



JUNE 1973

THE WORD OF FAITH

praying "in the spirit"

— by Kenneth Hagin

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.
—Ephesians 6:18

What is praying in the Spirit? What does that phrase mean here in this verse, "Praying... in the Spirit"?

I faced this question many years ago as a Baptist pastor. I somehow knew inside me that whatever it was, I wasn't doing it. I wanted to know. I asked people. I wanted to find out. Do you know what most people thought "praying in the Spirit" was? They thought that it meant praying with just a little more vim, vigor, and vitality.

Then, too, there was Jude's statement in the 20th verse that puzzled me. He said, writing to Christians, to Believers, "But ye beloved building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost."

I asked myself the question, "What is praying in the Holy Ghost?" Whatever it was, I felt somehow I wasn't doing it.

Now our heads told us that we were "praying in the Spirit" and "praying in the Holy Ghost." But my heart told me, "You are not."

So I set out to find out for sure what those expressions meant.

I thought, "Paul is doing the writing here in Ephesians where he speaks of 'praying in the Spirit'. Did he ever say any-

thing anywhere else about praying in the Spirit? If he did, then he is talking about the same thing whenever he speaks of it." So I began to run references on this in Paul's writings.

Now when you begin to follow these references, they will lead you over to the 14th chapter of First Corinthians. Now, we hadn't gotten into the 14th chapter of First Corinthians, too much.

The first Sunday of each quarter I would preach from the 11th chapter just before we took the Lord's Supper. I would skip over the 12th chapter and preach about love in the 13th chapter. And then I would skip over the 14th chapter and preach about the resurrection in the 15th chapter. You were just almost afraid of the 12th and 14th chapters of First Corinthians.

But I could see that if you were going to find out about praying in the spirit, you had to get there, because it is there that Paul said something about it. I found out that he said:

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. —I Cor. 14:2

"...in the spirit...in the spirit... in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." There it was!

Well, if speaking with tongues was praying in the spirit in the 14th chapter of First Corinthians, then when Paul wrote of

"praying in the spirit" in Ephesians 6:18, he meant the same thing.

Now notice something here:

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the understanding.
—I Corinthians 14:14-15

Let's read those same two verses from the Amplified New Testament:

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit by the Holy Spirit within me prays, but my mind is unproductive--bears no fruit and helps nobody.

15 Then what am I to do? I will pray with my spirit--by the Holy Spirit that is within me; but I will also pray intelligently--with my mind and understanding; I will sing with my spirit--by the Holy Spirit that is within me; but I will sing (intelligently with my mind and understanding) also. —I Corinthians 14:14-15

Paul said, "I will pray with my spirit...I will pray with my understanding." He said he would do it. He is encouraging the church at Corinth to do it.

Now, if speaking in tongues is not for us today, as some think, then there is not a way in the world we can pray "in the spirit" today. And yet, you are a spirit being. You need to pray out of your spirit, and not just out of your head.

Notice that Paul is talking about two kinds of praying,

(1) mental praying, and (2) spiritual praying.

Mental praying is "with the understanding," with the mind. The church world, as a whole, has tried too long to get by only on one kind of praying--mental praying. You can never do it.

Why couldn't we?

God's Word tells us why in Romans 8:26, "...for we know not what we should pray for as we ought..." There are times when we do not know how to pray. It would be impossible in these situations for mental praying alone to get the job done. Spiritual praying is required. Spiritual praying is praying out of your spirit in utterances, in a tongue that is unknown to you and groanings that escape your lips.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. -Romans 8:26

We do not always understand the entire situation surrounding the matter we are praying about. But the Holy Spirit does. And when we allow Him to pray through us, to help us in our prayer life, we will see amazing answers to our prayers.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Look at Romans 8:26 again. It says, "...the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

The prayer of intercession is not for yourself. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another. You are interceding for another.

Every Spirit-filled believer can expect the Holy Spirit to help him in making intercession.

This intercession can be in the area of salvation, healing, or praying for things about which we do not even know, but the Holy Spirit has knowledge of them.

After a time of praying in the Spirit, we will know whether we are praying in tongues as a means of building ourselves up spiritually and worshiping God, as we will discuss next, or whether it is a prayer of intercession.

On occasion, and sometimes over a period of time, I have had a burden of intercession before I even knew for whom I was praying. I do know when I am in intercession or travail for someone who is lost. If you are taking the place of a lost one, you will have that same lost feeling in your own spirit.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT MAGNIFYING GOD

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God... -Acts 10:46

Praying in the Spirit, with tongues, is a way in which we can magnify God.

For years, as a minister, I prayed and had wonderful times in prayer. I used to go down to the barn and get up in the hay to pray where I had wonderful times in prayer. But, I went away from those times disappointed though I was blessed. I would try to tell God how much I loved Him. I would use all the descriptive adjectives at my disposal to tell God how wonderful He is. I would exhaust my vocabulary and leave that place of prayer with my spirit feeling that I had not said what I wanted to say. My spirit felt cheated. Although my head did not realize it, my spirit wanted to pray too, apart from the understanding.

But now, one of the things I appreciate most about being filled with the Holy Ghost is praying with tongues. From that

day to this I have worshiped and communicated with God, praying and singing in tongues, every single day. And I have never left that place of prayer feeling that I didn't say what I wanted to say, because my spirit was enabled by the Holy Spirit who indwells me to say what it wanted to say.

If you are not doing so already, I want to invite you to come on in and communicate with God supernaturally. God wants to do so much more for you. He wants to communicate with you in a better way. Know the joy of fellowshiping with the Lord in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit can help you with your praying. "...my spirit, by the Holy Spirit within me, prays..." (I Corinthians 14:14 AMP N.T.)

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT TO EDIFY YOURSELF

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. -Jude 1:20

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself... -I Cor. 14:4

There is one phase of speaking with tongues in our prayer life that is not praying for someone else, it is not interceding for anyone else. It is purely a means of personal spiritual edification. It aids us spiritually and edifies us (builds us up). We all need this kind of praying. We cannot help others, we cannot edify others unless we ourselves have been edified.

Take time to build your-

THE WORD OF FAITH published monthly by Kenneth E. Hagin Evangelistic Ass'n. P.O. Box 50126, 1029 N. Utica, Tulsa, Ok. Doyle (Buddy) Harrison-----Editor Billye Brim-----Managing Editor Karrel Hughes-----Copy Editor Douglas Brown-----Art Director Subscription rates: \$1.00/yr U.S. and Canada instituted by payment of regular rate (or) first \$1.00 of your donation to Kenneth E. Hagin Evangelistic Ass'n. Volume VI----- Number Six

self up by praying much in the Holy Ghost, or with other tongues. Spiritual things are similar to natural things. Jesus used natural things to explain spiritual things. No one is going to be expert and keen in any area without working at it. In sports, for instance, an individual who is known for his hitting ability did not get into his position without batting practice. Things of the spirit don't fall on us like ripe cherries off a tree. We are not going to be expert in spiritual things unless we take time.

Praying in the spirit, and speaking in tongues is a rest.

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.
12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing....

-Isaiah 28:11-12

Speaking in tongues is not only an initial evidence of the Holy Spirit's indwelling, but it is a continual experience for the rest of one's life. It is to assist in the worship of God. It is a flowing stream that should never dry up. It will enrich your life spiritually.

ALL FAITHS CRUSADES

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS June 10-13
Ramada Inn
5101 Towson Ave.

Sunday Service 2:30 pm
Mon. thru Wed. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm

COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS .. June 29-July 1
First Assembly of God Church
1504 West 8th Street

Fri. and Sat. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
Sunday Service 7:30 pm

Brother Hagin will also be in the following cities on various dates for one night RADIO RALLIES. Please watch the newspapers in your area. We will also be advising those on our mailing list by mail of the Radio Rallies in your area.
Hot Springs, Ark.

Baton Rouge, La. Kansas City, Mo.
Beaumont, Tex. Miami, Okla.
Corpus Christi, Tex. Muskogee, Okla.
Houston, Tex. Norman, Okla.
Joplin, Mo. San Antonio, Tex.

FAITH SEMINAR OF ONE HOUR

Consult the new radio listings below to see if the teaching ministry of Kenneth Hagin can now be heard Monday through Friday in your listening area.

Fort Smith, Arkansas	KFDF	1580	1:15 pm
Los Angeles, California	KFSG-FM	96.3	6:45 pm
Atlanta, Georgia	WGUN	1010	4:45 pm
Louisville, Kentucky	WFIA	900	6:45 am
Kansas City, Missouri	KCCV	1510	11:00 am
Port Neches, Texas (Beaumont-Port Arthur)	KPNG	1150	8:45 am
Menomonie, Wisconsin	WDMW-FM	92.1	6:15 pm

Testimonies in Brief

My dear Brother in Christ,

You do not know me but I picked up the Word of Faith for March 1973 and the large letters POSSESS THE LAND... memories of yesteryear came tumbling in my old mind. If God spares me until May 29th I will have reached my 92nd birthday. I was born again a little over 76 years ago... I lived in Canada and heard many talking about entering and possessing the land of Canaan, not a type of heaven as you say... I saw through the Word and the leadings of the Spirit that the promised land was truly a land that flowed with milk and honey and that it was not a land that eateth up its inhabitants...

Keep preaching and urging people to close their ears to the enemy and go up and possess the land and revel in God's great provision for His saints, to enjoy the figs and pomegranates, the honey and the wine....

A brother in New York

Dear Brother and Sister Hagin,

My husband was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost... at Westside Baptist Church... I praise God that He had you stay that extra night as it was the only meeting my husband attended and you answered the biggest question he's had on his heart....

-Florida

STEWARDSHIP

Much is being said about Stewardship these days. Why is this so important? Many of us have found that it is an additional way in which we can advance God's Kingdom here on earth. We all know the importance of tithes and offerings. They have been the means of supporting the Lord's work.

Stewardship makes it possible for you to do more NOW. Your savings funds can be used in God's work NOW. It is very simple. A portion of a person's savings would be well invested in a good Stewardship Program. In most cases, your interest dividend will be even greater than with your bank or savings and loan association.

This ministry has such a Stewardship Division. There are a number of ways in which you can invest with us. Your funds will be used entirely for assets or for inventory. This makes your investment safe.

Let us place in your hands a brochure which we have prepared. It will give you full details. Write us in care of the Stewardship Division.

FAITH SEMINAR AND INDOOR CAMP MEETING

Remember the seven-day camp meeting to be held in Tulsa, July 22-29. Guest speakers, along with Brother Hagin, will be ministering in three services a day.

We hope you can be with us. Please write for details.

MONTHLY LESSON

Understanding The New Birth

A clear insight into what the new birth actually is--what it means and what it gives will cause faith to grow in the believer. Write for your free copy of this month's lesson.

FAITH LIBRARY

NEW CASSETTE:

POSSESS THE LAND - God's Word teaches of the Promised Land. His Word also maps the way for believers to possess that land of provision for His children in this life.

This new cassette will be sent postpaid for an offering of at least \$4.00. Portions of POSSESS THE LAND appeared in the March 1973 issue of "The Word of Faith."

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