

Spiritual Language: Why Pray in the Spirit?

Pastor John Carmichael

[1Co 14:14-15 NASB95] 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What is [the outcome] then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

- Jesus said that one of the signs of believers would be they spoke in other tongues.
- Paul talked about "praying in the spirit."
- Is all praying in the Spirit praying in other tongues? Yes and No.
- I Corinthians 14:14-15 - equate praying in spirit with praying in tongues.

What are the benefits of praying in the Spirit, particularly in tongues?

The following are five benefits to praying in the Spirit, in particular praying in tongues:

I. Praying in the Spirit edifies your faith: Jude 20, I Corinthians 14:4

- [Jde 1:20 NASB95] 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
- [1Co 14:4 NASB95] 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.
- Modern vernacular "charge" like charging a battery.
- Many things in this world that try to take away our zeal and strength.
- God provided a way for us to keep the fire, maintain the spiritual glow.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you.
- You will help others and yourself, but in any event, it builds you; charges you

II. Praying in the Spirit purifies your walk: [Jhn 14:16-17 NASB95] 16 "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 see Him or know Him, [but] you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

- Howard Carter, who was general supervisor of the Assemblies of God in Great Britain for many years, and founder of the oldest Pentecostal Bible school in the world, pointed out that we must not forget that speaking with other tongues is not only the initial evidence of the Holy Spirit's infilling, but is a continual experience for the rest of one's life.
- Praying in the Holy Spirit will remind you that you are not alone, He will help you to rise up to become the person God called you to become.
- No road rage when police officers around
- Allow the Holy Spirit to Help You walk

III. Praying in the Spirit assists your warfare: Ephesians 6:18, I Corinthians 14:2

- [Eph 6:18 NASB95] 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
- [1Co 14:2 NASB95] 2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in [his] spirit he speaks mysteries.
- Part of our praying is warfare praying.
- There is a real enemy that is trying to stop the church.
- Paul says that when we are engaged in spiritual warfare, we need to pray in the Spirit.
- Two ways:

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1. Praying about things you do not know in the natural
2. Your prayers go directly to God.

IV. Praying in the Spirit expands your worship: I Cor. 14:15, Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16

- [1Co 14:15 NASB95] 15 What is [the outcome] then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.
- [Eph 5:19 NASB95] 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
- Paul tells them to Speak to one another, using psalms, hymn and spiritual songs.
- When we come together, our worship is magnified as we join with each other.
- Their voices encourage us, as we inspire them.
- Separation from local assembly deprives a person of this relationship and its strength. Assemble often and praise much.
- Psalms: scriptural lyrics in song; hymns: humanly inspired lyrics in song; spiritual songs: impromptu rhythmic lyrics given by the Holy Spirit in tongues
- Allow the Holy Spirit to direct your worship: private and public

V. Praying in the Spirit focuses your prayer: Romans 8:26, I Cor. 14:14

- [Rom 8:26 NASB95] 26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for [us] with groanings too deep for words;
 - [1Co 14:14 NASB95] 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.
 - Speaking in tongues keeps selfishness out of our prayers. A prayer out of one's own mind and thinking has the possibility of being unscriptural. It may be selfish.
 - P.C. Nelson, a scholar of the Greek, said that the Greek literally reads here, "The Holy Ghost maketh intercession for us in groanings that cannot be uttered in articulate speech." Articulate speech means our regular kind of speech. He went on to point out how the Greek stresses that this not only includes groanings escaping our lips in prayer, but also praying in other tongues.
 - Many people pray for and receive from God things that are outside of the will of God. Israel wanted a king, God gave them one, but it was clearly not His will.
 - Allow the Spirit of God to pray the perfect will of God through your lips.
- I Corinthians 14:18, Paul says that he prays in tongues more than all of them. They prayed in tongues, so he must have prayed a lot.
 - If you haven't committed to spending some time each day praying in tongues, make one now.
 - As we decide to pray in the Spirit
 1. edifies your faith
 2. purifies your walk
 3. assists your warfare
 4. expands your worship
 5. focuses your prayer