

## SESION FOUR

# THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER

FACT. There can be no true prayer without the aid of the Holy Spirit. See **Romans 8:26**. The Holy Spirit helps our **infirmities**. You will be surprised in a very pleasant manner at the role the Holy Spirit plays in our praying. The red thread running through all we have said about prayer that binds together everything in a unified whole is the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:26-27** – “Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searches the hearts knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

**Note subject of each verse.**

**Romans 8:26** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:27** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Searches the hearts
2. Knows mind of the Spirit
3. Makes intercession for the saints

**AMAZING!**

**THE VERY MOMENT WE BEGIN  
TO PRAY BOTH JESUS AND THE  
HOLY SPIRIT JOIN US.**

Paul urges us to great living and praying in these words found in **Ephesians 6:17, 18**:

*“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”*

AND IN JUDE WE READ: “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” **v.20.**

**PRAYING TO GOD IN THE SPIRIT IS PRAYING TO GOD UNDER GOD’S CONTROL. TREMENDOUS!**

### REQUIREMENTS FOR PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

1. In order to pray in the Spirit, one must be born of the Spirit. A sinner cannot pray in the Spirit, He can call upon the Lord for salvation. The promises of prayer are for believers.
2. To be able to pray in the Spirit, one must be filled with the Spirit. SPIRIT-FILLED is SPIRIT-CONTROLLED!

**Ephesians 5:18** \_\_\_\_\_

3. A third requirement is time. It takes time to pray God’s way because, it takes time to get to know God. In a prayer testimony, Bernie Todd stressed that the reason for prayer is getting to know God. It takes time to know any person—time spent with him—just talking. It takes time to know God and one cannot love God in the truest sense without knowing Him.

Prayer is loving God. It is not so much a ritual as a relationship. Hurry is the death of prayer. We inevitably desire to spend much time with those whom we love the most!

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John Bunyan (Prayer): “It is the easiest thing in a hundred to fall from power to form, but it is the hardest thing of many to keep in the life, spirit and power of any one duty, especially prayer; that is such a work that a man without the help of the Spirit cannot so much as pray once, much less continue without, in a sweet praying frame, and in praying, so to pray as to have his prayer ascend unto the ears of the Lord of the Sabaoth.”

Prayer was not provided to be carried on alone.

# SESSION FIVE

## THE SIN OF PRAYERLESSNESS

### A DEFINITION OF PRAYERLESSNESS

Prayerlessness characterizes the life of many believers. It is that state in which one prays less than he ought, less than the Father desires, and less than that one himself knows that he should. Some studies have indicated that many Christians pray less than four minutes a day, if at all.

During this session we want to determine how it is possible for a believer to be prayerless as a part of his lifestyle. We will primarily look at prayerlessness as a sin and as a stronghold. Hopefully, a believer will be able to understand what it takes to become a person of prayer when he understands who he is as a person.

### PRAYERLESSNESS—A SIN

It is quite easy to look upon prayerlessness as simply an area of neglect. "It would be nice if I prayed more" is the mind-set of many who don't understand that prayerlessness is a sin.

Let's look at two primary verses:

**1 Samuel 12:23** \_\_\_\_\_

**James 4:2b** \_\_\_\_\_

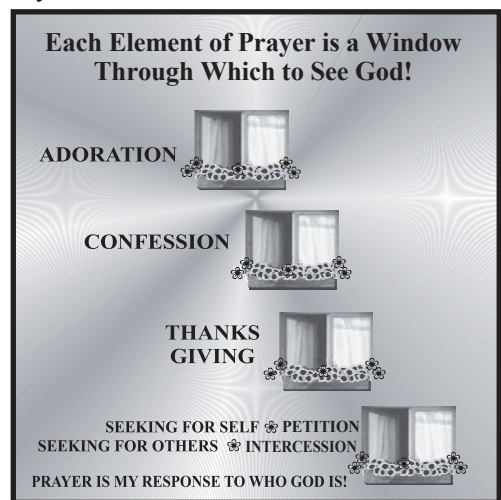
God has **COMMANDED** that we pray. Remember **Jeremiah 33:3**?

When God has given us a command, we have two choices only. We can \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ . Disobedience is rebellion against God!

Prayerlessness is a sin against Who God is.

Prayerlessness is a sin against the

- ✓ THE PERSON OF GOD
- ✓ THE PROVISION OF GOD
- ✓ THE PURPOSE AND PLAN OF GOD
- ✓ THE PLEASURE OF GOD
- ✓ THE POWER OF GOD
- ✓ THE PROMISE OF GOD



So, you see prayerlessness is more than an area of neglect or an area of regret. It is a sin. If I don't talk to God, then it is an indication that He is really playing a secondary role in my life and as a result of this I will never be the person God wants me to be.

Prayerlessness is costly. It costs the individual who isn't praying because prayer is what God has provided to help us grow along with the Word of God, Through the Word of God, God speaks to us. Through prayer, we speak to God. Prayerlessness also costs God because this is His ordained way to get His work done. Finally, prayerlessness costs others who do not benefit from prayers that are not prayed.

Remember our definition of prayer in Session I? "Prayer is the talking part of a relationship. You know that verbal communication is very necessary to relationships; so therefore, when you are praying you are developing your relationship with the Lord. You will never know God if you don't spend time in His presence."

# HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A BORN-AGAIN PERSON BE PRAYERLESS?

## PRAYERLESSNESS – A STRONGHOLD

**Key verse:** *“The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* **2 Corinthians 10:4,5**

**STRONGHOLD:** A stronghold is a system of thought or an area of bondage within the mind or body that encourages the devil to attack. In military language, it would refer to any area where the military is entrenched—a “fortress.” It is an area over which the Christian does not have control.

Repeating an incident of behavior enough times produces a habit. Once a habit is formed, the person proceeds without thinking because whatever it is has become a part of his lifestyle.

Note the following from Dr. Charles Stanley’s **HANDLE WITH PRAYER** (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1982, p. 118):

“A stronghold is an area of sin that has become part of our lifestyle. It may be a harmful habit (drugs, fornication smoking), or it may be an attitude (rejection, loneliness, worry, doubt)... Satan pumps us full of lies which secure these strongholds. They may sound like this, 'There’s really nothing wrong with this music. I don’t listen to the words any way.' Or, 'I just drink a little when I get nervous.' And haven’t we all said, 'The police won’t pull me over for going 60 mph, so it’s OK?’”

Our responsibility as Christians is to tear down these strongholds through Spirit-filled prayers. How? There is only one weapon—the sword of the Spirit. We must fight these lies with God’s Word. We must fight specific lies with specific truths.

Look carefully at **2 Corinthians 10:4,5**. In what part of a person is the stronghold developed?

In the \_\_\_\_\_

My best friend’s questions:

1. What is the difference in the Bible between spirit, soul and heart?
2. What happens to a believer when he dies?

His name was Hugh Bryan Mylam. He lived in southside Virginia and was teaching a senior citizens’ class in his home church.

Basically Hugh Bryan’s question was “WHO IS A PERSON?”

We found a key verse that answers this question.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** \_\_\_\_\_

List the three parts of a person according to this verse:

See **Genesis 2:7**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

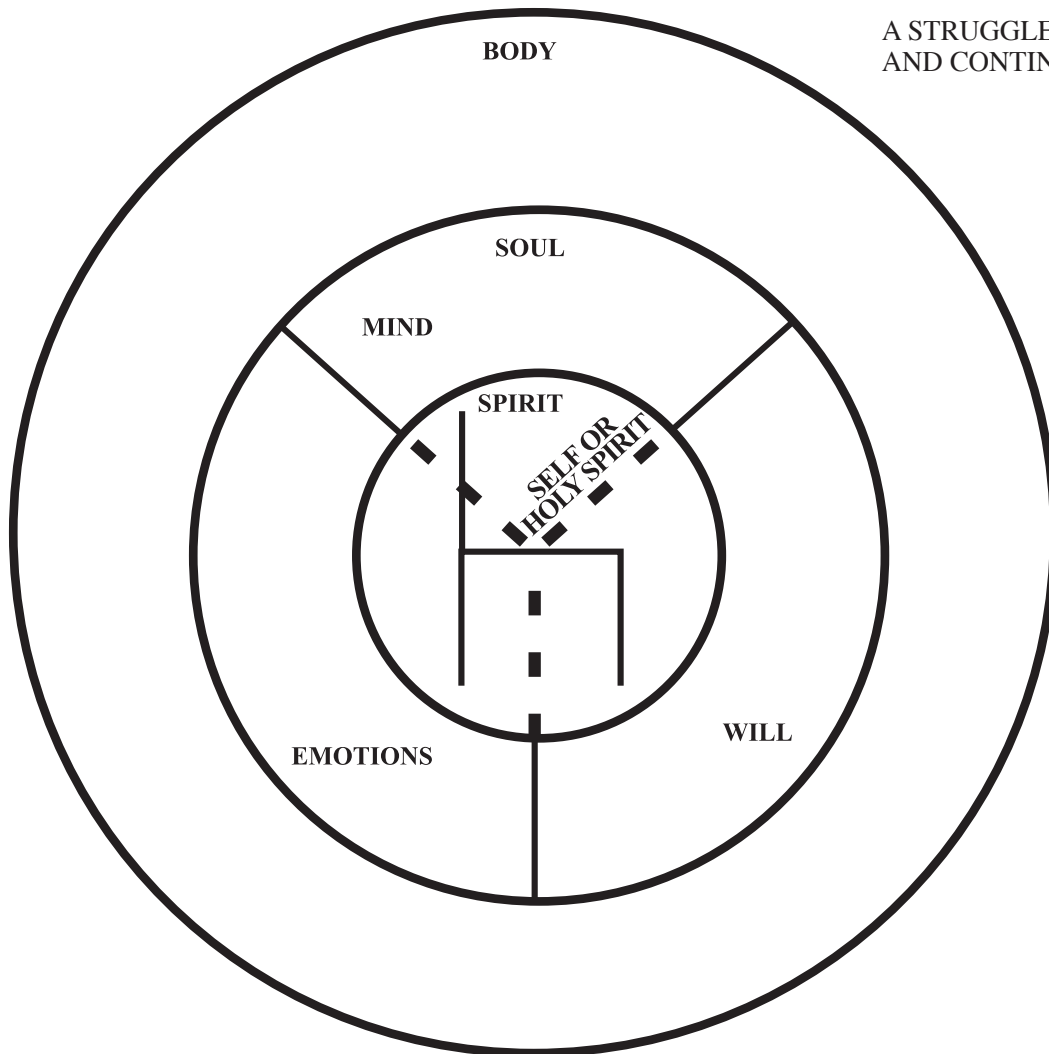
# WHO IS A PERSON?

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

MIND  
EMOTIONS  
WILL  
BODY

NOT  
BORN  
AGAIN

A STRUGGLE BEGINS  
AND CONTINUES



You remember that God told Adam that he would die the day he ate the forbidden fruit in the garden (**Genesis. 3**). Did he die? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of a new birth did Jesus tell Nicodemus that he had to have in order to be saved and go to heaven in **John 3**? \_\_\_\_\_

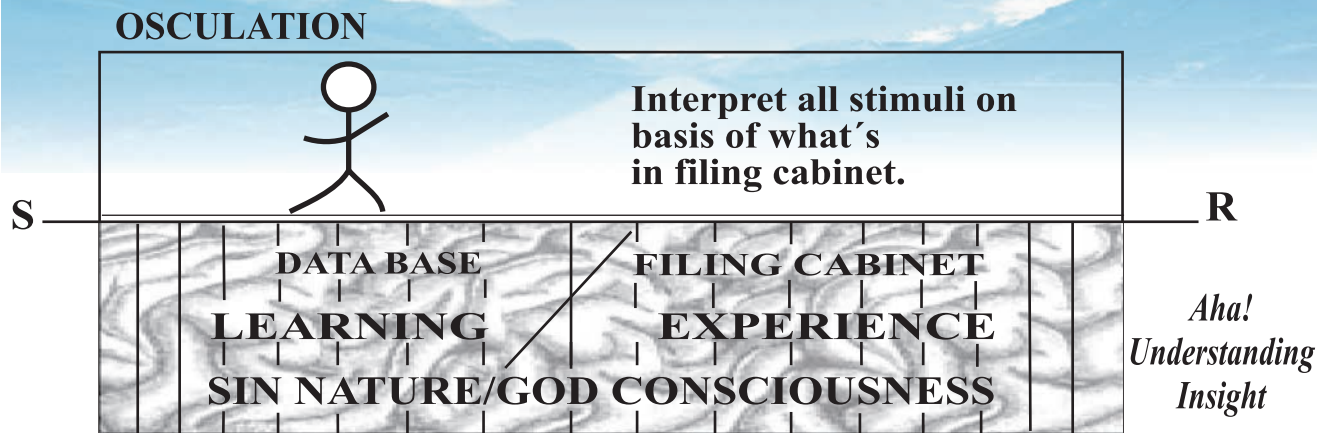
Because of Adam's sin, the spirit of man died to God. Every person born since Adam has been born dead to God. When a person receives Christ as Savior, his spirit is quickened (made alive) by the Holy Spirit. He is born again!

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON RECEIVES CHRIST AS SAVIOR? (BORN AGAIN)

1. Name written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
2. Holy Spirit comes to live in the person.
3. Holy Spirit places the person into the Body of Christ.
4. Holy Spirit gives at least one spiritual (charisma) gift.
- 5.

The Holy Spirit becomes resident, but that does not mean that He becomes president!

# A LOOK AT THE MIND



## The Spirit-Filled Life and Prayer

You will never develop a meaningful, sustained prayer life apart from living the Spirit-filled life.

### I. The Holy Spirit

#### A. Old Testament

1. Residence - Heaven, came to earth on assignment
2. **Joel 2:28,29**. Over 800 years before Jesus, prophecy that the Holy Spirit would one day be available for "all flesh."

#### B. New Testament

1. Basic information in **John 13, 14, 15, 16, 17**
  - A. Paraclete - Comforter - the One called along side to help. **John 14:16** THE HELPER.
  - B. "Another" - means One just like Jesus. **John 14:16**
  - C. "Comfortless" - orphans. **John 14:18**
  - D. Functions: Convict, **John 16:8-11**; Instruct. **John 14:26**
  - E. Calls attention to Jesus. **John 16:13, 14**

#### 2. Acts

(Peter uses the "keys" to the Kingdom)

- A. Chapter 2 - Pentecost - Believing Jews - Jerusalem
  1. Sound of rushing wind
  2. Fire
  3. Language / Dialect
- B. Chapter 8
  - Samaritans - Half Jews / Half Gentiles
- C. Chapter 10
  - Gentiles - Caesarea - Cornelius
- D. Chapter 19 -
  - Asia Minor - Ephesus - Turkey
  - 12 men.
  - Only knew teaching of John the Baptist

Supporting verses:  
**John 14:17:** "in you"  
**Romans 8:9:** *Unsaved without Holy Spirit.*  
**1 Corinthians 3:16:** *Body is temple*  
**1 John 4:13:** *Assurance of salvation.*

### II. Spirit Baptism Key verse: **1 Corinthians 12:13** *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

"All" Corinthian Believers were Spirit-baptized

- |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| A. Occurs only once in each believer's life | A. Carnal Christians                              |                                      |
| B. Never happened before Pentecost          | Paul wanted to give meat, but had to give milk.   |                                      |
| C. True of all believers                    | 1. Factions <b>1 Cor. 3</b>                       | B. Gifts of the Spirit               |
| D. Can't be undone                          | 2. Immorality <b>1 Cor 5</b>                      | Chapters 12,13, 14 - <b>charisma</b> |
| E. Occurs when we believe in Christ         | 3. Lawsuits <b>1 Cor. 6</b>                       | 1. Not all had each gift.            |
| F. No prerequisite except faith in Christ   | 4. Disorders at the Lord's Table <b>1 Cor. 11</b> | 2. All were Spirit baptized.         |

### III. Spirit Filled.

**Key Verse :** **Ephesians 5:18**

**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:** Love and eight other qualities. Galatians 5:22-23

A CARNAL Christian is a Christian where SELF is in control, not the Holy Spirit

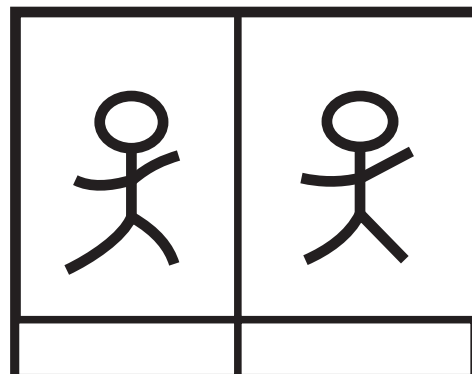
*And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."*

- A. A repeated experience.
- B. Occurred in Old Testament days.
- C. Not necessarily experienced by all believers.
- D. Can be lost.
- E. Results in power in a believer's life.
- F. Occurs throughout Christian life.

**Why the analogy of drunk?**

Why are Christians carnal?

- Don't know:
- 1. how to be clean
  - 2. how to be Spirit-filled



**Idea is control!!**  
**Walk changes. Talk changes.**

To be Spirit-filled is to be \_\_\_\_\_

**S i n**

God says that there are some things that He does not want in the lives of His children. Then there are some things that He wants in the lives of all of His children.

Through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, I realize that there are things wrong in my life. I must deal with them specifically.

**Two aspects:**

**See page 22**

- 1. Doing of Forbidden Things.  
Be specific
- 2. Failing to do Expected Things.  
Be specific.

The difference in confessing retail and wholesale is the difference in running the lawn mower over the weed and leaving the root in the ground. It will come out again.

### **How to be Filled with the Spirit**

**I. Dealing with Sin.** *Confess and Forsake Known Sin.*

- A. Conviction - *Conscious of sin, Holy Spirit uses the word of God.*
- B. Repentance - *Change of mind based on new evidence.*
- C. Confession - *"to agree with;" "say the same thing as."*

**BE SPECIFIC!**

D. Forgiveness and cleansing - *Lift and remove heavy load / Cleanse - remove*

**1 John 1:9.**

E. Changed Direction - *Result of being cleansed.*

### **II. Surrender/yield to the Holy Spirit**