

What's the Big Deal about a Prayer Language?

Many question the need of praying in a prayer language, just as I did several years ago. Is it for everybody? Only you and the Lord can answer that question. But He has led me to give you several Scriptures and personal testimony so that you can go before the Lord, dialogue with Him and ask Him what He thinks about it. Then whatever you and He decide is what is right for you.

Jude 20-21 says, “*But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love...*” NIV The Message says it this way, “...*carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God’s love...*”

According to Jude’s instruction, we are to build ourselves up by praying in the Holy Spirit which keeps us in the center of God’s love (in the *flow*). What part of us will be built up? Our new nature, our born again spirit, the inner man, that which is birthed in us at salvation and united permanently with the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-38 says that we have the rivers of God *flowing* in us which is the Holy Spirit. We are to come thirsty, fixing our eyes on Jesus and drink deeply, believing, from the Holy Spirit’s living waters within. By doing this we stay in the *flow* of the rivers of God within our heart. Praying in a prayer language by the Holy Spirit is a way to abide in that continuous *flow*. If we are in the *flow*, we can quickly connect to our Shepherd, hear His voice and abide in His love.

What does the Bible say about praying in the Holy Spirit? I encourage you to spend the time to look up these verses and utilize the Dialogue questions. It would be a good idea to ask the Holy Spirit what He wants to say to you concerning these verses. Quiet yourself down, fix your eyes on Jesus, tune to the spontaneous flow and record what you hear the Lord saying to you. If you are fixed on Him, the thoughts you sense are coming from Him, by faith!

- Acts 2:4 – What gift can the Holy Spirit give to a person? What can the Spirit sound like? NASB says utterances.
- Rom 8:15 – Who cries out (language) through us to the Father?
- Rom 8:26-27 – What does the Spirit help us do generally and specifically? How?
- 1 Cor 14:15 – In addition to praying and singing in our native language, how else may I pray and sing? How?
- Gal 4:6 – What have we received because we are children of God? What is the result of this gift?
- Eph 6:18 – How are all of our prayers to be prayed? In light of all these verses, what does that mean so far?
- Rev 1:10 – What can we be in? What does that mean?

What does the Bible say about building myself up? Same instructions as above...

- John 6:63 – What do the words we speak from the Holy Spirit produce?
- 1 Cor 14:2 – To whom are you speaking when you speak in tongues? What part of you is speaking?
- 1 Cor 14:1 – What are we to pursue and earnestly desire? Would you say that the governing heart motivation for the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is an attitude of love? How does that tie back to Jude 20-21?
- 1 Cor 14:4 – What is the affect of speaking in a tongue to the Lord?

Has the Holy Spirit changed since the first century church?

- Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17; Rev 1:4
- 1 Cor 12:7-10 – What are the various ways the Holy Spirit manifests Himself? Which of these manifestations have you experienced?
- 1 Cor 13:8-13 – When will these gifts cease? Keep in mind the verb tense “will cease” is a future tense. So when in the future will that be? When does perfection come? Verse 12 gives the answer. Who will we see face to face? Until then, have the gifts ceased according to Scripture? The answer is no, they have not. According to verse 13, we are to abide in love. Refer back to Jude 20-21...

Why is the gift of tongues not being practiced on a corporate level in churches today? If you read 1 Cor 13:1-7 and 14:26-40, it seems that spiritual immaturity was a huge problem in the Corinthian church. Is it possible the body struggles with so much immaturity that’s why this gift is not being used on a corporate level today? According to verse 28, if this is not being done in your church, how are we encouraged to proceed? Don’t be upset and criticize the pastor! Develop your prayer language between you and God. Isn’t that what it’s for anyway?

Col 2:9-10 says that believers have the fullness of the Godhead in them, right now! So if you want to pray in a prayer language, you already have the ability through the Spirit. ***How do you lay hold of it and manifest it?***

- First, repent for unbelief and judgments you've made concerning the Spirit and His manifestations. Repent from grieving the Holy Spirit through falsehoods, stealing, unresolved anger and unwholesome words (Eph 4:25-32). Repent from despising prophetic utterances, not rejoicing always, not praying without ceasing, not giving thanks in everything repaying another with evil for evil and not seeking after that which is good for one another (1 Thess 5:15-22). Repent from being religious and listening to wrong teaching from the religious leaders who do not believe in the Holy Spirit (Acts 23:8). Does the Lord prompt your heart in any of these matters?
- Second, invite the Holy Spirit to release Himself fully in you (He's there but desires more of you than you've allowed Him to have). Ask the Holy Spirit to begin to bubble up within you to pray and sing with His language. Ask Him to come and empower you from the *flow* within, to show you things, give you His thoughts, to tell you what is on the heart of the Father, to anoint your tongue and mind, your heart and hands, to make you creative, to totally take over the control of your life as He desires.
- Now, in faith, fix your eyes on Jesus, open your mouth, and surrender your mind to Him. Empty your mind of everything but Jesus. Surrender your tongue, lips and vocal cords to Him. Don't wait on feeling anything, as you hear syllables, speak them forth in faith. Don't analyze what they sound like or what they mean. Initially, it may be helpful to say a few words like "alleluia, alleluia" or to repeat His name "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus". Praise the Lord outloud and then let the song from your heart come out. As you speak forth what you hear, more will come. If you get two or four syllables, just be faithful and speak them out. I found it very helpful to have on soft praise music singing along with the words, then just letting His syllables come forth. Even when I sing in English now, singing in the Spirit is very natural. Yes, this is a faith thing. Be faithful in the little and more will continue. Continue to speak and keep on going! Speak for ten to fifteen minutes, and more if there's time. Speak in the car, in the grocery store, at work, etc. You don't have to speak out loud all the time. You can do this under your breath and just in your heart. I'm for sure praying in the Spirit at Walmart!

I initially had four syllables or words. The Lord tested me whether I would speak them over and over in faith or be discouraged that I only had four words... I chose the latter and quenched the Spirit's language for a period of time. Big mistake... The Lord said to me very clearly that I had treated His gift like a Christmas toy. I wanted it very badly, then when I received it, I played with it for a little while but then put it on the shelf, moving on to something else. This is where Daddy God takes you to the woodshed of sorts! Repentance was necessary. The Lord even prompted me to visually give Him my head since it was a huge hindrance to surrendering to His supernatural *flow*. Then, it began to flow!! When I relaxed and let my tongue flow out with what sounded like baby talk, it just took off from there! Remember as a baby we spoke in syllables like papa, papa, papa. This experience is very similar.

Well, I wished I could tell you how obedient I was from that point on, but like a stubborn child the Lord had to teach me more. For some time, I prayed regularly in this wonderful language, but again put it on the shelf with the thoughts "What's this really for? I don't feel warm and fuzzy?" Side note: I actually had been praying for insight into some deeper things of the Lord. Making it all about me, I put the prayer language down, again, and went on my business. Then I hit a real slump of despair. Despairing that the Lord was not answering my request for deeper wisdom and seeing in the Spirit... Okay, guess you already see this coming. Again, the Lord spoke very clearly and firmly in the Father's voice about shelving the prayer language and again using it as a "toy", playing with it a while until the newness wore off. Suffice it to say, repentance was again necessary for being so slow of heart. He is so gracious, but He was very firm that this was not a game and if I continued to treat His grace gifts this way, it would be much harder for me to lay hold of them. The Lord also revealed to me a generational religious curse that had played a part in all this. Deep religion (not spirituality) and bitterness towards the church from wounds some of my family members had encountered resulted in bitter root judgments about spiritual things. This was spiritually passed on to me. Once the Lord revealed this as a hindrance to advancing farther into the deeper things, I repented of their sins, renounced these judgments and curses and cut myself free from them. This opened up the door for the Holy Spirit to move in my life in a much greater way! My prayer language has been in continuous development ever since! That's one of the reasons it has become so important to me. I took it for granted grieving the Lord. He showed me that praying in the Spirit helps me be in constant communion with Him, alive in great joy and peace!

Here's another example: John Osteen relates when he first spoke in his prayer language he only got three words. He was a Baptist minister for 17 years and had never surrendered himself to the Holy Spirit in this way. Then one day he was in a prayer meeting, thirsty for more of the Spirit in his life. He was sitting next to an older lady with her hands lifted high worshipping God by praying in the Spirit. John Osteen looked up and said "I wish I had that. I wish I could know God like that." So, he repented of not being open to the fullness of the Spirit (as outlined above), he came surrendered to the Spirit and asked for the Spirit's empowerment (some call it baptism). He then received three words. He said that after 17 years in the spiritual wilderness, even these three words sounded fantastic. In faith, he began to pray these words and more came as a result of exercising his faith!

For some people the prayer language comes automatically and for others it may take awhile. It seems the more unbelief and religion we've been exposed to, the harder it may be to **receive**. It's not a matter of whether the Spirit will release Himself, He

already has, and every spiritual blessing is out there in the spirit realm for us to lay hold of (Eph 1:3). Our faith is what lays hold of the spiritual blessings to bring a manifestation in the physical realm. This is true for healing as well. *It's all a done deal.* Jesus said it is finished and we have access to the riches and benefits of the Kingdom (Psalm 103:1-6).

Be careful not to make this into a performance thing. What I mean by that is falling into the mindset believing things like, "I have to get to a certain spiritual place in order to receive all that the Lord wants for me", or "I've asked for a long time for the Lord to release my prayer language and it still has not come. I must be doing something wrong, or maybe the Lord doesn't want me to have it, or maybe I need to do some other things to make it happen." This kind of thinking puts the focus on you, not on Jesus. And in fact, becomes an idol. He has provided all spiritual blessings. My suggestion to you is this: Dialogue with the Holy Spirit and ask Him what He wants to say to you about this matter. Ask Him if there is a hindrance or any religious curses or bitter judgments made by you or your family. Then listen very carefully to what the Spirit says. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says... You will not be disappointed.

What are Biblical ways of receiving a greater release of the Holy Spirit? Water baptism (Matt 3:16); Laying on of hands by others who are walking in the manifestations of the Spirit (Acts 8:14-18: 19:6); By the Word being preached or taught, an entire group can receive (Acts 10:44); Hearing with faith (Rom 10:17; Gal 3:2, 14; 5:5); Anointing with oil (1 Sam 16:13); Imparting the anointing upon us to others (Num 11:17, 25); and Receiving greater measure when we impart to another (2 Kings 2:9, 15). Does the Spirit prompt you about any of these ways?

What are the Effects and Benefits of relating to the Holy Spirit in this way? The Spirit speaks with us, encouraging us to hear the voice of the Father (Heb 3:7); Builds up the inner man (new spirit) so that I may abide in God's love (Eph 3:16; Jude 20-21); Produces wisdom, understanding, knowledge and skill (Ex 28:3; 31:3; 35:31); Speak the Word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31); Allows us to see the glory of God and fix our eyes on Jesus (Acts 7:55); Allows us to tap into the continuous *flow* and fruit of the Spirit (Acts 13:52; Gal 5:22; John 7:37-38; Isaiah 11:2) and experience abundant life all the times; We join in the work Jesus is doing (Isaiah 61:1); He guides us in our decision-making processes (Acts 15:28); Our mind is controlled by life and peace (Rom 8:6); We have ongoing fellowship with the Spirit (2 Cor 13:14); Allows us to overcome all sin (Rom 8:2,4); and so much more!

On a personal level, praying in the Spirit helps me do these things and more:

- When I feel discouraged (more often than I like), I quickly tap into joy, truth, peace and abundant life!
- When I'm preparing to teach or speak to groups, I listen for the Lord's heart for the lesson and teach His message. A recent example of this is in preparing to teach on Spiritual Warfare for a Mission's Conference for a local church. I had been making notes for weeks that the Lord spoke to me to cover. The day I had scheduled to hammer out the outline, I prayed in the Spirit for about thirty minutes asking the Lord for His words and wisdom. Then in a matter of twenty minutes He gave it to me, point for point! It was His message, His wisdom and for His glory!
- When I'm counseling with a person, the Spirit tells me what to say and what to ask. He tells me how to pray as I fix my eyes on Jesus and listen to Him. He's the one setting the captives free.
- When my mind wants to default into empty brain or ping pong mode, praying in the Spirit helps me reach the Secret Place of *flow*.
- When I feel angry about something, praying in the Spirit gets me in the right perspective of God's emotions and thoughts about the matter.
- Generally, praying in the Spirit enables me to be more productive, creative and efficient so that I can enjoy all tasks and have time to rest in Him.

Does praying in the Spirit make one more spiritual? No. **Does it prove your salvation?** No. Those principles are being taught today, but there's absolutely no Biblical truth to them.

I hope that I've shown you through the Word and by personal testimony that it helps me get to a place spiritually with the Lord that I can not get to otherwise. So, if you are asking *why would I want to build myself up and pray in the Holy Spirit?* The answer is simple: To abide in the *flow* of the Holy Spirit; to remain in His love and Rhema words to me so that I'm not walking in the old nature; and to quiet myself down so that I abide in the grace of Jesus, the love of my Father and the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 13:14).

So the question remains... *Is a prayer language for you?* Meditate on these Scriptures, dialogue with the Lord and decide for yourself! Remember this: A prayer language is not the goal...Communing with Him is! Glory to God in the Highest!