

WORD 2019

Disciplineship

Effectual

Vision

One Word

Training

Enlargement

Devotion

- **Enlargement of our Faith**
- **Enlargement of our Love**
- **Enlargement of our Prayer Life**
- **Enlargement of His Presence**
- **BUT HOW?** A question we should always be asking!

Luke 1:26-38 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

34 Mary asked the angel, "**But how can this happen?** I am a virgin."

35 The angel replied, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.** So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. 36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's now in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God."

38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Laying a Foundation

Jude 17-23 Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ said before. 18 They said to you, "In the last times there will be people who laugh about God, following their own evil desires which are against God." 19 These are the people who divide you, people whose thoughts are only of this world, who do not have the Spirit.

20 But dear friends, **use your most holy faith to build yourselves up, praying in the Holy Spirit.**

21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the Lord Jesus Christ with his mercy to give you life forever.

22 Show mercy to some people who have doubts. 23 Take others out of the fire, and save them. Show mercy mixed with fear to others, hating even their clothes which are dirty from sin. NCV

NT:2026 epoikodomeo (ep-oy-kod-om-eh'-o); from NT:1909 and NT:3618; **to build upon, i.e. (figuratively) to rear up:**

Romans 8:26-27 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, **but the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groans that words cannot express. NIV

Romans 8:34-35 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised— who is at the right hand of God, **who indeed is interceding for us.** ESV

Two Intercessors

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us, and Christ Intercedes for us.

- Important to see that these 2 intercessions though related are quite distinct!

Jesus Introduces the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-18 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. NASB

- Its primitive meaning is “**one called to the side of**” another to help him.
 - It was used in a court of justice to denote a legal assistant, counsel for the defense, an advocate.
- When Jesus told the disciples that He would ask the Father to send them “another Paraclete,” He used a word signifying “**another of the same kind.**”

Understanding the Helper

- Christ intercedes “at the right hand of God” (Romans 8: 34). He is our “Advocate with the Father” (1 John 2: 1).
- The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, intercedes in the hearts of men (Romans 8: 27). Christ’s intercession is apart from us; **the Holy Spirit’s is within us.**

We cannot help, nor can we hinder the intercession of Christ Jesus

When we turn to the intercession of the Spirit the position is very different. It is a solemn fact that we may facilitate or frustrate the Spirit’s intercession in us, by our cooperation or the lack of it

- Though Christ does not require us for His intercession, the Holy Spirit most assuredly does for His.
- Here we can no longer be spectators; we must be participators.

- Christ prays for us in the sense that He makes us the object of His praying.
- The Holy Spirit prays for us in the sense that He makes us the vehicle of His praying. He prays on our behalf by enabling us to pray—helping us in our weakness—who do not know how to pray as we ought.
- There appears to be no suggestion in Scripture that the Holy Spirit ever intercedes except through the believer.
 - Look at **Romans 8:15-17** For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. NIV
 - Compare this with the day of Pentecost; **Acts 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ESV
- The divine Spirit and the human spirit become joint witnesses by the cry that comes from within us.

When we don't know how to Pray!

- No matter where we are in our faith journey we can be encouraged when Paul said, “We do not know how to pray.” He used the word “we” and so included himself.
- Unfortunately for many Christians who are ever bemoaning their inadequate prayer life they have never had this revelation.
- Some know “the rest of utter weakness” and others only know the striving of utter weakness.
- How wonderful it is when we discover, often through the discipline of repeated failure, that this weakness with which we seem to be permanently saddled is not “the end,” but a new and wonderful beginning—the gateway to heaven’s resources.

“Spirit helps”

- “The Spirit **helps us** in our weakness.” The weakness is perpetual only that we might be perpetually dependent on the Holy Spirit.
- It is found in only one other passage, Luke 10:40 But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and **help me.**"
- We have in fact a marvelous truth, not merely that the Spirit intervenes in our weakness but that He does so “together with” us—for He requires our willing cooperation—and “instead of” us, for He does for us what we could never do for ourselves.

Praying in the Spirit – Praying with the Spirit

- We need to define our terms carefully, because there has been a tendency in some quarters to assume too readily that praying in the Spirit and praying with the spirit are identical terms.

- In fact, praying in tongues is but one of three distinct kinds of praying in the Spirit mentioned in Scripture. Examination of the above reference in Corinthians with the two references to praying “in the Spirit” or “in the Holy Spirit”
 - Ephesians 6:18 **Pray in the Spirit** at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. NLT
 - Jude 20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; **pray in the Holy Spirit**; ESV
 - indicate that they are not synonymous.
- There is a difference in the Greek which our translators have been careful to convey by not only using different prepositions, “with” and “in,” but by using a capital “S” for “in the Spirit” and a small “s” for “with the spirit,” and that is true of all the main versions.
- **It is in the realm of the human spirit that the spiritual gift operates.**

- 1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ESV
- What could be meant by “every spirit which . . . is of God”? It surely refers to the human spirit manifesting a spiritual gift, such as prophecy.
- **1 Corinthians 14**; praying with the spirit is equivalent to praying with the spiritual gift.
 - It is important to see where the emphasis lies.
 - So praying is only sometimes “with the spirit” (i.e., in tongues) but “at all times in the Spirit.”
 - “In the Spirit” is therefore a much broader concept than “with the spirit.” To identify the one with the other is to imply that all the great intercessors of the Old Testament and even our blessed Lord Himself did not pray in the Spirit because, to our knowledge, they did not pray in tongues.

- The contexts of the only two references to praying in the Spirit in the New Testament are instructive.
 - The first reference concludes that great passage in Ephesians 6 on the armor of God in the believer's warfare (6: 18) **Battling**.
 - The other, in Jude, follows the exhortation to **build** ourselves up on our most holy faith (6: 20). So it is in the context of battling and building that we are exhorted to “pray in the Spirit.”
- These two figures in fact sum up what the Christian life is all about.

Praying “with the Holy Spirit” – Battling and Building

- A world within a world.
 - 2 Kings 6:15-20
 - Numbers 22:21-31
 - 2 Samuel 24:15-17
 - Think of all the angelic or “the Spirit” dynamics surrounding the birth of Christ!
 - The day of Pentecost!

- **The battle with “our” mind and with the Spirit!**