

WIND & FIRE -- WEEK 4: PRAYING BY/IN/WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Getting to Know You:

1. Do you know a prayer warrior? Who is someone whose prayer life you admire? What makes them different from your typical person who prays? What could you do to become more like them?

Watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-X8C4irfaEw>

2. What is the difference between praying to Jesus and praying to the Father in the Name of Jesus? Desiring God (2:42)
3. Describe the role of each member of the Trinity in the “normal” pattern of prayer given to us in the New Testament.
4. What should our response be when we realize how the Trinity worked together on our behalf?
5. John Piper gets the giggles when he reflects on God’s work. What has been a time that you have been giggly with joy over what God has done?
6. Do you think that it is ok to pray to the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

Discuss:

Read *Ephesians 2:18* “For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

“If a man is summoned to the king's palace to receive some decoration, the royal summons is his right to enter the king's presence. It takes him past the sentries and officers of the guard who would otherwise debar him from the palace. But having gained entry he would be at a loss to find his way into the sovereign's presence if left to himself in that labyrinth of corridors. the work of Christ provides us with the royal summons and constitutes our right of entry, but the indwelling Spirit is also needed to conduct us into God's presence. It is His work to make access to God a reality; to bring to us the deep conviction that we are not talking into the air when we pray, but communing face to face with a loving heavenly Father.”

— Arthur Wallis, *Pray in the Spirit: The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Ministry of Prayer*

7. How does the analogy of God as King emphasize both God's majesty and accessibility?
8. How does the Spirit make prayer feel more real?
9. What does it mean to say that we pray "**BY**" the Holy Spirit?

Read *Ephesians 6:18* "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

10. What does it mean to pray "**IN**" the Spirit?
11. If you look this up on Youtube, you can find some videos that make it seem that this is SUPER-spiritual or mystical or an almost trance-like state. Wayne Grudem says, "To pray "in the Holy Spirit", then is to pray with the conscious awareness of God's presence surrounding us and sanctifying both us and our prayers." ([Systematic Theology](#), 382)
12. Does the Holy Spirit have to work in a SUPERNATURAL way in order to be working?
13. One way to understand "praying in the Spirit" would be to think of the opposite. We might say the opposite of praying "in the Spirit" would be praying "in the flesh". What would that look like? What would the focus, intensity, or desired outcome of "praying in the flesh" look like? What would the focus, intensity, or desired outcome of "praying in the Spirit" look like?

Read *Romans 8:26-27* "26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

14. Paul uses the language of "groaning" frequently in Romans 8. Who do you think is groaning here? Is it us, is it the Holy Spirit? Could it be both? What would it look like?
15. Is the weakness discussed here talking about difficult circumstances in our personal lives or is it talking about humanity's struggle with sin? Look at the verses before this and use the context clues to help you decide.

16. What does it mean to pray “**WITH**” the Holy Spirit?

17. How does it help to know that at moments when we do not know what to pray, the Spirit is praying on our behalf?

Living It Out: This week if possible, try to do one of the following.

- Intercede or bring prayer requests to God for yourself and for others. Realize that if you don't have the right words, while you are interceding for others, God is interceding for you.
- For each day of the week, thank God for a different characteristic He has that you want to make a part of your life. (Examples: peace, patience, forgiveness, self-control, mercy...)
- Pray this prayer by John Calvin:

*Lord, save us from being self-centered in our prayers,
and teach us to remember to pray for others.
May we be so bound up in love with those for whom we pray
that we may feel their needs as acutely as our own
and intercede for them with sensitivity,
with understanding
and with imagination.
We ask this in Christ's name, Amen.*