



Praying With God Video Course

Session Sixteen: Interpreting What the Spirit Does as We Pray

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'After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly' Acts 4: 31

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'Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.' 1 Corinthians 14:13

When we pray, we need to be aware of what the Holy Spirit is doing and what type of prayer He is engaging us in. As described in previous sessions, there are different kinds of prayers and we need to be able to identify how the Holy Spirit is leading us so that we can fully pray WITH God. We can ask for the ability to understand or interpret what we are praying.



How do we interpret?

1. We can pray for the power to interpret. Paul instructs us how to do this in the book of 1 Corinthians, chapters 12 -14. We can ask God for the power to interpret.
2. Ask God for the spirit of wisdom and revelation and for your eyes to be flooded with light so you can understand the mysteries and secrets. *'For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him.'* Amplified. Ephesians 1:17
3. Understand that we have the mind of Christ. *'For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart'.* 1 Corinthians 2:16. The Holy Spirit knows everything that God thinks about every individual and every situation and wants to communicate constantly with us. The Holy Spirit dwells inside us for revelation and wants to reveal to us God's thoughts for ourselves as well as other people.
4. Ask Him to stir your sanctified imagination or the 'eyes' of your heart. *'For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him.'* Ephesians 1: 17-19. You receive revelation by having the eyes of your heart or your 'sanctified imagination', filled with light.
5. Draw on the resident power of the Holy Spirit. Realize that intercession is a spiritual, and not an intellectual exercise.

6. Develop a lifestyle of listening and looking for the Holy Spirit: Be alert and expectant for His leadings. He is 'speaking' and showing us things all the time.
7. A 'siphon' pump -as you tune in to the spontaneous flow and thoughts of the Holy Spirit, you may receive one thought, picture, impression or idea. As you receive this one thing, you can press in for more, and it will come like a bubbling spring, like a siphoning pump. Rivers of living water will 'bubble from your belly' as this is the wellspring of life and revelation. They will 'naba', the Greek word for 'bubble up'. John 7:38.
8. A reservoir of the Word - have plenty of 'water' in your 'reservoir'. Read and study the Bible so that there is something to 'bubble' out your spirit when there is a demand.
9. Speak in tongues a lot - this will edify and charge up your spirit, so you can give out and release the rivers within you. Speak in tongues, and then ask God for the interpretation. This is a gateway to the supernatural.



Bonus Notes: How revelation comes

Revelation is the revealing or disclosing of some sort of information or knowledge that you would not know in the natural. Revelation is from God and may come in a variety of ways.

- ✚ Revelation comes out of our connection and relationship with the Holy Spirit and we should always be aware of His presence.
- ✚ Mental pictures and images. This is a common way revelation is received. We may see visions, pictures, symbols, numbers, moving scenes, or stationary objects.
- ✚ A 'burden' for someone or situation.
- ✚ Words and or scriptures.
- ✚ An impression of a biblical character, famous or distinctive person.
- ✚ An overall impression.
- ✚ Tongues and interpretation.
- ✚ 'an inner knowing'.
- ✚ Objects that catch your eye.
- ✚ A 'bubbling up', 'nabi' a flow of words from within.
- ✚ Words of knowledge and wisdom.



Look to 'see'

Another aspect of receiving revelation is to 'look to see' as modelled by Jesus.

'Then Jesus answered and said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.' John 5: 19 -20

'I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father'. John 8:38

We want to be like Jesus, who was a constant visionary, looking to see what the Father was doing and saying.

We can learn more about this method in the book of Habakkuk.

'I will stand upon my watch and set myself on the rampart. And watch to see what He will say to me and what I will answer when I am corrected. Then the Lord answered me and said: 'Write the vision and make it plain on tablets that he may run who reads it.' Habakkuk 2:1-3:

- ✚ Position yourself - choose to believe He will speak to you, quieten down, tune into the Spirit, pray in tongues, stir up your spirit.
- ✚ Look FOR vision: Habakkuk 2:1, 2. Fix our eyes on Jesus: Heb 12:2
- ✚ Look INTO the vision until it stops flowing. An example of this is in Daniel 4:10-11, where Daniel sees a first impression of an image and then as he continues to look into the vision it develops and shows more details.
- ✚ Ask yourself what is God saying though the picture He is showing? Pictures are symbols of what God is trying to say to you. Bible characters, symbols, metaphors and links will also show what God is communicating



Principles of interpretation and application

Once we have received the revelation of what God wants to say, we need to interpret and pray about it in an appropriate way. Once again there are guidelines for this in the Bible and the principles are similar to interpreting prophecy.

- ✚ We can ask for the interpretation. 1 Cor 14: 13.
- ✚ The interpretation must be in line with the Word.
- ✚ The symbols or objects in the revelatory vision may have positive or negative meanings although the purpose is always redemptive and to show a way forward. For example in the

Bible snakes usually represent evil, but the snake on the pole in Numbers 19 had a positive association as those who looked upon it were healed.

- ‡ Some symbols may have opposite meanings, for example the colour green may represent either abundant fruitfulness or jealousy.
- ‡ Interpretation may be a process, where after receiving the revelation you have to work out what God is saying and how to work with it. As you continue to pray, the Holy Spirit may reveal more detail and instruction.
- ‡ Not everything we receive during the prayer needs to be shared in the group.
- ‡ Use the eyes of your spirit. Ignore the physical signs like body language or a strong charismatic presence a person may bring.



Key Points

1. We should interpret what the Holy Spirit is doing in the prayer.
2. We are given tools and ways to do this for example, 'Look to see'.

Activities



Reflective Questions

1. How do we interpret what the Holy Spirit is doing or saying? 1 Corinthians 14: 13

2. The Holy Spirit reveals things to us in different ways. Can you identify some of the ways the Holy Spirit reveals things to YOU? (for example pictures, dreams, scripture etc).



Activation - Watching and Seeing

***H**abakkuk 2: 1-2: I will stand upon my post of observation and station myself on the tower and watch to see what He will say within me and what answer I will make as His mouthpiece to the perplexities of my complain against Him. And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may be able to read it easily and quickly as he passes by.*

Find a quiet place and listen/look carefully to what God is showing you for this next season. Write it down and reflect on it.