

The Authority Of The Believer Praying in the Holy Spirit / Speaking in Tongues

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 be 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.

Lets go back to what Jesus said to Nicodemus when Nicodemus came to Him at night.

John 3:3-6 (NIV)

“3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Jesus was saying here that the regeneration process of a believer was the Spirit being Born.

Being born of water refers to the physical birth of a child while the Spiritual birth refers to the Salvation experience when our Spirit is Born.

So going back to what Paul says in 1 Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT)

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

He says we are one Spirit with the Lord.

Let me try and explain this a bit more.

Question:

Who is Henry?

If I was to leave this room and someone was to ask you where I was, you would say I just left, I am wearing the is and that.

The question is, is that really me?

Pastor Geoff gives this illustration of Princess Diana so often at funerals. The news were reporting on the night of the accident and they said in one moment that Princess Diana was injured and being taken to hospital. A few minutes later they said that Princess Diana was dead and her body was being repatriated back to England.

What happened. It was still the same body that was taken into hospital that was being taken out of the hospital but in one statement it was Princess Diana and in the next it was her body.

Why is that?

You are your spirit.

You are not your soul, you are not your body.

Paul says in:

1 Thessalonians 5:23

“23 Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.”

Repeat this after me:

I am a Spirit

Who has a soul

Who lives in a body.

The Body:

Your body is not the source of your identity.

You body responds to where it is led or what it is fed. Your body is not evil in itself, it responds to what it is being exposed to.

The bible say the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit dwells there.

The Physical body is your earth suit, how you interact with the physical realm, with everyone in this room, how you interact with the world around you.

It is what you use to interact with your environment through sight, through touch, through speech, through hearing.

The Soul:

The Soul is realm of decision, it's the neutral ground. It is a blank sheet and is either influenced by our Flesh or by our Spirit.

It's the mind, the will, the emotion, the personality.

What you think,

what you desire,

Your emotions,

how you behave.

All of these contribute to what you are going to express in the physical body.

The Spirit:

Then there is a deeper part of you, that the scripture refer to as your Spirit. This is the real you. This is the real Henry.

When your Spirit is born, it is your direct Link to the Spirit of God and is one with the Spirit of God.

It is where God says I have made you in my image. It is only your Spirit that can grasp what it means to be in the image of God and translate that to you soul and body.

The Body and the soul are outer shells of who you are they do not make you up in your entirety.

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman.
Jesus said in:

John 7:38-39 (NIV)

“38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”

(NASB)

“The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”

Jesus mentioned the inner place of where Living water will flow out from.

When we are born again and Baptised in the Holy Spirit the Holy Spirit is within us, and it is from within that the rivers of living water flow.

So when we talk about Speaking in tongues I am not waiting for rain to fall on us from outside, but rather I am calling forth the river from within us to flow.

John 14:17 (NLT)

“But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.”

**Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of Speaking in tongues is not rain from heaven, it is a river from within flowing out.
It is not something I must receive, it is something that I must release.**

When we say fill me Holy Spirit, the problem is our flesh and soul still find air pockets to survive and we are never really released into the fulness of what God has for us, because our body and soul still rule us.

We say fill me Holy Spirit, yet we insist on being full of ourselves and our own ambition.

Illustration:

Story of the man who survived for 3days underwater in a small air pocket enough to last 56hrs.

So what have we said:

- 1) When we become born again, our Spirit is born.**
- 2) When we are born again our Spirit us one with God.**

Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

I am not going to dwell on this as I hope and believe we all understand what it means to be baptised in the Holy Spirit and to be full of the Holy Spirit.

When we are baptised in the Holy Spirit there is a release of power within us to live super natural lives.

Acts 1:8

“8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-4

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Acts 19:

“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when[a] you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in

Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the

Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues[b] and prophesied.

7 There were about twelve men in all."

There is something more than just the salvation experience that God wants us all to experience.

Are we saved even if we are not full of the Holy Spirit.

Yes we are! Salvation is our belief and faith in Jesus Christ.

Can we live a victorious Christian life without the baptism of the Holy Spirit? It will be a struggle, because we haven't got the full package of what God wants us to have as Christians.

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 and 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.

- 2) **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.

- 3) **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. It might edify those who speak Russian but not myself.

- 4) **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. Prophecy 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.

- 5) 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.

- 6) 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.

- 7) 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.

- 8) 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.