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The Greatest Gift Of All

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We should be excited and rejoicing for what Jesus has done for us, giving us revelation knowledge of His word in order that we can be taught, the Holy Spirit has been given to us for a specific reason and we are able to draw on that gift in order to fulfill the plans that God has for each of us. Prayer is probably one of the most important things that a believer can do, however, we don't always know what or how to pray about different situations. The enemy will be constantly trying to cause us to withdraw from having a prayer life, but that is the way the Lord would have us to go. The following scriptures will enable us to see that direction and what the Lord wants from us as intercessors and what the power of prayer will do.

We are entering into a vital time in the body of Christ, we are all beginning to see that the end time is upon us, that there are prophecies that are coming to pass and there is a special way we have to live, we are encouraged through the scriptures, being ready to see Him when he comes, checking our lives making sure we are ready.

1 Pet 4:7-8 "But the end and culmination of all things has now come near; keep sound minded and self-restrained and alert therefore for [the practice of] prayer. 8 Above all things have intense and unfailing love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others]." AMP

1 Pet 4:7-8 "Everything will soon come to an end. So be serious and be sensible enough to pray. 8 Most important of all, you must sincerely love each other, because love wipes away many sins" CEV

The Lord speaks to each of us in different ways and we should be listening to His voice. "In the days ahead if people do not learn to spend time in the presence of God they will have a difficult time, no one can walk in victory on just religious activity, if you don't 'pray' you will become 'prey' for the enemy." Religious activity is just having a form of godliness, just doing what we think we should do, but not having

any power.

We know that there is an enemy and he knows that he has a short time left, he is forming a culture, an atmosphere in this world that makes it harder for us to be godly. He is stirring up his demons, wanting to destroy the believers but we know that he will not succeed. We have to know that we have the power over him and his demonic forces for everything that might arise in our lives, no matter what it might be. Example was given of a man who had been bitten by ticks and the result was that he had lyme disease, upon recognizing what the sickness was, words were spoken with authority over the demonic spirits and the man was healed. The believer recognized that authority had been given to her and she acted on that authority, knowing the power of prayer.

Especially in these last days, don't let yourself become one of the enemies 'prey' but use the power of prayer that has been given to you. Prayer should be number one in our lives and the second has to be love. When the enemy comes in the end times, he will try to steal our faith and destroy our love walk. Jesus tells us in the following scriptures what the end times will be like, causing many to fall away. We will have to learn how to endure, there will be things we will have to do and know in order to endure what is coming as the world around us gets worse.

Matt 24:10-13 "And then many will be offended and repelled and will begin to distrust and desert [Him Whom they ought to trust and obey] and will stumble and fall away and betray one another and pursue one another with hatred. 11 And many false prophets will rise up and deceive and lead many into error. 12 And the love of the great body of people will grow cold because of the multiplied lawlessness and iniquity, 13 But he who endures to the end will be saved." AMP

Paul mentions these things in Timothy what will happen and the result of their actions. All of these things are evident in our climate today, how will we endure? Look at the book of Jude and what he tells us to do.

2 Tim 3:1-5 "But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]. 2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. 3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. 4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and]

inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God. 5 For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct] belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them]." AMP

Jude speaks of those last days the same way that Paul has spoken of them, he also is telling the believers what they will have to do to be overcomers. This group of people spoken of here have only the low life, but we have the choice of having a high life or having the low life, it is ours to decide which we want, the high life is the blessed life having the blessings of God. In order to live the high life, this spiritual life, we will have to crucify the flesh, learn how to pray with a special kind of praying, praying in the Holy Spirit. The following scriptures in Corinthians explains how and what he is talking about. We are warned about what the enemy would chose for us because he has a special plan, a way to pull us down.

Jude 17-21 "But you must remember, beloved, the predictions which were made by the apostles (the special messengers) of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 18 They told you beforehand, In the last days (in the end time) there will be scoffers [who seek to gratify their own unholy desires], following after their own ungodly passions. 19 It is these who are [agitators] setting up distinctions and causing divisions—merely sensual [creatures, carnal, worldly-minded people], devoid of the [Holy] Spirit and destitute of any higher spiritual life. 20 But **you**, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit; 21 Guard and keep yourselves in the love of God; expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)—[which will bring you] unto life eternal." AMP

The enemy is watching for us to come down to his level in order to pull us down. His main purpose is found in the following scripture.

John 10:10 "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)." AMP

Paul is teaching about the Holy Spirit, explaining who and what He does for the believers who are born again. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are born again, praying in tongues or speaking in tongues is a separate experience.

Praying in the spirit is also known as speaking in tongues and because of past experiences in some of our lives, we have not accepted the tongues part of the Holy Spirit, but it will become evident as we read and understand what Paul is saying.

1 Cor 12:28-30 "So God has appointed some in the church [for His own use]: first apostles (special messengers); second prophets (inspired preachers and expounders); third teachers; then wonder-workers; then those with ability to heal the sick; helpers; administrators; [speakers in] different (unknown) tongues. 29 Are all apostles (special messengers)? Are all prophets (inspired interpreters of the will and purposes of God)? Are all teachers? Do all have the power of performing miracles? 30 Do all possess extraordinary powers of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?" AMP

These verses are speaking about the different offices in the church and the gifts of the spirit which are for the church, these are different than what is given to the individual believers.

1 Cor 14:2,5 "For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the understanding]. 5 Now I wish that you might all speak in [unknown] tongues, but more especially [I want you] to prophesy (to be inspired to preach and interpret the divine will and purpose). He who prophesies [who is inspired to preach and teach] is greater (more useful and more important) than he who speaks in [unknown] tongues, unless he should interpret [what he says], so that the church may be edified and receive good [from it]" AMP

These verses are speaking about prophecy to be used for the church in order to build up the believers, there are two different functions mentioned, speaking in tongues and having interpretation.

1 Cor 14:14-15 "For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive [it 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." AMP

These verses are speaking to the individual believers, this is praying in tongues and what the function for the believer involves and how much can be gained from praying this way. We not only pray with tongues but we also pray with our own understanding, singing can also be done in the Holy Spirit and with our understanding. Either way the believer will be lifted up to a higher place receiving a greater benefit, this is what Jude was telling the believers.

Many books and pamphlets have been printed regarding what happens to a persons brain and their mind when they have the ability to speak in tongues, there are many benefits and much good has been seen in what happens to the brain waves and

different experiences that individuals have had while speaking in tongues. Some admitted if they could their patients to pray in the tongues for at least 30 minutes for 30 days, they would no longer need the services of the doctor involved. There is a healing power that takes place in the immune system.

.Rom 8:26 "So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance." AMP

Many times we don't know how in the natural to pray for a situation, but when we yield to the Holy Spirit we know that the perfect prayer is being presented to the Father, the Holy Spirit knows the mind of God and will intercede for the one praying.

The power of prayer is like a shock wave that are sent out when a believer is praying. We don't know what God is wanting to be done on the earth but as we pray in the Holy Spirit we have the confidence that our prayer is being heard, prayer opens the channel to heaven. Someone has to pray that Gods will be done as it is in heaven. The Holy Spirit comes to our aid and intercedes for us, praying the perfect will of God.

Acts 2:2-4 "When suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them. 4 And **they were all** filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words]." AMP

Acts 2:38-39 "And Peter answered them, Repent (change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it) and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of and release from your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise [of the Holy Spirit] is to and for you and your children, and to and for all that are far away, [even] to and for as many as the Lord our God invites and bids to come to Himself." AMP

We have learned that when the Holy Spirit was poured out to the 120 people in the upper room, they ALL received and began to speak in tongues. This experience did not end there at that time but is for all believers and it is our choice whether we have this experience or not. The Holy Spirit is a tool, a supernatural tool, which enables us

to live the higher life. Everyone who has ever experience the Holy Spirit knows that it is a tool which will let us live the higher life. Doesn't make us any better or more spiritual than anyone else. If we are not using the Holy Spirit we are probably experiencing the low life and don't experience all the blessings that are ours. Keeping our faith built up in these last days, keeping and guarding ourselves in the love of God you must know how to live the high life, there is so much out in the world that will be trying to drain our faith and our love walk. God is a God of love, when we pray in the Holy Spirit, God comes into our life and love will begin to infuse our whole self. Read the book of Jude again and let it minister to you. It is a great gift, the Holy Spirit that God has given to the church and to each individual believer.