

Background of the Person of the Holy Spirit: Many people don't realize that the Holy Spirit is a person. He thinks, feels and has desires. What's more, the Holy Spirit is present to help each of us live the Christian life. He is continually present to give comfort, help and friendship. Jesus wants us to understand who the Holy Spirit is and how the Spirit wants to work in and through us. By knowing who He is, we can learn to discern God's voice speaking to us through the Holy Spirit and encounter the dynamic power of His presence in our lives!

The Holy Spirit is God. God is His Name and "Holy Spirit" is His description. The Bible always refers to the Holy Spirit as a person and not as an "It," or as a "Thing." You can't have a relationship with an "It" or a "Thing." When you have a relationship, it is always with a person, or with people.

Background of the Work of the Holy Spirit: The Apostle Paul actually wrote three letters to the church in Corinth. Evidently the first of his letters was lost. He refers to the first letter in 1 Cor. 5:9. Since his first letter wasn't preserved, the second letter is referred to as 1 Corinthians and his third letter as 2 Corinthians. It is in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 that Paul identifies nine gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11
(NKJV - emphasis added)

- (1) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:
- (2) You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.
- (3) Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
- (4) There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- (5) There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
- (6) And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
- (7) *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one* for the profit of all:
- (8) for to one is given the *word of wisdom* through the Spirit, to another the *word of knowledge* through the same Spirit,
- (9) to another *faith* by the same Spirit, to another *gifts of healings* by the same Spirit,
- (10) to another the *working of miracles*, to another *prophecy*, to another *discerning of spirits*, to another *different kinds of tongues*, to another the *interpretation of tongues*.
- (11) *But one and the same Spirit works all these things*, distributing to *each one* individually as He wills.

History Point: It is in 1 Corinthians that Paul clarifies the gifts and their proper use. There is an order that should be observed when the gifts, especially the vocal gifts, are a part of a time when a body of believers gathers. In 1 Corinthians 12-14 Paul isn't implying that the gifts of the Spirit shouldn't be used. Rather, he's making the point that the Holy Spirit isn't the author of confusion and the gifts should be subject to certain practical guidelines that will maximize their benefit and minimize opportunities for their potential abuse.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 11
(NKJV - emphasis and clarity added)

- (4) There are diversities of *gifts* (Greek: *charisma*), but the same *Spirit*.
 (5) There are *differences of ministries*, but the same *Lord*.
 (6) And there are *diversities of activities*, but it is the same *God* who works all in all.
- (11) *But one and the same Spirit works all these things*, distributing to *each one* individually as He wills. (NKJV - emphasis added)

Wisdom Point: You can have any of the gifts of the Spirit, but you don't possess any of them. *They are owned by the Holy Spirit*. You have the Holy Spirit and He can manifest them in you as He chooses!

Wisdom Point: The gifts are supernatural abilities for natural people. They aren't intended just for those are a spiritual "super stars!"

There are three categories of gifts that the Holy Spirit gives based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. They can be grouped as follows:

A. The Holy Spirit Reveals (*Discerning or Revelatory Gifts*)

1. Word of Wisdom -- A divine answer or solution for a particular situation.
2. Word of Knowledge -- To know something specific without having learned it by natural means.
3. Discerning of Spirits -- To be made aware of the presence of a demonic spirit.

B. The Holy Spirit Speaks (*Declarative Gifts*)

1. Prophecy
2. Tongues
3. Interpretation of Tongues

C. The Holy Spirit Empowers (*Dynamic Gifts*)

1. Faith
2. Healing
3. Miracles

Definition: The prayer language is a language that the Holy Spirit desires to pray through us. *It is different than the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues*. Tongues and interpretation of tongues are gifts that God uses to speak to us. Our prayer language, praying with or in the Spirit, is a gift that God the Holy Spirit gives to us so that we can speak to God.

Historical Background: In the beginning mankind spoke only one language. Because of the unity that one language provided, nothing (evil; in rebellion to God) that they proposed to do would now be impossible for them.

Genesis 11:1 -- Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. (NKJV)

Genesis 11:6 -- And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And *nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them*. (NKJV - emphasis added)

Genesis 11:6 -- And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one [unified] people, and *they all have the same language*. This is only the beginning of what they will do [in rebellion against Me], and *now no evil thing they imagine they can do will be impossible for them*. (AMP - emphasis added)

Genesis 11:9 -- Therefore the name of the city was Babel—because *there the LORD confused the language of the entire earth*; and from that place the LORD scattered and dispersed them over the surface of all the earth. (AMP - emphasis added)

Zephaniah 3:9 -- "For then *I will restore to the peoples a pure language*, that they *all may call on the name of the LORD*, to serve Him with *one accord*." (NKJV - emphasis added)

Wisdom Point: God is prophesying through Zephaniah that He will restore a pure language to people(s) so that they may all call on the Name of the Lord. What was taken away due to the arrogance and evil of men's hearts will one day be restored in purity. Many Bible scholars believe that what Zephaniah is referring to is the prayer language (1 Cor. 14) that God desires for each believer. When a pure language has been restored, then people may pray to God and serve Him with one accord. There is an example of this very event in the Book of Acts.

Acts 2:1 -- When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, *they were all with one accord in one place*. (NKJV - emphasis added)

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT THE PRAYER LANGUAGE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DESIRES TO PRAY TO GOD THROUGH US:

I. It's Biblical.

1 Corinthians 14:2 -- *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God (prayer, praise)*, for no one understands him; however, *in the spirit* he speaks mysteries. (NKJV - emphasis and clarity added)

1 Corinthians 14:2 -- If you praise him in *the private language of tongues*, God understands you but no one else does, *for* (in the Spirit) *you are sharing intimacies just between you and him*. (MSG - emphasis and clarity added)

1 Corinthians 14:14-17
(NKJV - emphasis and clarity added)

(14) For if I pray in a tongue, *my spirit prays*, but my understanding (my mind) is unfruitful.

(15) What is the conclusion then? *I will pray with the spirit* (tongues), and I will also pray with the understanding. *I will sing with the spirit*, and I will also sing with the understanding.

(16) Otherwise, *if you bless with the spirit* (praying or singing in the spirit [in tongues]), how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks (your prayer), since he does not understand what you say?

(17) For you indeed give thanks (pray, praise) well, but the other is not edified.

Wisdom Point: Praying with the spirit and singing in the spirit use the language of tongues. Paul is telling us that our spirit wants to pray! The Holy Spirit wants to pray through our spirit! Sadly, many believers go through life only praying with their

understanding. Paul's conclusion is this: I will pray with the spirit and with my understanding. I will sing with the spirit and with my understanding. (1 Corinthians 14:15)

1 Corinthians 14:15 -- So here's what I've concluded. I will pray in the Spirit, but I will also pray with my mind engaged. I will sing rapturous praises in the Spirit, but I will also sing with my mind engaged. (TPT)

Romans 8:26-28
(NKJV - emphasis added)

- (26) *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*
- (27) *Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*
- (28) *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

Romans 8:28 -- And we -- those of us who know that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us and through us; those of us who know this -- we also know that all things work together for our good. (PPP - Pastor's Personal Paraphrase)

1 Corinthians 14:18 -- I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; (NKJV)

Wisdom Point: The way that we can know that Romans 8:28 is really true is that we have a vital and vibrant relationship with the Holy Spirit who intercedes through us and for us! When we know that is true, Romans 8:28 becomes alive in our life!

II. It strengthens us.

1 Corinthians 14:4 -- *He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.* (NKJV - emphasis added)

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Wisdom Point: Praying in the Spirit is part of the whole armor of God!

Ephesians 6:10-18
(NKJV - emphasis added)

- (10) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
- (11) *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*
- (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- (14) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
- (15) and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

- (16) above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
- (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
- (18) *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit*, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Jude 20 -- But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, *praying in the Holy Spirit*, (NKJV - emphasis added)

Wisdom Point: If there is something that we can do to build ourselves up, then we should do it all of the time!!

III. It's a choice.

James 3:1-10

(NKJV - emphasis and clarity added)

- (1) My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.
- (2) For we all stumble in many things. *If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.*
- (3) Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.
- (4) Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot (Holy Spirit) desires.
- (5) Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great forest a little fire kindles!
- (6) And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.
- (7) For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.
- (8) But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.
- (9) With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.
- (10) Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

Proverbs 6:16-19

(TPT - emphasis added)

- (16) There are six evils God truly hates and a seventh that is an abomination to him:
- (17) Putting others down while considering yourself superior, *spreading lies and rumors*, spilling the blood of the innocent,
- (18) plotting evil in your heart toward another, gloating over doing what's plainly wrong,
- (19) *spouting lies in false testimony*, and *stirring up strife between friends*. These are entirely despicable to God!

Luke 11:11-13

(NKJV - emphasis added)

- (11) If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?
- (12) Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?
- (13) *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*

Wisdom Point: God will not trick you and give you a demon when you ask for the Holy Spirit!