quench the Spirit."

Devotional

Transcript: WD-B052-201-ENG
Last Updated: 03 Feb 2025
Website: derekprince.com



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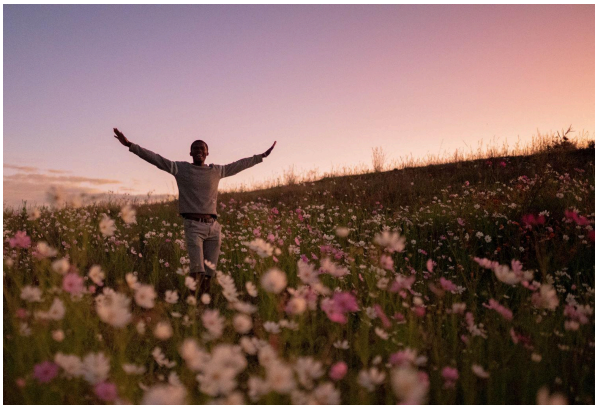

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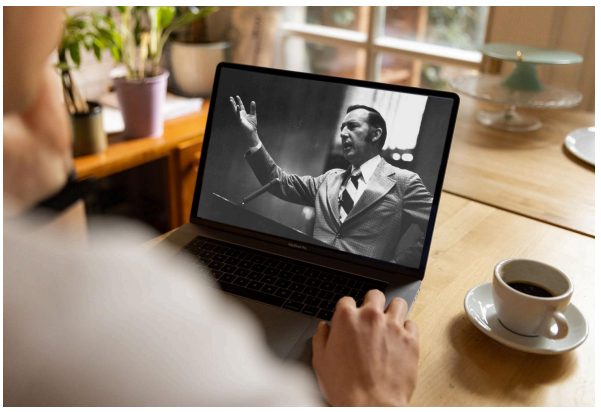

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