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Sermon Notes

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Pray in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18

Prayer and spiritual warfare: the greatest challenge for us is to remember that spiritual warfare is even real, that it is even going on at all!!

We tend to look at the world with our eyes, and assess dangers based on what we see... and our PRAYERLESSNESS is key evidence of our SELF-RELIANCE and COMPLACENCY!

Jesus' apostles were the same... they had to be trained no longer to rely on themselves... and a key example occurred when Jesus took Peter, James and John up the mount of transfiguration, leaving nine apostles to carry on the ministry. By that time, he had given them authority to heal the sick and drive out demons... but when a specific man came with a demon-possessed son, the apostles forgot to pray!!

Mark 9:14-29 *When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. ¹⁶ "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. ¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." ¹⁹ "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." ²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. ²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." ²³ "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" ²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand*

and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. ²⁸ *After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"* ²⁹ *He replied, **"This kind can come out only by prayer."***

Large crowd... lots of conflict, lots of arguing... teachers of the law arguing with his disciples

Jesus found out what had happened... a man had brought his demon-possessed son to his disciples... this demon often threw the boy into the fire or the water... the demon was causing the boy at that moment to roll around on the ground and to foam at the mouth... the father was distraught as he explained it to Jesus... he said it had been going on since childhood...

Then the father said this devastating thing: "I brought him to your disciples, but they were unable to heal him. IF YOU CAN do anything, please have pity on me!"

IF YOU CAN???

Jesus said "All things are possible for him who believes."

Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and it came out of the boy, throwing him down so violently that everyone thought the boy was dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, helped him to his feet, and gave him back to his overjoyed father.

Later, the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked a painful and poignant question: WHY COULDN'T WE DRIVE IT OUT?

Jesus' answer exposed their unbelief: "**This kind can only come out by prayer.**"

This is absolutely amazing! The disciples tried to drive out a demon without praying... just on their own... without God!!

Is there a demon that does come out without prayer?? Is spiritual warfare something we can do on our own?

Prayerlessness is a sure sign of unbelief and underestimation of the awesome and terrifying power of Satan and his demons... and the determination that God will only have us win as we draw close to him...

Ephesians 6:10 be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

I. Prayer and Spiritual Warfare

A. Praying in the Spirit Essential to Victory in Spiritual Warfare

1. Context: Paul has been preparing the Ephesian Christians to FIGHT an invisible spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:11-13 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

B. How Prayer Relates to the “Whole Armor of God”

1. Prayer is treated differently... not just another element of the spiritual
2. All the other elements of the full armor of God are compared to some article actually worn by a Roman soldier for battle... verse 18... prayer... is NOT compared to any such article
3. Also, each element of the full armor of God is linked to a specific part of the human body... but prayer is not
4. Paul is basically saying that prayer is something we do IN CONJUNCTION WITH putting on the full armor of God

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in His strength alone;
 The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
 Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

II. Pray in the Spirit: The Spirit Helps Us in Our Weakness

A. Essential to Genuine Prayer: The Ministry of the Spirit

1. The Spirit is given to assist us in prayer

Romans 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.

2. We are exceedingly WEAK in prayer... we have many levels of our weakness;

3. The essence of the call to spiritual warfare is a call to BE STRONG

Ephesians 6:10 be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

4. Romans 8 makes it plain that the Spirit helps us at many levels... but especially by INTERCEDING FOR US... what a powerful image that is... for we also know that Jesus Christ himself is continually interceding for us as well

Romans 8:34 Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

5. When we enter into spiritual warfare prayer, we are joining both the Son and the Holy Spirit as they intercede for us continually
6. What a MIGHTY RESOURCE for victory as we fight Satan and his demonic powers

B. What is it to pray “in the Spirit”?

1. To Be “In the Spirit” is not the same as being Indwelt by the Spirit
 - a. All Christians are already indwelt by the Holy Spirit

John 14:17 [the Spirit of truth] lives with you and will be in you.

Romans 8:9 If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

- b. But to be indwelt is not the same as being IN THE SPIRIT
 - c. To be IN THE SPIRIT means to be controlled by the Spirit, to be filled with the Spirit, to be lifted by the Spirit into the heavenly realms in some sense... to have a sense of empowering intimate fellowship with him
2. FULLNESS in the Spirit... VITAL to fighting sin
 - a. Earlier in Ephesians, we saw the ongoing, lasting command to be FILLED with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

- b. we learned the Spirit’s role in ministering the love of Christ to our hearts...

Ephesians 3:16-19 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that

surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

- c. we learned that the Spirit can take us to heights of spiritual ecstasy that can scarcely be explained... we read testimonies of people having amazing experiences in prayer through the Holy Spirit, carried away from the earth in their minds and hearts to a spiritual experience that defies description... people like Jonathan Edwards, who lay for an hour on the ground in the woods, his heart filled with a vision of the greatness of Christ; and at another time, his wife Sarah, who felt like she was floating like a dust speck in a beam of heavenly light; or like Blaise Pascal, who had an experience in prayer of the greatness of God like a fire that filled his heart and left him speechless; or like the Apostle Paul himself who was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things
 - d. These are all extreme examples of PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT
 - e. But there is the ordinary ministry of the Spirit in prayer as well
3. To PRAY IN THE SPIRIT means these things
- a. To Pray the RIGHT THINGS... praying for the same things the Spirit and Christ are praying for
 - i) The themes unfolded right in this book of Ephesians... of God's eternal saving purposes for the world, for his elect, chosen in Christ from the foundation of the world
 - ii) Of the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth
 - iii) Of the holiness and power and fruitfulness of God's people around the earth
 - b. To Pray in the RIGHT MANNER... empowered, enflamed, enveloped by the Spirit, characterized in a powerful way by the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control

III. Prayer "In the Spirit": Four Visions from Patmos

Lessons from John and the Island of Patmos... "In the Spirit..."

- A. In the Spirit = Visionary transport... "Come and I will show you..."
 - 1. To pray in the Spirit means to be lifted up and out of the earthly realm to see things spiritually that you wouldn't see any other way
 - 2. Spiritual warfare is HIDDEN... Satan attacks in the spiritual realm

3. To pray in the Spirit is to see spiritual things with spiritual eyes based on the word of God
4. On Patmos... John is exiled... on a rocky, small, barren, lifeless island... like Tom Hanks in Castaway... nothing to do... but to have awesome spiritual visions, revelations of the invisible spiritual world and of the future
5. To pray in the Spirit in a similar manner means to be mindful of vast, glorious themes so that that you can pray intelligently, powerfully, spiritually

B. In the Spirit #1 = Vision of Christ glorified

1. John's statement

Revelation 1:10-11 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches..."

And what did he see?? The resurrected, glorified Christ ministering to the churches:

Revelation 1:12-16 when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

John's reaction:

Revelation 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.

2. For us: to pray in the Spirit means to be intensely mindful of the glory of Christ, the ministry of Christ
3. As we are praying in the midst spiritual warfare, the Spirit brings us to Christ... our great High Priest... the radiant, glorious High Priest... our mediator
4. Without him we would have no access!!
 - a. ACCESS = the right to enter the throne room of God
 - b. We are naturally SINNERS, with no right at all to speak to the holy God of the universe

Isaiah 59:2 your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

- c. God would not listen to us or even look at us
 - i) Joram, wicked son of wicked king Ahab of Israel
 - ii) Jehoshaphat, godly king of Judah... met together to decide if they should go to war against Moab
 - iii) At Jehoshaphat's suggestion, they sent for Elisha for wisdom and prophetic insight... Elisha hated Joram and rebuked him as soon as he saw him:

2 Kings 3:14 Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you or even notice you.

That's even more true of the holy God and us... if it were not for the presence of Jesus our Savior, God would not look at us or even notice us... our prayers would be worthless...

- d. We would have deserved to DIE... like Esther
 - i) Mindful of our true status as sinners
 - ii) Esther could not have entered the throne room of her husband uninvited on penalty of death

Esther 4:11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

- iii) Exception: golden scepter extended... a picture of Christ's mediator work for us... in Christ, God extends the golden scepter to us, welcoming us into the throne room
- iv) So also we must be mindful of the fact that we deserved death from the throne of God... not access or mercy or a hearing

5. BUT NOW: through the Spirit and by the blood of Christ, we have ACCESS to God

Ephesians 2:18 For through him [Christ] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

The Spirit shows us Christ who is our ACCESS to the throne room of God's grace and mercy:

Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

6. To pray in the Spirit = with a spiritual vision of the work of Christ our Great High Priest on our behalf

C. In the Spirit #2 = Vision of God enthroned

1. The second use of the phrase "In the Spirit" is in Revelation 4:1-2

Revelation 4:1-2 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

2. To pray "in the Spirit" is to become intensely mindful of the awesome power and holiness of Almighty God, God enthroned, God who rules over heaven and earth
3. Satan deceives us into thinking that he is so powerful, just as powerful as God... that his temptations are irresistible, that his dark kingdom is unbeatable... all of these things are LIES!!
4. To pray in the Spirit is to draw close to the throne of absolutely INCONCEIVABLE POWER... John had a vision of God enthroned... the sovereign emperor of the universe, the one who soars above all creation with infinite glory, wisdom, and power

5. Encircling the throne of God are twenty-four other thrones... with elders... also living creatures, also 100 million angels...

6. This throne is described powerfully in Isaiah 40

Isaiah 40:22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

The immensity of God enthroned:

Isaiah 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?

Isaiah 40:15-17 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust. ¹⁶ Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires, nor its animals enough for burnt offerings. ¹⁷ Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.

The wisdom of God enthroned:

Isaiah 40:13-14 Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor? ¹⁴ Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?

The limitless power of God enthroned:

Isaiah 40:28-29 The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

7. To pray “in the Spirit” means to have a sense of the awesome, incredible power of God on his throne

8. Now, in the New Covenant, it means also to see the throne as an infinite source of grace... like a river of water flowing for our souls

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Spiritual warfare is a TIME OF NEED!!!! We grow so weary as we seek true holiness and as we spread the gospel to the lost... Satan can make us SO WEARY in the battle... but to pray to God enthroned means to be renewed, like a river is flowing to our parched souls:

Revelation 22:1-2 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city.

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

This renewing vision refreshes your soul in the battle, like Samson:

Judges 15:18-19 Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the LORD, "You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" ¹⁹ Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived.

Practically: to pray IN THE SPIRIT means to be drawn into the heavenly realms to see the throne room of the Sovereign God, your heavenly Father, who rules over heaven and earth. It is to see his holy hatred for sin, his pure eyes that can look upon no evil. To have that vision renewed by the Spirit is to KILL ALL TEMPTATION DEAD... it immediately gives power to all your armor and your shield and sword

To pray in the Spirit means to see God enthroned as you will on Judgment Day, and to give you the power to kill all Satan's temptations and accusations... it is to remember that God is advancing the Kingdom of Christ and nothing Satan can do will stop it

D. In the Spirit #3: Vision of Satan's kingdom exposed

Revelation 17:1-5 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. ² With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries." ³ Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. ⁵ This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 17:18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

Augustine called it the CITY OF MAN... it is also the CITY OF BABYLON... and the city of SATAN

1. Again, Ephesians 6 is SPIRITUAL WARFARE prayer
 - a. We are so unaccustomed to thinking about spiritual warfare... so unaware of Satan's dark kingdom and all its wickedness
 - b. The biblical image of "Babylon" is of Satan's world system... the evil kingdom he set up to dominate the world
 - c. We are so used to this world that we do not see the darkness of this present age... the evil of all of Satan's world empire... "this present darkness"
2. To pray "IN THE SPIRIT" means for the Spirit to take us by the hand on a tour of the evil of the world... to see it as it will appear on Judgment Day in light of the holy zeal of God to cleanse his universe
3. To pray "IN THE SPIRIT" means to see the "lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the boastful pride of life" as the deadly dangers they are
4. To see the world properly... spiritually... to look at the political forces, the nations, their military power with spiritual eyes... to look at the economic forces—the allure of all the merchandise, the temptations of all that money can buy... the pleasures of the world system...
5. To see BABYLON THE GREAT as a vast, dark, Satanic conspiracy, a wickedly brilliant attack on the souls of human beings
6. It is to peer into the invisible realm and see how Satan's organized world system keeps all people enslaved in addictions to lusts and drugs and possessions and pleasures and achievements and fears and hatreds and false religions and philosophies other spiritual poisons that ENSLAVE the hearts of people and make them SIN
7. To pray IN THE SPIRIT is to see clearly how these things are assaulting YOUR SOUL as well... to see the ways in which the world has made inroads in your life...
 - a. Your own spending habits... your entertainment habits... your eating habits... your ways of spending your evenings and weekends...
 - b. To see how the world system has weakened you from zeal for the spread of the gospel... how fear of what man thinks makes it so hard for you to spread the gospel to neighbors and co-workers and relatives and roommates and professors and acquaintances

E. In the Spirit #4: Vision of the future glory of Christ's bride

1. The final journey John took “IN THE SPIRIT” was in Revelation 21

Revelation 21:9-11 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

2. To pray “IN THE SPIRIT” means to have a clear vision of the final glory of the church, the Bride of Christ, the elect from every nation on earth

a. It is so discouraging to be under constant Satanic assault...

b. And also realize that we are called on to pray for everyone else too...

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 saints.

c. The more mature we are, the more we will care about the spiritual warfare going on in other people's lives

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

d. Paul had a great deal of concern for other Christians and the struggles they were having in terms of sin

2 Corinthians 11:28-29 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

e. It is VITAL for us to be reminded that GOD IS GOING TO WIN in the lives of the elect... someday, all of them are going to be perfect, glorious, radiant, in resurrection bodies in heaven

f. This vision of the Bride of Christ in eternal perspective is essential so that we do not grow discouraged!!

John 6:39-40 this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day

Romans 8:29-30 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

So... the Book of Revelation gives us four awesome, amazing themes that should dominate our PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT:

- A vision of the glorified Christ as our Great High Priest, by whom we have access to God
- A vision of Almighty God enthroned, ruling over heaven and earth with absolute power, wisdom, and love
- A vision of the wicked Babylon, Satan's worldwide system of evil, that intoxicates the earth and that pollutes the souls of God's people
- A vision of the final glory of the Bride of Christ, the Church, in heaven... the radiance that every elect person from all over the world will finally have

F. Praying for the Right Things... in Detail

1. The Spirit teaches us things to pray for also in DETAIL
2. As we are in spiritual warfare, the Spirit will make us aware of specific threats the devil is throwing against our souls or against the souls of our brothers and sisters
3. He will show us specific ideas, concepts, alluring ideas or bad habits that are leading us or others into sin
4. He will make us aware of what the devil is doing
5. Positively: he will guide us in powerful directions of ministry that will have the most impact for Christ and do the most damage to Satan's dark kingdom
 - a. He will lay a specific ministry on your heart
 - b. He will lead you to go on a short-term mission trip

Acts 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- c. He will lead you to stop a certain habit of life that is leading you to sin
- d. He will give you a new idea for Christian growth... perhaps a new spiritual discipline, a new pattern of prayer or scripture memorization

e. He will give you a specific message of encouragement to give to others:

f. He will give you a specific message of power to warn sinners to flee

Acts 13:9-10 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰ "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right!"

g. PRAY FOR THE RIGHT THINGS... for the strategic work the Spirit is calling us to do

Acts 16:6-10 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

IV. Prayer "In the Spirit": Praying in the Right Way

A. The Spirit is Also Given to Cause us to Pray with PASSION

Thomas Brooks:

"As a painted fire is no fire, a dead man no man, so a cold prayer is no prayer. In a painted fire there is no heat, in a dead man there is no life, so in a cold prayer there is no power, no devotion, no blessing. Cold prayers are arrows without heads, as swords without edges, as birds without wings, they pierce not, they cut not, they fly not up to heaven. Cold prayers do always freeze before they get up to heaven. Oh! That Christians would chide themselves out of their cold prayers and chide themselves into a better and warmer frame of spirit, when they make their supplications to the Lord"

B. Praying as if these things REALLY MATTERED to us... as if we yearn to see the glory of God in victory over spiritual warfare

C. Praying as if we are REALLY IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Dr. Wilbur Chapman, a great evangelist, was conducting a series of services in England when he was told that a man known simply as "Praying Hyde" was going to ask for God's blessing on those services. [John Hyde was a

Presbyterian missionary to India] Dr. Chapman recalls the power of prayer in the following episode:

“The audience was exceedingly small, but almost immediately the tide began to turn, the hall became packed, and in my first invitation fifty men accepted Christ as their Savior. As we were leaving I said, “Mr. **Hyde**, I want you to pray for me.” He came to my room, turned the key in the door, dropped on his knees and waited five minutes without a single syllable coming from his lips. I could hear my own heart thumping and his beating; I felt hot tears running down my face. I knew I was with God. Then with upturned face, while the tears were streaming down, he said, “O God,” then for five minutes more, at least, he was still again. And then when he knew he was talking with God there came from the depths of this heart such petitions for me as I had never heard before. I rose from my knees to know what prayer really was.”

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT... as if the power of heaven were outpoured on us

V. Applications

- A. Come to Christ!
- B. Pray in the Spirit!!