

The Spirit and Prayer

1. The Holy Spirit draws us into prayer

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ **The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God** Romans 8:15-16

And because you are sons, **God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”** ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:6-7

- a. The Spirit is given to us so that we cry “Abba, Father”, for we are God’s children!
- b. The Spirit is always at work to impress upon our spirit that we are truly the children of God!

2. The Spirit prays in and through us!

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26-27

- a. We don’t know how to pray as we should!
- b. But the Spirit prays in and through us, groaning out what we do not even know how to express as we commune with Him!

3. The Spirit freshly fills us as we pray!

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31

- a. This was the conclusion to the prayer meeting we read about earlier as the church prayed Psalm 2 together.
- b. In the face of persecution, as the believers were devoted to prayer, God filled them with the Spirit anew, which gave them boldness to continue the mission!

4. The Spirit strengthens us in the faith as we pray!

But you, beloved, **building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,** ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. Jude 1:20-21

- a. Jude tells us that we are to build ourselves up in the faith and to pray in the Spirit. It could be that these are distinct but related activities, but it is more likely that this is a use of parallelism - we build ourselves up in the faith as we pray in the Spirit.
- b. Once again, note the close link between the Spirit and prayer!

5. The Spirit guides us in spiritual warfare!

praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, Ephesians 6:18-19

- a. This is the conclusion to the passage on spiritual warfare.
- b. Prayer in the Spirit is not another piece of armor - it is how we engage in spiritual warfare for needs in our own life, in the life of others, and the going forth of the Gospel!
- c. We are to pray in the Spirit with “perseverance” - the noun form of the word “devoted” in Acts 2:42!