

Review: Ch. 1 “The Spirit-Filled Life is For Every Believer”, Ch. 2 “Who Exactly is the Holy Spirit?”, Ch. 3 “Relying on the Holy Spirit’s Power in Us”, Ch. 4 “Relying on the Holy Spirit’s Presence”.

Ch. 5 “Relying On The Holy Spirit In Prayer”

What are some of the struggles you have in prayer?

Rom. 8:26 – Paul wrote: “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”.

“The Holy Spirit dwells within us to help us in our prayer lives. We can count on Him to make our prayers effective.” Have you ever felt that you did not know what to pray for? How can we help our prayer life?

Praying Within The Father’s Will

As Christians, we are always to pray within the Father’s will. Jesus did everything within the Father’s will. “His plan is greater than our ability to understand it.” Have you ever seen the Father’s will come to fruition when you were expecting something else? Are you able to put aside your own will and desires and seek the Father’s will?

Psalms 40:8 – “I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

Psalms 143:10 – “Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”

Level ground – where the going is smooth and free from the danger of falling. What does this mean?

Matthew 6:10 – Jesus says in the Lord’s prayer: “...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

What is Jesus telling us about the Father’s will here?

Matthew 7:21 – Jesus says: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” How important is it to do the Father’s will in your life?

John 7:16-19 – “Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.” Do we often speak on our own? What is Jesus telling us about what will happen if we are doing the Father’s will?

“He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.” What must we do first to speak the Father’s will?

Rom. 12:1-2 – Paul wrote: “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” What does this mean?

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.” What is Paul telling us about how we must be in order to discover God’s will? What is “renewing”? And how does this help us identify God’s will?

The Holy Spirit’s Guidance In Prayer

As we read in **Rom. 8:26**, The Holy Spirit “makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” The Holy Spirit helps us to pray just as Martha wanted her sister to help her with the household duties. He will guide us in praying in the will of the Father. Have you had circumstances when you did not know how to pray or what to pray for?

The Holy Spirit Understands

Rom. 8:27 – Paul wrote: “And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.” What does this tell us about the relationship between the Spirit & the Father?

The relationship between the Holy Spirit and God the Father is so close that the Holy Spirit’s prayers need not be audible. God knows his every thought. Have you ever thought of this relationship in the Holy Trinity?

“As you pray, the Holy Spirit reveals God’s plan to you.” As you pray, stop and listen. Let God speak to you. You may:

1. Think of additional things to pray about.
2. Feel a sense of resolution and peace.
3. Feel that God is answering you and that He is in control.
4. Receive clear direction on what to do.
5. Find certain ideas or words come to your mind.

Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit communicating with you or guiding you in your prayer?

The Holy Spirit’s Help In Intercession

“Regardless of what we may say with our lips, the Holy Spirit knows what we mean in our hearts. He intercedes for us at that level, which is deeper than words.” “This means we can never pray for the wrong thing.”

Have you ever thought of this? How do you feel when you pray? Can you be less critical of yourself and open to the Father through the Holy Spirit when you pray?

“There is great reward in cooperating with the Holy Spirit in prayer. That reward is manifested in the lives of those for whom we pray as well as in our own lives.” Let’s do it!