

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

John 14:12,13

(12) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also...



The earthly ministry of our Lord

... **and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.**

(13) "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, **so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

- The prepositional phrase in the Son (ἐν τῷ υἱῷ) indicates that Jesus Christ glorifies the Father by fulfilling whatever the believer asks in His name. The translation should read "By means of the Son"
- Jesus Christ is the action officer of our prayer requests
- Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father –
 - "The Right Hand" is a position of authority and honor.
 - Jesus Christ, Himself, has the authority and power to fulfill the requests we come to Him with.

Prayer is the actual means by which the believer will accomplish GREATER THINGS!

POD – The believers position "in Christ" coupled with Christ's position of honor & authority at the right hand of God the Father, is the reason why the believer can accomplish greater works than the humanity of Christ during His earthly ministry.

The believer cannot live the spiritual life apart from PRAYER!

(13) "Whatever you ask..."

- **How is whatever we ask the Father in the name of Jesus Christ influenced?**

John 4:24

(24) "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit and truth.**"

- **in spirit and truth** (ἐν πνεύματι καὶ ἀληθείᾳ)
- The prepositional phrase indicates "SPIRIT and TRUTH" is the means by which the believer worships God.
 - Prayer is a form of worship
- **Spirit** = The filling of the Holy Spirit
- **Truth** = Metabolized Bible Doctrine

If your view of "filling" is limited to fellowship you will NEVER understand how supernatural the unique spiritual life of the Church Age is!

Note that the “filling of the Holy Spirit” and “fellowship with the Holy Spirit” are two distinguishable concepts.

- When you confess your sins you are restored to an absolute state of harmonious rapport with God (**fellowship**) as per 1 John 1:9.
- What you **must** do is distinguish the difference between HARMONIOUS RAPPORT and Filling!
 - Filling perpetuated requires the following:
 - Fellowship
 - Malleability
 - Dependence

Dependence – is the result of Genuine Humility. Such humility is recognition that you cannot live this [SUPERNATURAL] life apart from the ability provided by Another. The One sent to enable the Christian to live the USL of the Church Age is God the Holy Spirit. He was sent by the Father at the request of Jesus Christ – **a prayer request in the throne room of grace from Jesus Christ once He sat down at the Father’s right hand.**

Apart from Genuine Humility the believer will depend upon self to live the spiritual life.

Apart from Genuine Humility even with *LOTS of Bible Doctrine in the soul* the believer’s walk will be dependence upon self which will ultimately result in failed attempt after failed attempt!

This is an Unbalance Equation

- Malleability & Dependence on God the Holy Spirit is how fellowship is *maintained* and filling is ACTUATED, or set in motion. As the believer learns the Holy Spirit’s ways with him, is malleable to and walks in dependence on the mentorship responsibilities the Holy Spirit begins to manifest more controlling influence in the believer’s life – He secures a greater area of the believer to manifest Himself from.
- The Christian receives the indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit in its entirety at faith alone in Christ alone. Therefore, it is not about getting a greater portion of the Spirit, but allowing the Holy Spirit to secure a greater sphere of manifestation from *within*.

As the Holy Spirit has a greater sphere of influence to manifest Himself from *within* the believer, the character of Jesus Christ is manifested outwardly to the degree of influence secured by the Spirit in the believer’s life.

- The arrogant believer is not malleable to the Spirit’s ways with him and not dependent upon the Spirit therefore, the arrogant believer is locked in a system of arrogance in which he is deceived that he can live the supernatural spiritual life by merely learning more doctrine. To this type of attitude the **Filling of the Holy Spirit** is never actuated.
- Truth (Bible Doctrine) – Spirit (filling of the Holy Spirit) = 1/2 equation = failure to walk in a manner worthy of his calling.

After repeated failures the arrogant believer falls into one of two categories:

- 1) Doctrine doesn't work syndrome! This failure is due to lack of dependency on the Holy Spirit accomplishing all that He was sent into the life to do.
- 2) Keep filling yourself up with more Bible doctrine syndrome! This failure leads the arrogant believer back to the feeding trough of doctrine with a dependence upon self.

An Unbalanced Equation!

Caution – This is very subtle.

- Is Bible doctrine required for the Holy Spirit to manifest fruit (Gal 5:22-23)? NO!
- Note the importance of PNEUMA – Spirit – in the “Spirit and truth” equation. The fruit of the Spirit IS manifest in the life of the believer who allows God the Holy Spirit to manifest a controlling influence in the life.
- Truth = spiritual food. This spiritual food works in conjunction with the Holy Spirit's filling.
- Oftentimes, studying Bible doctrine becomes nothing more than **intellectual stimulation** and that is not spiritual growth.
- Genuine humility PLUS fellowship with God is the prerequisite to being guided by the Spirit; illuminated by the Spirit and having the Holy Spirit teach our spirit. To be Spirit taught requires the believer's willingness to learn.

So, what are we doing when we pray?

We are taking an issue before the Lord.

Our expression of prayer is that of humility because in prayer we intrinsically recognize our inability to fulfill the request on our own and ask God to do what we realize we cannot do for ourselves.

Prayer must precede all that God wants us to do.

- We need His help (genuine humility).
- We need Him to direct circumstances in our life (a dependent attitude and situational awareness to His providential directing of circumstances).
- We must enlist the help of God through prayer and walk in dependence on the Spirit in order to do things as the Spirit directs.
- Prayer puts God in the driver's seat!
- When we pray (following God's protocol for prayer) an attitude of genuine humility is present.
- Genuine humility is a requirement to the execution of the Unique Spiritual Life and the fulfillment of the Protocol Plan of God.

Prayer is the epitome of the faith rest drill.

There has been a strong focus on confession of sin (aka – rebound) and the pursuit of Bible doctrine.

Rather – the focus should be on rebound plus a focus on the Holy Spirit as a person who indwells the believer for the purpose of fulfilling His mentorship responsibilities plus Bible doctrine.

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Some Practical Thoughts

- Should the pastor depend on the Spirit to reveal things to him from the Word of God as he studies the Word of God? Yes!
 - Guidance should be sought from the Lord through prayer in what the flock needs to be fed.
 - This is something that is learned by the pastor throughout his life of studying and teaching.
 - It is imperative that he learn the Holy Spirit's ways with him as he guided by the Spirit in the Word.
 - PRAYER must accompany the pastor-teacher in his study of the infallible Word of God to feed the flock!
 - What happens when the pastor does not come with the attitude of genuine humility and prayer in his studies?
 - "Knowledge puffs up!" and his Bible classes become an exercise in theoretical truth. However intellectually stimulating, the classes do not satiate the believer's inner longing for the pure milk of the Word (**1 Corinthians 8:1 cf. 1 Peter 2:2**).
 - Intellectual arrogance vomits out of his mouth and the local church is turned into a seminary.
- Should there be a dependence upon the Spirit when the believer is determining in his own soul how much to give to the Lord? Yes!

Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (**2 Corinthians 9:7**).

- The Holy Spirit indwells the soul (heart) where the believer purposes to give.
- If the believer would ask the Lord how much to give, would the Holy Spirit not have the liberty to bear witness to the believer's Spirit by a conviction of the will regarding this matter?
 - Of course He would and He will provide the believer is malleable!
- Should there be a dependence upon the Spirit when the believer is witnessing? Yes.
 - Otherwise the believer is dependent upon self and relies on apologetics to convert the believer as opposed to depending upon the Spirit in His ministries of Common & Efficacious Grace.
- Should the believer depend on the Spirit to illuminate and teach him spiritual truth in Bible class? Yes!
 - God the Holy Spirit is the Christian's Mentor and as such He was sent to illuminate and teach the believer.
 - What does learning spiritual truth require?
 - A willingness to be taught!
 - A willingness to learn!
- Should there be a dependence on the Spirit when the believer prays? Yes - -

Class Slides



All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.