

# Growing in Prayer



# Prayer works



- ***Matt 18:19-20*** *"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. NIV*
- ***Mark 11:22-24*** *... Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. NIV*

# We can grow in Prayer




- ***Luke 11:1** One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." NIV*

# Prayer has two functions




- Relationship - Transformational communion with God
- Rulership (servant leadership) - Intercession – Prayer on behalf of others.

# Growing in prayer means practicing on every occasion



- ***Eph 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 saints NIV*

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- Helen Keller : “I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along not by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker.”

# Growing in Prayer means Putting childish thing away



- ***1 Cor 13:11*** *When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. NIV*

# Growing in Prayer means being more like Jesus



- **Jesus lived a life of Prayer**
- *Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. NIV*
- **Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?**  
*--Corrie Ten Boom*

# Growing in Prayer means having more of God's power

- *Luke 3:21-22 And as he was praying, heaven was opened NIV*
- **We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results. R.A. Torrey**

# Praying in the Spirit:



***Rom 8:26-27***

***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 with groans that words cannot express.***

***27 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.***

# Praying in the Spirit:

**1 Cor 14:1-5** *Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. 2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. 3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.*

# Praying in the Spirit:

***1 Cor 14:13-19*** For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do?

*I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.*

***18*** I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ***19*** But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

# Why Pray in Tongues?

- 1. If you are a believer this sign will follow you *Mark 16:17-18***
- 2. It is the initial evidence/sign of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit**  
***Acts 2:3-4***
- 3. The first gentiles to be saved received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues**  
***Acts 10:44-46***
- 4. Over 20 years after Pentecost, those who received the Holy Spirit spoke in other tongues *Acts 19:6 (EPHESUS)***

# Why Pray in Tongues?

**5. The Apostle Paul spoke in tongues**

*1 Cor 14:18*

**6. When you speak in tongues you speak to God; Tongues is your Prayer Language**

*1 Corinthians 14:2*

**7. Speaking in tongues edifies you**

*1 Cor 14:4*

**8. It gives you a new language for both Prayer & Praise through Thanks-giving & singing** *1 Cor 14:14-15; 17; Acts 10:46*

# Why Pray in Tongues?

**9. Paul said, "Forbid not speaking in tongues" *1 Cor 14:39***

**10. It stimulates your faith**  
*Jude 20-21*

**11. You are praying in line with God's will** *Rom 8:26-27*

**12. Tongues serve as a reminder of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence**  
*Acts 2:4*