

LIVING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE PRAYING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

What does Praying in the Holy Spirit look like, sounds like?

I came back to Jude in an attempt to answer that question.

I did not really find an answer that I had hoped for or expected..

Instead I found something horrible.

Jude vividly describes life that is void of praying in the Holy Spirit.

There is rebellion, self-centeredness, murder, rampant evil, godlessness.

There is immorality, lust, perversion, and faithlessness.

There is rebuke from God Himself and punishment by fire.

What does that sound and look like to you?

For me it sounds and looks like hell on earth.

If that doesn't sound like hell then I don't know what does.

That was my first reaction to the first half of Jude.

For the most part it is an uncomfortable read.

That means praying in the Holy Spirit is serious stuff.

It is not a trivial matter.

There are dire consequences when God's people don't pray in the Spirit.

Life becomes hell on earth.

Cains, Balaams, and Korahs run rampant and unfettered.

Imagine the world smothered in ISIS.

Imagine the world covered in waterless clouds.

Imagine the world covered with barren fruit trees.

Imagine the world swamped by wild waves churning up filth.

Imagine the world pummeled by stars that wander in all directions.

Hopeless, lifeless, vile, destructive.

That is life devoid of the praying ministry of the Holy Spirit.

What I did discover is that the praying ministry of the Holy Spirit is inseparably intertwined with the praying ministry of the Church.

If we don't pray the Holy Spirit has nothing to interpret.

If God's people don't pray evil advances.

There is nothing else we can do to resist evil.

Only God can fether that onslaught of evil presence.

There is no one else to turn to.

Michael contended and disputed with the devil (v.9)

Michael was the powerful archangel of God.

He did not presume that he could defeat, contain, or restrain the devil.

He knew only the Lord could rebuke Satan and bind him.

We must pray in the Holy Spirit.

This hell on earth that Jude describes is just a sampling of hell's hideousness.

If life on earth looks that bad it is nothing compared to eternal hell.

The only hope for this world is the praying ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Jude is concerned about the evil running rampant on the earth.

But he is more concerned about those lost in sin and bound for hell.

What is life on earth in comparison to an eternity of hell?

And there is only one thing I can do about it.

Pray in the Spirit.

What does that say to you?

Jude shows a world that is hellish and hell bound.

But what is your understanding of praying in the Spirit?

Have you given any thought to what praying in the Spirit is like?

What does Scripture say about this prayer?

Brian Doerksen wrote the lyrics to "I Don't Need Anything But You".

I don't need anything but You. God is our ever present help.

He is our salvation from our selves. He is our comfort and joy.

I don't need anything but You.

Praying in the Spirit is an expression of that dependency.

I have nothing to contribute.

None of me and all of Jesus.

God's presence multiplied in me.

"May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you." (Jude 2)

Ephesians 6:18; John 14:12, 25-31

It means to be guided by the Spirit in prayer.

The disciples confessed to Jesus they did not know how to pray.

Are we so much more spiritual than they are?

Do we pray as we ought?

In prayer we recognize our infirmity.

In prayer we admit our ignorance of what is best for us.

In prayer we identify our utter inability to pray aright.

We are totally dependent upon Him to direct our prayers.

We seek His direction in our desires and expression of those desires.

Romans 8:26-27

The Holy Spirit generates our longings.

His longings demand more than our words are able to express.

God does know the mind of the Spirit.

He knows what our groaning by the Spirit means even if we do not.

God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask of think.

This prayer is according to the power that works in us - Ephesians 3:20

Acts 10:9-16

God changes our perspective of His will.

Prayer lead by the Holy Spirit seeks the will of God over our own will.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do we pray and not give up?

Do we pray in confidence of God's hearing and answering?

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to teach us God's will.

The Holy Spirit leads us out in prayer in harmony with God's will.

The never-erring Spirit prompts us to petition the Father.

Hebrews 8:1-3; Hebrews 10:12-18 29-31, 39; Hebrews 9:13-15

Prayer in the Spirit cannot be isolated from worship in the Spirit.

Prayer is not worship and giving thanks is not worship.

Worship is bowing before God in adoration and contemplating His perfection.

In worship we are taken up with God Himself.

True and acceptable worship is prompted and directed by the Holy Spirit.

We must be broken in our spirit by the Spirit to worship in the Spirit.

As we worship in the Spirit then we also pray in the Spirit

Paul gives us a summary of all this in **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

Closing Song - Holy Spirit

Benediction Hebrews 13:20-21