PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT / SPEAKING IN TONGUES

HOME CHURCH PREACH

For the last few weeks we have been looking at the Authority of the Believer and I want to believe that with every study we do we are benefiting and growing from it.

Well today I want to look at this enormous subject of Speaking in tongues.

We sometimes interchange that with Praying in the Spirit or praying in the Holy Spirit. Hopefully by the end of the study we will know why they can by interchanged because they all mean the same thing.

What I will say though is that Praying in the Holy Spirit is not limited to only Speaking in tongues, but includes speaking in tongues.

***Different people with different backgrounds:***

*Before I start this subject, I know there are many people from different backgrounds and theological stands, and I want to acknowledge that this morning.*

*When I felt the Lord ask me to speak on this subject as part of His authority He has given us, I was very hesitant because I was telling the Lord I don’t want to ruffle any feathers or upset anyone who doesn’t agree with me.*

I pray God’s understanding will illuminate us and we will know His will for us and what He has made available for each of us.

Everything God has made available for us cost Him so much, that it is a painful thing for Him when he sees that we do not walk in the fulness of it.

Let us look at some scriptures that talk about this subject:

***Jude 1:20-21***

***“20 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”***

***Ephesians 6:18***

***“18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”***

So from these Scriptures we see here that there is something about Praying in the Spirit.

**What does the bible mean when it says Pray in the Holy Spirit?**

***1 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT)***

***“17 But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.”***

***15-17***

***“15 Don’t you realise that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! 16 And don’t you realise that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, “The two are united into one.” 17 But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.”***

I love how Paul out of no where just drops one of the deepest mysteries and just carries on as if he has just made an insignificant statement.

**Paul here says if you are united with the Lord you are one with Him in Spirit.**

SPEAKING IN TONGUES:

Praying in tongues:

**What is speaking in tongues?**

Speaking in tongues is the supernatural ability to speak a language that is unknown to us. It is an ability the Holy Spirit gives us when we are Baptised in the Holy Spirit.

***Study:***

***Currently, glossolalia--as it's called--can be found in Pentecostal and Charismatic Christian sects, where those affected believe they are uttering a message directly from God.***

***Study was conducted by psychiatrist Andrew Newberg of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and his colleagues.***

***A brain scan was done on 5 ladies worshiping and praying in English ad then repeated speaking in tongues.***

***The team reports in the November issue of Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging. Perhaps the most important difference was a decrease in frontal lobe function, Newberg says. "The part of the brain that normally makes them feel in control has been essentially shut down." Another notable change was increased activity in the parietal region--the part of the brain that "takes sensory information and tries to create a sense of self and how you relate to the rest of the world," Newberg says.***

***1 Corinthians 14:1-18***

***“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. 2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. 3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. 4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.***

***6 Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? 7 Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? 8 Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? 9 So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. 10 Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. 11 If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. 12 So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.***

***13 For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. 16 Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer,[d] say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? 17 You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.***

***18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.***

Things for note:

1. **When we speak in tongues we do not speak to man but to God. -**

***2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God.***

There is a difference between the Gift of tongues and the grace of tongues. One is a message from God and the other is speaking to God.

The message from God in tongues needs interpretation, but when we are praying in tongues it does not require interpretation. It is the Holy Spirit connecting with our Spirit and praying.

1. **When speaking in tongues we speak mysteries: -**

***2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.***

How many of us here know all things?

How many of us believe that God knows all things. Well when we are one with God in Spirit our spirit is in direct communication with the Holy Spirit so the revelation that our Spirit is receiving is mysteries to our mind and flesh.

1. **Speaking in tongues edifies ourselves:**

***4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.***

There is the doctrine that Speaking in tongues was only given for the communication of an earthly language. Well if I am speaking in Russian it does not edify me. If might edify those who speak Russian but not myself.

1. **Everyone full of the Holy Spirit can speak in tongues:**

***5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.***

Paul is saying here you all have the ability to pray in tongues but I would rather you prophesy. Prophesy he says is greater because when we prophesy the church is edified because they understand.

**Unless someone interprets! Interprets what? The Tongues.**

Paul is saying tongues that are interpreted in a Church setting are more beneficial to the whole church, than just speaking in tongues with no interpretation.

1. **Speaking in tongues without interpretation does not build up the church but builds up the individual who is speaking in tongues:**

***12 So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.***

1. **You can ask God for the interpretation of the tongues you speak:**

***13 For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say.***

We can ask God when we are speaking in tongues to give us the interpretation to what we are saying.

Sometimes it might be something that drops in our minds and we know that is what we are praying about.

We can also have a subject in mind and then speaking in tongues while praying on that subject we are activating our Spirit to pray directly with the Holy Spirit on that subject.

1. **When we pray in tongues our minds are unfruitful!: (This is a good thing!)**

***14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.***

Jesus said when teaching us to pray to go into our closet and shut the door behind us. Praying in tongues is one of the easiest ways to shut the door behind us.

1. **The Practice in public times of prayer should be praying in the Spirit (including speaking in tongues) and also praying in our understanding (to benefit those listening)**

***15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. 16 Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer,[d] say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? 17 You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.***

***18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.***

Conclusion:

We all can pray in the Spirit.

One of the greatest hinderances to praying in the Spirit or in tongues is our Self awareness. Our Ego. Our self consciousness.

* Am I going to look foolish? Yes you will.
* Will I be made fun of? Yes you will.
* It sounds like nonsense. Yes it is to the human mind, but not to your spirit who is in tune with the Holy Spirit.

The greatest encouragement I can offer to you today is to encourage you to surrender to the Lord.

Surrender your mind.

Surrender your self will.

Surrender your ego.

Surrender your all.

DBS SECTION:

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-18 in 2 different translations.

**DBS Questions:**

1 - What has spoken most to you about this topic of Speaking in tongues?

2 - Do you have any area of this subject that is a sticky point for you?

3 - What does this scripture teach us about God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

4 - What can we do in obedience to this scripture we have read?

5 - Who can we share this with this week?