

THE PRINCIPLE AND CONCEPT OF PRAYER

LOOKING AT PRAYER FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

FIRST, BIBLICALLY PRAYER CAN BE TAUGHT — AND CAUGHT!

NORMALLY IN TEACHING ABOUT PRAYER WE START WITH US AND OUR NEEDS AND THEN FOCUS ON HOW TO GET THEM MET BY GOD. BUT, SHOULDN'T PRAYER BE TAUGHT FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE?

AFTER ALL, HE IS THE ONE WHO DESIGNED AND INITIATED PRAYER. WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE AND REASON FOR INSTITUTING PRAYER?

TO TRULY UNDERSTAND AND FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN PRAYER, WE MUST FIRST START WITH GOD HIMSELF.

LIKE BILL GATES' SON (OR ANY OTHER POWERFUL MAN'S SON) WHO ONE DAY GROWS UP ENOUGH TO COME TO THE FULL REALIZATION OF WHO HIS FATHER IS, WE MUST ALSO "GROW UP ENOUGH" SPIRITUALLY TO COME TO THE FULL AND COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF WHO OUR FATHER IS AND, AS A RESULT, COME TO UNDERSTAND WHO WE ARE IN HIM!

WHO IS GOD? THE INFINITE GOD!

WE CANNOT ACCURATELY AND EFFECTIVELY DISCUSS WHAT PRAYER IS UNTIL WE FIRST ESTABLISH WHO AND WHAT GOD IS!

Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, **even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.**

GOD IS INFINITE! BEFORE THE BEGINNING AND AFTER THE ENDING!

Job 36:26 (*The Message Bible*)

26 "Take a long, hard look. See how great he is — infinite, greater than anything you could ever imagine or figure out!

Job 11:7 (*The Amplified Version*)

7 Can you find out the deep things of God, or **can you by searching find out the limits of the Almighty [explore His depths, ascend to His heights, extend to His breadths, and comprehend His infinite perfection]?**

The English Definition of *INFINITE*:

Google: "Limitless or endless in space, extent, or size; impossible to measure or calculate."

Dictionary.com: "Unlimited or unmeasurable in extent of space, duration of time, etc."

Collins: "Having no limits or boundaries in time, space, extent, or magnitude."

Webster's: "Unbounded or unlimited; boundless; endless."

Exodus 3:13-15

13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, **What is his name? what shall I say unto them?**

14 And **God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.**

15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: **this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.**

BIBLICALLY, *INFINITE* WOULD BE DEFINED AS:

HAVING NO BEGINNING OR ENDING,

ALWAYS PRESENT IN EVERY PLACE AND EVERY TIME SIMULTANEOUSLY,

PERPETUALLY FILLING ALL SPACE AND TIME.

Therefore, by definition, there can only be ONE being who could physically and literally fulfill such requirements in order to be described as infinite.

— For “two” beings to be able to fulfill such requirements, “they” would literally have to be in fact only one actual being.

AGAIN, The One True and Living God is infinite.

He is before the beginning and after the end. In Him there is NO TIME!

He is bigger than the universe because He created it — He fills all space!

He is at every time and place simultaneously.

By definition, there can be only ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD.

By New Testament principle, therefore, it can be said of the Infinite God:

He is IN all space and all space is IN Him.

He is IN all time and all time is IN Him!

HE AND HE ALONE IS GOD!

Nehemiah 9:6 **Thou, even thou, art Lord alone;** thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

ONE GOD — THE “I AM”

(The following was given to me on March 19, 2015; 5:30 am):

It is physically and spiritually/naturally and supernaturally impossible for there to be more than ONE GOD!

Based on the attributes that the One True and Living God applies to Himself, there can be no more than One:

1. He literally and physically fills ALL space in the universe and beyond. He is the Creator of the Universe; so, therefore, He must be and is greater than the universe.
2. He is present in every place at the same time.
3. He is present in every time at the same time.
4. He is infinite - Before the beginning and after the end.
5. With Him there is NO place or time. God cannot be described or defined using any vocabulary that confines Him to a certain place or a specific time. GOD IS! Thus God's FIRST name with which He identifies Himself is the "I AM."
6. He identifies Himself as "Lord" which means "Supreme Ruler." There can only be ONE Supreme Ruler of the Universe. There is no one above or beyond Him.
7. He defines Himself as ONE! One is the most fundamental whole number. According to the attributes listed above, there can be nothing and no one greater than ONE.

To divide the ONE into parts, no matter how "co-equal" they may be, is to reduce God to less than Himself and to make it so that none of the other attributes itemized here can possibly apply to Him.

To propose that there is more than One God is to declare that those gods cannot possibly have any of these attributes assigned to them. By that fact alone, they are invalidated as being associated with the One True and Living God.

Based on these same attributes, God cannot be more than one "person" or being simultaneously. Only ONE BEING/Person can be described by these attributes.

Everything and every other manifestation of God came AFTER "the beginning."

Any theory, doctrine, opinion, etc. that divides God into additional "beings" or "persons" is not of God. For Him to have authored them, He would have had to deny the attributes of His existence and His fundamental nature. Thus, He would have had to deny HIMSELF! He did NOT and CANNOT deny Himself!

HOWEVER, GOD HAD A PROBLEM!

THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT GOD COULD NOT DO AS THE INFINITE GOD WHO EXISTED ALONE!

GOD IS LOVE!

HE HAS POWER!

BUT HE IS LOVE! (1 John 4:8,16)

WHEN THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE BUT HIMSELF,
GOD COULD NOT FULLY MANIFEST HIMSELF AS HIMSELF.

TO FULLY MANIFEST HIMSELF, HE NEEDED SOMEONE OR SOMETHING TO
EXIST BEYOND HIMSELF SO THAT HE COULD MANIFEST HIS LOVE.

HOWEVER, ANYTHING BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE WOULD NOT BE INFINITE.
SINCE ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT IS CREATED BY GOD CANNOT THEN
BE GOD, ALL OF CREATION WOULD HAVE TO BE FINITE.

LOVE IS A CHOICE, A DECISION. IN ORDER TO LOVE AND BE LOVED, GOD HAD
TO CREATE BEINGS WHO HAD BOTH THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE AND THE
RIGHT/AUTHORITY TO CHOOSE! THUS, BEINGS WITH A FREE WILL WERE
REQUIRED FOR GOD'S MANIFESTATION OF HIMSELF.

THESE FINITE, CREATED BEINGS WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BE, A
PLACE TO EXIST. SO, GOD HAD TO FIRST CREATE TIME AND SPACE. TIME AND
SPACE ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE FINITE.

BUT, IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, THE INFINITE ONE FIRST NEEDED TO
BE ABLE TO RELATE TO THE FINITE.

HOW DOES AN INFINITE GOD RELATE TO THE FINITE — TIME AND SPACE?

HE DOESN'T!

**THE INFINITE, BY DEFINITION, CANNOT BE FINITE; NEITHER CAN IT INTERACT
DIRECTLY WITH THE FINITE WITHOUT THEN BECOMING FINITE.**

**AGAIN, IF THE ONE WHO IS UNLIMITED BY TIME AND SPACE AND IS PRESENT
AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL SPACE SIMULTANEOUSLY WERE TO DIRECTLY
INTERACT WITH THE FINITE (TIME AND SPACE), THEN HE WOULD
IMMEDIATELY CEASE TO BE INFINITE!**

SO, HOW DID GOD ADDRESS THIS CONUNDRUM?

HE CREATED AN “INTERMEDIARY.” HE CREATED A CONDUIT AND AN INTERFACE!

Definition of *INTERMEDIARY*: “A person who acts as a link between people in order to try to bring about an agreement or reconciliation; a mediator.” (*Google*)

Definition of *CONDUIT*: “An agency or means of access, communication, etc.” (*Collins Dictionary*)

Definition of *INTERFACE*:

Dictionary.com: “**A thing or circumstance that enables separate and sometimes incompatible elements to coordinate effectively:**”

Webster's: “Something that enables separate and sometimes incompatible elements to coordinate or communicate.”

GOD HIMSELF BECAME LOGOS!

WHO AND/OR WHAT IS LOGOS?

A Very Brief Summarization of how Scholars define LOGOS:

THE DIVINE EXPRESSION or DEITY EXPRESSED IN TIME or TO THE FINITE

- the character and nature of the infinite God (the I AM) revealed.
- the divine reason or plan which originated and coordinates a changing universe.
- the infinite God interfacing with the finite (His Creation)
 - thus fulfilling the significance of the title "Logos," the "Word," the personal manifestation, not of a part of the divine nature, but of the whole deity.

LOGOS IS NOT A "SEPARATE" GOD FROM THE "I AM." HE IS THE "I AM" (INFINITE GOD) "INTERFACING" WITH TIME AND SPACE — WITH THE FINITE!

LOGOS IS THE AGENCY THAT THE INFINITE GOD USED TO BRING EVERYTHING ELSE INTO EXISTENCE!

LOGOS IS THE EXPRESSION OF THE BEING AND PERSON OF THE INFINITE GOD TO AND INTO TIME AND SPACE. LOGOS IS THE BEGINNING OF TIME AND SPACE AND IS THE CREATOR OF THEM.

LOGOS IS GREATER THAN MERELY "WORD." LOGOS IS THE TOTALITY OF THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GOD EXISTING BEFORE EVERYTHING ELSE. LOGOS IS THE EMBODIMENT OF THE "MYSTERY" OF GOD.

Ephesians 3:9 **And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:**

MYSTERY (*Strong's*) = NT:3466 *musterion* (moos-tay'-ree-on); from a derivative of muo (to shut the mouth); **A SECRET or "mystery" (through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites):**

KJV - mystery.

MYSTERY (*Thayer's*) = NT:3466 *musteerion*; a hidden thing, secret, mystery:

1. a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding
2. a hidden purpose or counsel; secret will

1 Corinthians 8:6 **But to us there is but one God, the Father [INFINITE GOD], of whom are all things, AND we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ [LOGOS MADE FLESH], by whom are all things, and we by him.**

GOD BECOMING LOGOS WAS THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING ELSE!

John 1:1-3,4

1 In the beginning was the Word [GREEK = LOGOS], and the Word [GREEK = LOGOS] was with God, and the Word [GREEK = LOGOS] was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

14 And the Word [GREEK = LOGOS] was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

1 John 1:1-3 (*The Message Bible*)

1 From the very first day, we were there, taking it all in — we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands.

2 The Word [GREEK = LOGOS] of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen! **And now we're telling you in most sober prose that what we witnessed was, incredibly, this: The infinite Life of God himself took shape before us.**

3 We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 9:6 (*Young's Literal Translation*)

6 For a Child hath been born to us, A Son hath been given to us, And the princely power is on his shoulder, And He doth call his name Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, **Father of Eternity**, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:5 (*The Complete Jewish Bible*)

5(6) For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; dominion will rest on his shoulders, and he will be given the name Pele-Yo'etz El Gibbor Avi-'Ad Sar-Shalom [Wonder of a Counselor, Mighty God, **Father of Eternity**, Prince of Peace],

LOGOS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD AND THE AGENCY BY WHICH ALL CREATION OCCURRED.

Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, **the beginning of the creation of God;**

Hebrews 11:3 **Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**

Colossians 1:9-20

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, **do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 **Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;**

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15 **Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:**

16 **For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:**

17 **And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

18 **And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.**

19 **For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;**

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

LOGOS IS THE INFINITE GOD MANIFESTED IN AND INTERACTING WITH THE FINITE

Hebrews 1:1-14

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us **by [his] SON, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;**

3 **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 **But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.**

9 **Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.**

10 And, **Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:**

11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Hebrews 1:1-3 (*The Amplified Version*)

1 IN MANY separate revelations [each of which set forth a portion of the Truth] and in different ways God spoke of old to [our] forefathers in and by the prophets,

2 **[But] in the last of these days He has spoken to us in [the person of a] SON [LOGOS MADE FLESH], Whom He appointed Heir and lawful Owner of all things, also by and through Whom He created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time [He made, produced, built, operated, and arranged them in order].**

3 He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the UNIVERSE by His mighty word of power. When He had by offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high,

Hebrews 1:1-4 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

1-4 In many parts and in different ways God in former times having spoken to the fathers by means of the prophets, **in the last of these days spoke to us in One who by nature is [His] Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He constituted the ages; who, being the out-raying [effulgence] of His glory and the exact reproduction of His essence, and sustaining, guiding, and propelling all things by the word of His power,** having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become by so much superior to the angels as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

EXPRESS IMAGE (*Strong's*) = NT:5481 *charakter* (khar-ak-tare'); from the same as NT:5482; a graver (the tool or the person), i.e. (by implication) engraving (["character"], **the figure stamped, i.e. an exact copy or [figuratively] representation**):

KJV - express image.

EXPRESS IMAGE (*Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*) = NT:5481 *charakter*; Thus Christ (alone) [LOGOS MADE FLESH] is viewed as "the reflection of the divine glory" and as **"the one imprinted by the divine reality/by God's essence."**

EXPRESS IMAGE (*Thayer's*) = NT:5481 *charakter*; **the exact expression (the image) of any person or thing, marked likeness, precise reproduction in every respect.**

THE LOGOS IS THE EXACT EXPRESSION OF THE INFINITE GOD INTO TIME AND SPACE. HE IS FULLY GOD IN ALL OF HIS ESSENTIAL CHARACTER AND SUBSTANCE. HE IS THE ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD INTERACTING WITH THE FINITE (TIME AND SPACE).

WHILE LOGOS IS THE ORIGINATOR/CREATOR OF THE FINITE AND CAN INTERJECT HIMSELF INTO AND RELATE TO THE FINITE, HE IS STILL ALL OF THE INFINITE GOD WHO CAN DO SO. HE IS FULLY ALL OF THE INFINITE GOD THAT CAN INTERFACE WITH TIME AND SPACE.

AGAIN, THE INFINITE GOD WHO IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF TIME AND SPACE HAD TO HAVE A MEANS WHEREBY HE COULD CREATE THE FINITE. SO, THE INFINITE GOD BECAME OR EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS LOGOS. BY MEANS OF LOGOS, THE INFINITE GOD COULD CREATE THE FINITE (TIME AND SPACE) AND INTERACT WITH IT.

Colossians 2:8-10

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Colossians 1:19 **For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;**

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:5-8 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation of the New Testament*)

5-8 [This is the mind] which is also in Christ Jesus, **who has always been and at present continues to subsist in that mode of being in which He gives outward expression of His essential nature, that of absolute deity, which expression comes from and is truly representative of His inner being [that of absolute deity], and who did not after weighing the facts, consider it a treasure to be clutched and retained at all hazards, this being on an equality with deity [in the expression of the divine essence],** but himself He emptied, himself He made void, having taken the outward expression of a bondsman, which expression comes from and is truly representative of His nature [as deity], entering into a new state of existence, that of mankind. And being found to be in outward guise as man, He stooped very low, having become obedient [to God the Father] to the extent of death, even such a death as that upon a cross.

LOGOS WAS/IS THE PLAN OF GOD (HIS “BLUEPRINT”), BUT HE WAS MADE SUBJECT TO THOSE VERY PLANS AND PURPOSES:

Acts 2:22-36

22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

23 Him, **BEING DELIVERED BY THE DETERMINATE COUNSEL AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD**, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

THE LOVE OF GOD REQUIRED HIM TO PROVIDE A MEANS TO REDEEM MAN FROM THE WRONG CHOICES THAT WERE MADE POSSIBLE BY GIVING MAN FREE WILL.

LOVE IS ONLY LOVE IF IT INVOLVES THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE, BUT BY GIVING MAN THE POWER TO CHOOSE TO LOVE, GOD ALSO GAVE MAN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE WRONGLY.

SINCE GOD IS LOVE, FROM THE BEGINNING HIS PLAN INCLUDED THE MEANS WHEREBY HE COULD REDEEM MAN. THUS, LOGOS WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US BOTH TO MANIFEST THE LOVE OF GOD TO MANKIND AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT LOVE THROUGH PROVIDING FOR MAN'S REDEMPTION.

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

Revelation 5:5-8

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, **the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb**, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

THE “SECOND” THING THAT GOD CREATED: THE CHURCH!

AGAIN — GOD IS LOVE! BUT WHEN HE HAD NOTHING TO LOVE, HE WAS “INCOMPLETE.”

AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF ALL THINGS; GOD, THROUGH *LOGOS*, CREATED THE CHURCH IN HIS OWN MIND! GOD LOVED US FROM THE BEGINNING!

THE CHURCH “COMPLETES” OR ALLOWS GOD TO FULLY MANIFEST HIMSELF AS “LOVE”:

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, **the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

Ephesians 1:23 (*The Complete Jewish Bible*)

23 which is his body, **the full expression of him who fills all creation.**

Ephesians 1:23 (*Weymouth's Translation of the New Testament*)

23 **the completeness of Him who everywhere fills the universe with Himself.**

Ephesians 1:23 (*God's Word Translation*)

23 **The church is Christ's body and completes him as he fills everything in every way.**

Ephesians 1:23 (*Good News Translation*)

23 **The church is Christ's body, the completion of him who himself completes all things everywhere.**

FULNESS (*Strong's Greek Dictionary*) = # NT:4138 *pleroma* (play'-ro-mah); from NT:4137; repletion or completion, i.e. (subjectively) **what fills (as contents, supplement, copiousness, multitude)**, or (objectively) what is filled (as container, performance, period):

FULNESS (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*) = # NT:4138 *pleroma*; from *pleroe* (4137), **to make full, fill, fill up. Fullness.**

FULNESS (*Thayer's Greek Lexicon*) = # NT:4138 *pleroma*; ...2. **that which fills or with which a thing is filled:**

PAUL EARNESTLY PRAYED FOR THE CHURCH TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE:

PAUL'S FIRST PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 **Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;**

17 **THAT** the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**

18 **The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; THAT ye may know WHAT is the hope of his calling, and WHAT the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**

19 **And WHAT is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

WHAT IS MAN TO GOD?

Hebrews 2:6-8

6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, **What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?**

7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and **didst set him over the works of thy hands:**

8 **Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.**

PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:

Ephesians 3:8-21

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, **that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;**

9 And **to make all men see WHAT** is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 **To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,**

11 **According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:**

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

14 **For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16 **THAT he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

17 **That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**

18 **May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;**

19 **And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

20 **NOW** unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 **Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.**

VERSES 20 AND 21 REVEAL TO US THE AMAZING RESULT OF OUR KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING THE REVELATIONS THAT PAUL PRAYED FOR US TO HAVE IN BOTH CHAPTERS 1 AND 3. AWESOME!

CHRIST (LOGOS MADE FLESH) IS THE “HEAD OF THE BODY”! COULD GOD CREATE “THE HEAD” WITHOUT ALSO CREATING “THE BODY”? NO!

IN THIS METAPHOR THEREFORE, WHAT THEN IS THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER?

In the parable of nature, a body and its head do not function unless the body can communicate with the head and vice versa. THIS IS CALLED, “PRAYER”!

FOR THE CHURCH:

**“PRAYER” IS COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE HEAD AND THE BODY.
IT IS COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE FATHER AND HIS SONS.
IT IS ALSO COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE BRIDE AND HER GROOM!**

PRAYER IS THE PRIVILEGE GRANTED TO THE FINITE TO COMMUNICATE AND PARTICIPATE WITH THE INFINITE.

PRAYER IS THE MOST CRITICAL AND IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GOD DURING THIS ERA OF PRE-ETERNAL LIFE WHICH ENDS AT THE JUDGEMENT THRONE.

AS STATED ABOVE, GOD’S MOTIVE FOR CREATION WAS LOVE. FOR LOVE TO BE LOVE, IT MUST INVOLVE THE CHOICE OF FREE WILL.

THE ESSENCE AND MANIFESTATION OF LOVE IS COMMUNICATION. THE FIRST AND FOREMOST PURPOSE OF PRAYER IS THE COMMUNICATION OF OUR SPIRITUAL LOVE FOR AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INFINITE GOD.

WHILE WORSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY, IT IS NOT AN ACT OF LOVE. THE ANGELS “WORSHIPPED”! YET, NOT ONE TIME DOES THE BIBLE STATE THAT GOD “LOVED” THE ANGELS OR THAT THE ANGELS “LOVED” GOD. THEREFORE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO BOTH PRAISE AND WORSHIP GOD WITHOUT TRULY LOVING HIM.

HOWEVER; TRUE, BIBLICAL, SPIRITUAL PRAYER IS THE PUREST AND TRUEST EXPRESSION OF OUR LOVE FOR GOD!

THE FINITE CANNOT COMMUNICATE WITH (PRAY TO) THE INFINITE EXCEPT THROUGH THE AGENCY OF THE LOGOS.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me [Logos made flesh].**

Ephesians 2:18 **For *through* him [Christ = *logos* made flesh] we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.**

THROUGH (*Strong's Greek Dictionary*) = # NT:1223 *dia* (dee-ah'); **a primary preposition denoting the channel of an act**; through (in very wide applications, local, causal, or occasional):

ALL FLESH IS EXPECTED TO PRAY TO GOD:

Psalms 65:1-4

1 Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

2 **O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.**

3 Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.

4 **Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee,** that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

Psalms 5:1-3

1 **Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation.**

2 **Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.**

3 **My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.**

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

Isaiah 55:6 **Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:**

Jeremiah 29:12-13

12 **Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.**

13 **And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

IF THE MAN CHRIST JESUS (LOGOS MADE FLESH) PRAYED, HOW MUCH MORE SHOULD WE PRAY?

Hebrews 5:7 **Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;**

JESUS WAS “DRIVEN” TO PRAYER:

Mark 1:9-13

9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

12 And immediately the Spirit driveth [GREEK = *ekballo*] him into the wilderness.

13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

JESUS KNEW HIS PRAYERS WOULD BE ANSWERED:

John 11:41-43

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, **Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.**

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

THE BIG QUESTION THEN IS:

DO WE REALLY KNOW HOW TO PRAY?

FIRST AND FOREMOST, PRAYER REQUIRES WORDS — NO MATTER WHAT LANGUAGE THEY ARE SPOKEN IN. NO MATTER IF THEY ARE ANOINTED “HEAD-LANGUAGE” OR SUPERNATURALLY EMPOWERED “HEART-LANGUAGE.” PRAYER REQUIRES WORDS.

EMOTIONS AND THEIR AUDIBLE EXPRESSIONS CAN AND USUALLY WILL BE INCLUDED IN PRAYER,
BUT, FIRST AND FOREMOST, PRAYER REQUIRES WORDS.

FIRST OF ALL, WHEN PRAYING, WE ARE TOLD TO TAKE WITH US “WORDS”

Hosea 14:1-2

14 O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.
2 **Take with you words, and turn to the Lord:** say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

Hosea 14:2 (*The Living Bible*)

2 **Bring your petition. Come to the Lord and say,** "O Lord, take away our sins; be gracious to us and receive us, and we will offer you the sacrifice of praise.

Hosea 14:2 (*Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version*)

2 **Think about what you will say, and come back to the Lord.** Say to him, "Take away our sin, and **accept these words as our sacrifice.** We offer you the praise from our lips.

HOWEVER, JUST REPEATING WORDS “IN PRAYER” (“PENTECOSTAL STYLE”) IS NOT PRAYING AT ALL! WHY?

BECAUSE THAT’S HOW THE HEATHEN PRAY TO IDOLS !

Matthew 6:7-10

7 But **when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do:** for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 **Be not ye therefore like unto them:** for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:7-10 (*The Amplified Version*)

7 **And when you pray, do not heap up phrases (multiply words, repeating the same ones over and over) as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard for their much speaking.** [1 Kings 18:25-29.]

8 **Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.**

9 Pray, therefore, like this: Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed (kept holy) be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:7-8 (*Wuest’s Expanded Translation of the New Testament*)

7-8 **Moreover, when praying, do not repeat the same thing over and over as the pagans do, for they think that they will be heard because of their multiplicity of words. Therefore, do not be like them,** for your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him for them.

HOW ABSOLUTELY INSULTING IT MUST BE TO THE INFINITE GOD FOR THE PEOPLE THAT HE HAS FILLED WITH HIS DIVINE NATURE TO PRAY TO HIM IN THE EXACT SAME MANNER IN WHICH THE HEATHEN PRAY TO DUMB IDOLS (BLOCKS OF STONE OR WOOD, ETC.)! JUST MINDLESSLY REPEATING WORDS!

WHY DO WE PRAY LIKE THAT? BECAUSE WE ARE JUST TRYING TO FILL UP OUR “HOUR OF PRAYER” WITH WORDS! WE ARE JUST PUTTING IN OUR TIME!

**YET, IF WE PRAY AT ALL, WHY DO MOST OF US
“PRAY”?**

**TO GET GOD TO CHANGE
CIRCUMSTANCES
THAT WE DON'T LIKE!**

UNFORTUNATELY FOR MOST “BELIEVERS,” THIS IS THE ONLY REASON WE BOTHER TO PRAY. IF WE DON'T “NEED” ANYTHING FROM GOD, WE STRUGGLE MIGHTILY TO “THINK OF SOMETHING TO SAY.” SO “PRAYER” FOR US BECOMES NOTHING MORE THAN A RITUAL — A RELIGIOUS OBLIGATION.

THE MOST INTENSE AND “FERVENT” PRAYER THAT MOST “BELIEVERS” PRAY IS “PANIC PRAYING.” **SOME KIND OF “EMERGENCY” EXISTS IN OUR LIVES AND WE HURRIEDLY, HARRIEDLY, AND DEMANDINGLY PRAY IN A PANIC.** WE DON'T EVEN REALIZE THAT “PANIC PRAYING” REVEALS OUR LACK OF A GENUINE PRAYER LIFE, AND THEREFORE, OUR LACK OF REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

THEREFORE, MOST “BELIEVERS” PRAYER IS ONLY NEED-BASED!

BELIEVERS WITH A GENUINE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR FATHER DON'T NEED TO PRAY “PANIC PRAYERS.” THEY KNOW HIM, TRUST HIM, AND FULLY BELIEVE THAT HE IS IN TOTAL CONTROL OF EVERYTHING IN THEIR LIVES! THEY HAVE PEACE IN GOD AND DON'T FEAR LIFE'S CIRCUMSTANCES!

CONSIDER JOB: SHALL WE RECEIVE GOOD AT THE HANDS OF GOD AND SHALL WE NOT RECEIVE "EVIL."

Job 2:9-10

9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.
10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

RECEIVE (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*) = # OT:6901 qabal: A verb meaning to accept, to receive, to take, to undertake, to choose. As a general term, it means to accept something: a gift (Esther 4:4); instruction (Proverbs 19:20). It has the sense of willingly taking on a task (Esther 9:23); or setting up something (Esther 9:27). It is used of accepting what God brings on us (Job 2:10). It has the sense of compared to, to match, to be opposite and paired (Exodus 26:5; 36:12).

GOOD (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*) = # OT:2896 tob: An adjective meaning good, well-pleasing, fruitful, morally correct, proper, convenient.

GOOD (*Vines's Expository Dictionary*) = OT:2896 tob, "good; favorable; festive; pleasing; pleasant; well; better; right; best."

EVIL (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*) = # OT:7451; **disagreeable, unwholesome, or harmful... Calamities, failures, and miseries are all connotations of this word when it is used as a noun.**

EVIL (*Vines's Expository Dictionary*) = OT:7451 **Ra may mean "bad" or unpleasant in the sense of giving pain or causing unhappiness:...**

Job 2:10 (*The Amplified Version*)

10 But he said to her, You speak as one of the impious and foolish women would speak. What? **Shall we accept [only] good at the hand of God and shall we not accept [also] misfortune and what is of a bad nature?** In [spite of] all this, Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 2:10 (*Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version*)

10 Job answered, "You sound like one of those fools on the street corner! **How can we accept all the good things that God gives us and not accept the problems?"** So even after all that happened to Job, he did not sin. He did not accuse God of doing anything wrong.

Job 2:10 (*Good News Translation*)

10 Job answered, "You are talking nonsense! **When God sends us something good, we welcome it. How can we complain when he sends us trouble?**" Even in all this suffering Job said nothing against God.

Job 2:10 (*Holman Christian Standard Bible*)

10 "You speak as a foolish woman speaks," he told her. **"Should we accept only good from God and not adversity?"** Throughout all this Job did not sin in what he said.

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS: DO OUR PRAYERS FOCUS ON THE TEMPORAL OR ON THE ETERNAL?

IF GOD ANSWERED ALL OF OUR PRAYERS THAT WE HAVE PRAYED OVER THE LAST 30 DAYS, WHAT WOULD BE MOST AFFECTED BY OUR ANSWERED PRAYERS: THE TEMPORAL OR THE ETERNAL?

GOD CHANGING OUR TEMPORAL CIRCUMSTANCES IS FOR OUR PERSONAL BENEFIT.

GOD CHANGING THE OUTCOME OF PEOPLE'S ETERNAL DESTINATION IS FOR HIS AND THEIR ETERNAL BENEFIT.

JESUS SAID TO TAKE NO THOUGHT FOR TOMORROW. HE LITERALLY MEANT THAT!

Matthew 6:24-34

24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

25 Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?**

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 **Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?**

28 And **why take ye thought for raiment?** Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 **Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?**

32 **(FOR AFTER ALL THESE THINGS DO THE GENTILES SEEK:)** for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 **BUT seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

34 **Take therefore no thought for the morrow:** for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

THIS IS HOW THE GENTILES PRAY — ALWAYS SEEKING FOR ONLY WHAT THEY NEED AND WANT!

WHEN WILL THE CHURCH PRAY THE PRAYERS OF THE SPIRITUALLY MATURE?

IN OUR SPIRITUAL INFANCY GOD INVITES US TO PRAY FOR “US” SO THAT WE CAN BUILD UP CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER AND EXPERIENCE THAT IT WORKS.

COMMENTARY: Do we have the right to pray for ourselves? YES! But, how many times did Jesus tell us to trust the Father for ourselves, to take no thought for ourselves, etc. HE IS OUR FATHER! The purpose of prayer in our initial walk with God is to teach us how to pray and to help us learn of the love and care of our Father for us. BUT, at some point we are supposed to outgrow “everything being about us.” An infant is demanding and self-serving. It expects everything and everybody to cater to it and its needs. But, at some point in time the infant is supposed to become a child. One of the first steps in transitioning from infancy to childhood is the first time the child is told “NO”! This is a new experience for this tiny being. As parents, we are expected to teach our child the meaning of “no” and that it is an acceptable communication from the parent (and others in authority) to the child. Our Father “created” this process and gave us this natural example of it so that we would fully understand His love for us when He has to tell us “no.” What is He really saying to us? “IT IS TIME TO GROW UP!”

**IN OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY WE BECOME CONDUITS FOR GOD’S WILL AND WORK IN THE EARTH
— WHILE TRUSTING HIM EVERYDAY WITH “US” AND OUR NEEDS!**

COMMENTARY: The spiritually mature “Child of God” has come to understand that the Kingdom of God is not “all about them.” In fact, they have received the “revelation” that they have been chosen to participate with the Lord in His Kingdom and for His purposes. They have learned:

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Thus, our participation in prayer is all about our Father, His plan, His purpose, His Kingdom, etc. We have been given the privilege to be a partner and participant in all of that. No wonder John said:

1 John 3:1-2

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

IN ORDER TO KNOW HOW TO PRAY, WE FIRST MUST KNOW WHY WE PRAY.

THE THREE PURPOSES (AND PROGRESSIONS) OF PRAYER: FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRY, and DOMINION

PRAYER AS FELLOWSHIP IS TALKING "TO" GOD.

PRAYER AS MINISTRY IS ALLOWING GOD TO SPEAK THROUGH US.

DOMINION PRAYING IS BEING A CONDUIT FOR THE AUTHORITY OF GOD TO BE EXERCISED IN THE EARTH.

— THE FIRST IS PRAYER AS "SONS"

— THE SECOND IS PRAYER AS "THE WIFE"

— FINALLY, THE THIRD IS PRAYER AS A PARTICIPANT IN A RULING SPIRITUAL "GOVERNMENT"

**"PRAYER" IS NOT US TRYING TO CONVINC
GOD TO DO THINGS THAT HE IS RELUCTANT
OR EVEN OPPOSED TO DOING.**

EVERYTHING WAS HIS IDEA FIRST!

— IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OVER-EMPHASIZE THIS POINT!

THERE ARE THREE STEPS IN THE PROGRESSION OF PRAYER:

CONNECT—Tabernacle Pattern—FLESH—FAITH—FELLOWSHIP(RELATIONSHIP)

COMMUNICATE—2 Chronicles 7:14—SOUL—HOPE—MINISTRY

CONDUIT—Matthew 6, Luke 11—SPIRIT—LOVE—DOMINION

OUR FATHER! (MATTHEW 6:9)

EVERYTHING INCLUDING AND ESPECIALLY PRAYER STARTS WITH OUR FATHER: THE INFINITE GOD!

PRAYER IS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FATHER

OUR FAITH IN AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL PRAYER!

THEREFORE, OUR PRAYERS ALWAYS REVEAL THE DEGREE OF MATURITY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR FATHER:

IS THERE LOVE FOR HIM?

DO WE TRUST HIM?

DOES OUR ATTITUDE IN PRAYER “SAY” THAT WE ARE SERVING HIM INSTEAD OF US EXPECTING HIM “TO SERVE US”?

HAVE WE FULLY GIVEN UP CONTROL OF OUR LIVES AND SUBMITTED TO HIM?

THE PRAYER OF THE LOVING, TRUSTING, AND SUBMITTED CHILD OF THE FATHER WOULD BE SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

“Father, we know that you love us and we believe that You are in absolute control. We believe that nothing can happen in our lives (the lives of Your children) except that You cause it OR permit it. Father, You are in total control of everything for Your children’s and Your Kingdom’s sake. We trust You! We trust You for the outcome of every situation in our lives. We submit ourselves to You for Your sake, Your Kingdom’s Sake, Your Name’s sake. Do with us as You choose. We are Yours! Use us as conduits of Your Word, Name, Spirit, Power, and Authority that You may be glorified.”

ALL TRUE PRAYER (COMMUNICATION WITH THE FATHER) WILL LIKEWISE REFLECT THESE SPIRITUAL ATTITUDES AND ATTRIBUTES.

WE ARE CALLED BY THE FATHER TO PARTICIPATE IN “DOMINION PRAYING”

COMMENTARY: God gave man “dominion” over the earth. We forfeited it through sin. Saved people are the conduits for God to exert His authority/dominion into the earth today. Are we participants in that plan of God?

DOMINION PRAYING IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF PRAYER!

AFTER THIS MANNER PRAY YE!

We are called to “pray” (COMMAND) THAT:

The Name of Jesus will be “hallowed,” i.e., “sanctified” in the earth.

The Kingdom of God will come in manifestation.

The Will of God as it is purposed and exists in Heaven will come into being upon the earth.

NOTICE THE LITERAL ORDER OF THE GREEK WORDS IN THE GREEK INTERLINEAR BIBLE:

“After this manner therefore pray ye, Father our which art in the heaven, **Hallowed be** thy name, **Come** Thy Kingdom, **Be done** Thy will as in Heaven so then in the earth.”

NOTE: AGAIN, the verbs “Hallowed, Come, and Be Done” are in the *Imperative Tense* of command. Are we “commanding” God? NO!

HE IS “COMMANDING” THROUGH US!

GREEK: *IMPERATIVE TENSE* (from *Wheeler's Greek Syntax Notes*) MOOD: IMPERATIVE:

DEFINITION: **Action/State Represented as the Original Speaker's (Commander's) Intention or Desire to be Fulfilled/Realized by Another**

ARE WE AND OUR PRAYERS THE CONDUITS FOR HIS KINGDOM THAT HE HAS PURPOSED FOR US TO BE?

ARE WE TRULY A PARTNER WITH GOD IN HIS KINGDOM AND HIS PURPOSE? ARE WE?

ONE SIGNIFICANT INDICATOR THAT WE ARE PARTNERS WITH THE FATHER IN PRAYER IS THAT WE PRAY THE FATHER'S PRAYER REQUEST!

HE REQUESTED FOR US TO PRAY FOR LABORERS TO BE "THRUST OUT" INTO HIS HARVEST!

Matthew 9:35-38

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38 **Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will SEND FORTH labourers into his harvest.**

Matthew 9:37-38 (*The Amplified Version*)

37 Then He said to His disciples, The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few.

38 **So pray to the Lord of the harvest TO FORCE OUT AND THRUST laborers into His harvest.**

SEND FORTH (*Strong's*) = # NT:1544 *ekballo* (ek-bal'-lo); from NT:1537 and NT:906; **to eject (literally or figuratively):**

DRIVE (SEND FORTH) (*Vines's*) = NT:1544 *ekballo* denotes, lit., "to cast forth," with the suggestion of force (ek, "out," ballo, "to cast"); hence "to drive out or forth."

IF GOD IS SOVEREIGN IN THE DIMENSION OF EARTHLY TIME AND CAN AND WILL DO WHAT HE WANTS WITHOUT ANYONE OR ANYTHING ELSE'S INVOLVEMENT, THEN WHY WOULD HE REQUEST THAT WE PRAY THIS PRAYER WITH AND FOR HIM? BECAUSE HE HAS LIMITED HIMSELF ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN AND PURPOSE TO WORK THROUGH MAN. HE WILL NOT VIOLATE OR VARY FROM HIS PLAN!

PRAYER IS NOT A RELIGIOUS EXERCISE OR ACTIVITY! PRAYER IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE “DONE”!

TRUE, BIBLICAL PRAYER IS NOT A “TIMED” EVENT ON OUR PERSONAL DAILY TO-DO LISTS OR OUR CALENDARS!

PRAYER IS SPIRIT-LED, SPIRIT-EMPOWERED TIMES OF FELLOWSHIP AND MINISTRY THAT FLOWS THROUGH US THROUGHOUT THE DAY — CONSCIOUSLY AND SUB-CONSCIOUSLY! — IF WE LET IT!

1 Thessalonians 5:17 **Pray without ceasing.**

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (*The Amplified Version*)
17 **Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly];**

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (*The Message Bible*)
17 **pray all the time;**

WITHOUT CEASING (*Vine's*) = NT:88 *adialeiptos*, "unceasingly, without ceasing," is used...**not of what is not interrupted, but of that which is CONSTANTLY RECURRING;...**

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; **continuing instant in prayer;**

Romans 12:12 (*New International Reader's Version*)
12 When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. **When you pray, be faithful.**

Romans 12:12 (*New Century Version*)
12 Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and **pray at all times.**

Romans 12:12 (*Holman Christian Standard Bible*)
12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; **be persistent in prayer.**

“PERSEVERING PRAYER” IS THE “OTHER” OFFENSIVE SPIRITUAL WEAPON AND IT IS THE ARENA IN WHICH THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (THE *RHEMA* OF GOD) IS USED.

Ephesians 6:17-19

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Ephesians 6:18 (*Contemporary English Version*)

18 Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people.

Ephesians 6:18 (*New International Reader's Version*)

18 At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people.

Ephesians 6:18 (*Today's New International Version*)

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 Lord's people.

PERSEVERANCE (*Strong's*) = NT:4343 proskarteresis; from NT:4342; **persistence**: KJV - perseverance.

Definition of *PERSEVERANCE*: **“Steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.”** (*Google*)

PERSEVERANCE (from *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*) = NT:4343 proskartérōsis. **This word occurs only in Ephesians 6:18. Perseverance in prayer and intercession is part of the spiritual warfare. Prayer, which has its roots deep in the life and power of God, knits the church together with a firm bond. It is not just a pious discipline but serious work which demands persistence.**

PREVAILING PRAYER ALWAYS PREVAILS

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

James 5:16-18 (*The Amplified Version*)

16 Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. **The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].**

17 Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and **he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months.** [1 Kings 17:1.]

18 **And [then] he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].** [1 Kings 18:42-45.]

James 5:16-18 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation of the New Testament*)

16 **...A prayer of a righteous person is able to do much as it operates.**

17-18 Elijah was a human being of like nature and constitution to us. **And he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and it did not rain upon the earth for three years and six months. And he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.**

James 5:16 (*Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version*)

16 **...Anyone who lives the way God wants can pray, and great things will happen.**

James 5:16 (*Bible in Basic English*)

16 **...The prayer of a good man is full of power in its working.**

James 5:16 (*Today's New International Version*)

16 **...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

James 5:16 (*New International Reader's Version*)

16 **...The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen.**

James 5:16 (*Darby's New Testament Translation*)

16 **...[The] fervent supplication of the righteous [man] has much power.**

James 5:16 (*Weymouth's Translation of the New Testament*)
16 ...**The heartfelt supplication of a righteous man exerts a mighty influence.**

James 5:16 (*God's Word Translation*)
16 ...**Prayers offered by those who have God's approval are effective.**

James 5:16 (*World English Bible Translation*)
16 ...**The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective.**

AVAILETH (*Strong's*) = NT:2480 *ischuo* (is-khoo'-o); from NT:2479; **to have (or exercise) force (literally or figuratively):**
KJV - be able, avail, can do ([-not]), could, be good, might, prevail, be of strength, be whole, much work.

AVAIL (*Vine's*) = NT:2480 *ischuo* signifies...(b) **"to have power,"...to prevail against, said of spiritual enemies,...**(c) **"to be of force, to be effective, capable of producing results,"...**It is translated "avail" with reference to prayer, in James 5:16;...

AVAIL (PREVAIL) (*Thayer's*) = NT:2480 to have power
a. **to have a power evinced in extraordinary deeds, i. e. to exert, wield, power:**
b. **to be of force, avail**

IF PRAYER IS THE PRIMARY EXPRESSION OF OUR LOVE FOR THE FATHER AND IF IT IS THE INTENDED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE INFINITE GOD, OUR FATHER, AND HIS FINITE CHURCH, SHOULDN'T PRAYER WORK? YES!!!

REAL BIBLICAL PRAYER WORKS! ALWAYS!

OUR PROBLEM WITH PRAYER?

**WE ALL HAVE AN INFIRMITY:
WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO PRAY “AS WE
OUGHT”:**

Romans 8:26-32

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:26 (*Bible in Basic English*)

26 And in the same way the Spirit is a help to our feeble hearts: for we are not able to make prayer to God in the right way; **but the Spirit puts our desires into words which are not in our power to say;**

OUGHT (*Thayer's*) = NT:1163 *dei*; it is necessary, there is need of, it behooves, is right and proper;

NOTE: We are empowered to pray by means of the Spirit interceding (stepping-in) for us and enabling us to put what we are feeling in our hearts and spirits into supernatural words which we utter by the flowing of the Holy Ghost through us. ON OCCASION, THESE CAN BE “ANOINTED” WORDS FROM OUR MINDS, BUT MOST FREQUENTLY THEY WILL BE WORDS PRAYED IN OTHER TONGUES!

WE DON'T PRAY PRIMARILY BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO PRAY. **IT IS THE INFIRMITY COMMON TO ALL HUMANS!**

WE WILL NEVER "LEARN" TO PRAY!

We can learn to consistently YIELD to the Spirit of Prayer, but we NEVER learn how to pray!

"LEARNED PRAYER" IS NOT PRAYER AT ALL!

TRUE PRAYER WILL ALWAYS BE A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND OUR SPIRIT.

IF WE ARE TO PARTICIPATE WITH OUR FATHER IN PRAYER, THEN WE MUST LEARN TO ALWAYS ALLOW HIM TO FLOW THROUGH US AS CONDUITS OF HIS KINGDOM AND HIS WILL!

CONSIDER THESE WORD STUDIES FROM ROMANS 8:26 FOR FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF THE LORD'S INTENT TO PRAY **THROUGH US!**

HELPEETH (*Robertson's*) = to lend a hand together with, at the same time with one.

HELPEETH (*Strong's*) = NT:4878 *sunantilambanomai*; from NT:4862 and NT:482; to take hold of opposite together, i.e. co-operate (assist): KJV - help.

HELPEETH (*Wuest's Word Studies*) = "Helpeth" is *sunantilambanœ*, made up of *sun*, "together with," *anti* "over against," and *lambanœ*, "to take." **The word speaks of the action of a person coming to another's aid by taking hold over against that person, of the load he is carrying. The person helping does not take the entire load, but helps the other person in his endeavor.**

INFIRMITY (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*) = NT:769 Figuratively, *asthénéia* can mean *general impotence, weakness*.

INFIRMITIES (*Wuest's Word Studies*) = **The weaknesses spoken of here are two, what we should pray for, the matter of prayer, and how we should pray, the form and manner of our prayer.** The word "what" has an article before it in the Greek. **Literally, we do not know "the what" to pray for. That is, we do not know the particular definite thing to pray for.** As to the general subjects for prayer, the salvation of the lost, the sanctification of the saints, our daily needs, these we know of. **But to be specific in our praying involves a knowledge of God's will in particular instances, and of that we are naturally ignorant. It is right here that the Spirit comes to our aid.**

MAKETH INTERCESSION (*Vincent's*) = #5241 **The verb signifies "to fall in with a person; to draw near so as to converse familiarly."** Hence, *enteuxis* is not properly "intercession" in the accepted sense of that term, **but rather approach to God in free and familiar prayer.** *Entungchanein* in the passages cited is not "to make intercession," but "to intervene, interfere." **Thus in Romans 8:26, it is not that the Spirit pleads in our behalf, but that he throws himself into our case; takes part in it.**

(*Wuest's Word Studies*) = **THE LESSON [OF THESE VERSES] FOR US HERE IS THAT IF WE EXPECT TO HAVE AN INTELLIGENT, POWERFUL, RICH PRAYER LIFE; WE MUST LIVE SPIRIT CONTROLLED LIVES.**

ROMANS 8:27 (*Wuest's Word Studies*) = *Alford's* [commentary] is helpful, **"He who searcheth the hearts (God) knoweth what is the mind (intent or bent, as hidden in those sighs) of the Spirit."** That is, God the Father who searches the hearts of His saints, understands the intent or bent of our unutterable prayers, unutterable because we do not know the particular things we should pray for in connection with a certain circumstance, for He knows the mind of the Holy Spirit praying for us and in our stead in our prayers in the case of the above-mentioned items for prayer, **the Holy Spirit praying according to the plan of God for our lives.**

WHAT DO WE EXPECT PRAYER TO BE?

AGAIN, THE INFINITE GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ALL OF CREATION WAS THAT HE COULD LOVE AND BE LOVED.

IF PRAYER IS THE DIVINELY-ORDAINED, SUPERNATURAL COMMUNICATION OF LOVE BETWEEN THE INFINITE GOD AND HIS FINITE BODY, THE CHURCH, DOESN'T IT MAKE SENSE THAT TRUE, BIBLICAL PRAYER WOULD BE ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY?

HOW CAN TRUE PRAYER BE RITUALISTIC OR RELIGIOUS?

HOW CAN TRUE PRAYER BE A "DAILY OBLIGATION"?

GOD IS A SPIRIT! HE IS SUPERNATURAL!

CAN TRUE PRAYER BE ANYTHING LESS THAN SUPERNATURAL: IN ORIGIN, IN EMPOWERMENT, IN EXPRESSION?

NO!!!

IT IS GOD'S DESIRE THAT WE PRAY ALL KINDS OF PRAYER, BUT WE CANNOT DO THIS THROUGH "LEARNED BEHAVIOR"!

1 Timothy 2:1-4

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

HOW CAN WE PRAY "ALL KINDS OF PRAYER" WHEN WE STRUGGLE SO MUCH JUST TO PRAY AT ALL?

GOD HAS A PLAN TO HELP US!

GOD'S PLAN TO PROVIDE US WITH HELP: GRACE HELP!

GRACE IS THE SUPERNATURAL EMPOWERMENT OF GOD TO ENABLE US TO DO WHAT WE CANNOT DO ON OUR OWN — THROUGH OUR FLESH, I.E., OUR HUMAN EFFORT AND/OR ABILITY!

EVEN THOUGH THE WORD "GRACE" IS NOT USED HERE, THIS VERSE IS THE TRUEST DEFINITION OF GRACE AND WHAT IT DOES THAT ONE CAN FIND ANYWHERE IN THE BIBLE:

Philippians 2:13 **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

Philippians 2:13 (*The Amplified Version*)

13 **[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.**

Philippians 2:13 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation of the New Testament*)

13...**for God is the One who is constantly putting forth His energy in you, both in the form of your being desirous of and of your doing His good pleasure.**

HOW DO WE GET GRACE TO HELP US?

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

Hebrews 4:16 (*Bible in Basic English*)

16 Then let us come near to the seat of grace without fear, so that mercy may be given to us, and **we may get grace for our help in time of need.**

Hebrews 4:16 (*New English Translation Bible*)

16 Therefore let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and **find grace whenever we need help.**

WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO PRAY IN THE SPIRIT AND TO PRAY ALL KINDS OF PRAYER.

Ephesians 6:18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:18 (*The Amplified Version*)

18 PRAY AT ALL TIMES (ON EVERY OCCASION, IN EVERY SEASON) IN THE SPIRIT, WITH ALL [MANNER OF] PRAYER AND ENTREATY. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

Ephesians 6:18 (*Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version*)

18 PRAY IN THE SPIRIT AT ALL TIMES. PRAY WITH ALL KINDS OF PRAYERS, and ask for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready. Never give up. Always pray for all of God's people.

Ephesians 6:18 (*Bible in Basic English*)

18 With prayers and deep desires, making requests at all times in the Spirit, and keeping watch, with strong purpose, in prayer for all the saints,

Ephesians 6:18 (*Today's New International Version*)

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 Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18 (*New International Reader's Version*)

18 At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people.

HOW DO WE PRAY ALL OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRAYERS AS WE ARE INSTRUCTED BY THE LORD TO DO?

BY ALLOWING THE HOLY GHOST TO FLOW THROUGH US IN “EMPOWERED” PRAYER — AS HE CHOOSES!

THERE ARE MANY FLOWS OF THE HOLY GHOST IN PRAYER IN OUR LIVES.

John 7:37-38

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow RIVERS of living water.**

John 7:38 (*The Complete Jewish Bible*)

38 Whoever puts his trust in me, as the Scripture says, **rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being!**

FLOW (*Strong's*) = NT:4483 *rheo* (hreh'-o); for certain tenses of which a prolonged form *ereo* (er-eh'-o);...(through the idea of pouring forth); to utter, i.e. speak or say: KJV - command, make, say, speak (of).

THE RIVERS OF LIVING WATER (HOLY GHOST) OUTFLOWING FROM OUR INNERMOST BEING ARE LITERALLY SUPERNATURAL WORDS FLOWING OUT OF US AS THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD EMPOWERS THEM TO BE SPOKEN.

Acts 2:4 **And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

THE RIVERS OF LIVING WATER ARE THE SPIRIT OF GOD GIVING "UTTERANCE" TO EACH OF THE DIFFERENT "RIVERS/FLOWS" OF SUPERNATURALLY SUPPLIED AND EMPOWERED WORDS FLOWING OUT OF OUR SOULS IN PRAYER AND PRAISE!

UTTERANCE (*Strong's*) = NT:669 *apophtheggomai* (ap-of-theng'-om-ahee); from NT:575 and NT:5350; to enunciate plainly, i.e. declare: KJV - say, speak forth, utterance.

UTTERANCE (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*) = NT:669 *apophthéggomai*; from *apó* (575), from, and *phthéggomai* (5350), to utter. **To utter, declare, speak, particularly pithy and remarkable sayings** (Acts 2:4,14; 26:25; Sept.: 1 Chronicles 25:1; Ezekiel 13:9). **This is the verb used to indicate the discernable utterance of the "other tongues" in which the Holy Spirit enabled the believers to speak at Pentecost. Acts 2:4 says, "as the Spirit gave them utterance."** The word "utterance" is the inf. *apophthéggesthai*, **to form the sounds of the words.** They were the sounds of known dialects (Acts 2:6,8) understood by the people present. Therefore, the "other tongues" that the Holy Spirit enabled the believers to speak at Pentecost were meaningful words and not something which could not be understood. They were not incoherent babblings resulting from a state of ecstasy, but they were deliberate, understandable words energized directly by the Holy Spirit.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: This lesson is based on the assumption that the Pray-er has had a personal breakthrough in the Holy Ghost to the point that their praying in tongues has significantly progressed beyond the repetition of a few sounds and syllables. Usually, as an individual moves from one flow of the Spirit in tongues to another, the actual tongue that the Holy Ghost is speaking through them will change to a different one. Therefore, this lesson presupposes that the Pray-er has the liberty in the Spirit of God to be able to pray in tongues as needed.

This breakthrough is vitally important both for the individual and for this lesson to have any real relevancy in the individual's life. An individual who is still speaking the basic sounds and syllables of their initial baptism with the Spirit has far more issues than whether or not they can pray regularly and effectively. The individual being "stuck" with their initial tongues of Holy Ghost baptism indicates a stagnation of yieldedness that puts their walk with God in serious jeopardy. This condition should concern the individual so described to the point that they feel immediately called to a place of dedication and consecration where they pray until they have truly "prayed through" to liberty in the Holy Ghost. This condition often indicates that a person is not yielding to God in many areas of their lives, even to the point that a much more thorough and complete repentance is necessary. Often times this condition indicates that a believer has offenses that are unresolved and/or they are dealing with significant shame concerning their past that they have not yet allowed the Father to deliver them from and heal them of.

Whatever the case, it will become obvious in the next few sections of these notes that the points being made do not "fit" with a person who has no liberty in tongues. I strongly urge you to pray until you can pray with liberty in the Spirit!

WHY PRAY IN TONGUES IF WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE SAYING?

WE DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT GOD DOES.

1 Corinthians 14:2 **For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries [PERSONAL SECRETS OF THE HEART SHARED WITH GOD].**

MYSTERY (*Thayer's*) = NT:3466 *musteerion*; **a hidden thing, secret, mystery:**

1. **a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding:** 1 Corinthians 13:2
2. a hidden purpose or counsel; secret will:

1 Corinthians 14:2 (*The Amplified Version*)

2 For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the understanding].

1 Corinthians 14:2 (*Bible in Basic English*)

2 For he who makes use of tongues is not talking to men but to God; because no one has the sense of what he is saying; but in the Spirit he is talking of secret things.

1 Corinthians 14:2 (*Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version*)

2 I will explain why. Those who have the gift of speaking in a different language are not speaking to people. They are speaking to God. No one understands them—they are speaking secret things through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:2 (*Contemporary English Version*)

2 If you speak languages that others don't know, God will understand what you are saying, though no one else will know what you mean. You will be talking about mysteries that only the Spirit understands.

1 Corinthians 14:2 (*The Message Bible*)

2 If you praise him in the private language of tongues, God understands you but no one else does, for you are sharing intimacies just between you and him.

WHO DO YOU WANT TO HEAR AND UNDERSTAND YOUR PRAYERS: YOU (MAN) OR GOD?

SOME OF THE DIFFERENT FLOWS OF TONGUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENTARY: A very important point that must be made here before this lesson is continued is that, Biblically, speaking in tongues is a spiritual experience and NOT an emotional one. In other words, the driving factor or empowering element to speaking in tongues is NOT emotion! It is the Spirit of the Lord!

For those who can “only speak in tongues” when they have a certain “feeling” or a certain level of emotion, they cannot fully benefit from this lesson or its truths. Pentecostal tradition has “made” speaking in tongues primarily an “emotional” experience. It is true that there is usually some type of emotion with tongues; **BUT, it is the effect of speaking in tongues, NOT the cause!**

Speaking (praying and/or praising) in tongues is the result of learning to yield to the abiding Spirit of God in us. I have the Holy Ghost ALL THE TIME! As a believer, I should be able to yield to the Spirit and allow Him to pray/praise through me at any time, any where! If this is not your current level of spiritual yieldedness, then I strongly urge you to pray until you allow the Lord to help you change that by praying until you have a personal breakthrough into the liberty that the Spirit of the Lord desires to provide!

PRAYING AND PRAISING IN THE FLOW OF TONGUES:

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

14 For if I PRAY in an unknown tongue, my spirit PRAYETH, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will PRAY with the spirit, and I will PRAY with the understanding also: I will sing ["PRAISE"] with the spirit, and I will sing ["PRAISE"] with the understanding also.

NOTE: These are the most general verses that specifically address “praying in the Spirit.” The Greek word translated *PRAYER* in these verses is the most all-encompassing Greek word for prayer;

therefore, these verses make it very clear that praying in the Spirit (praying in tongues) can be utilized for ALL types of prayer and praise.

THE TONGUES/FLOW OF REST AND REFRESHING:

Isaiah 28:11-12

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, **This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing:** yet they would not hear.

COMMENTARY: This flow is one of the most important flows to learn to pray and depend on. It is the ONLY flow that is more focused on what is flowing into us, rather than what is flowing out. This flow of tongues will replenish our mental, emotional, physical, AND spiritual energy after ministering to others in word and spirit. In any kind of true, spirit-empowered ministry, “virtue” flows out. If that virtue is not replenished in us afterwards, then we get “weary in well doing.” But, the Lord does NOT want us to be weary; therefore, He has provided us with the means whereby we can be refreshed and supernaturally rested.

How many believers/ministers today are spiritually and/or mentally exhausted or even “burned out” because they have never learned to allow the Lord to put back into them what has flowed out of them to others? Tragically, way too many!

THE TONGUES/FLOW OF PRAISE:

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: **I will sing [“PRAISE”] with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.**

Acts 2:4,11

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and **began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

11 Cretes and Arabians, **we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.**

Acts 10:44-46

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, **because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

46 **For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.**

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

COMMENTARY: This flow is the most frequently experienced flow of tongues since it is also the initial type of flow that we experience when we receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost. Obviously, our being able to supernaturally praise God is important to the Father because this is the flow of tongues that He starts EVERYONE with! With this flow of tongues, it is not unusual to experience some (or on occasion even much) repetition of sounds and syllables (words). But remember, this “repetition” is the choice of the Holy Ghost and not ours. Therefore, it does not violate the Scriptures concerning “vain repetition” AS LONG AS we are allowing the Spirit of the Lord to be the one “giving the utterance” to the words.

THE PRAYER/FLOW OF FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNION:

1 Corinthians 14:2 **For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries [PERSONAL SECRETS OF THE HEART SHARED WITH GOD].**

MYSTERY (*Thayer's*) = NT:3466 *musteerion*; **a hidden thing, secret, mystery:**

1. **a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding:** 1 Corinthians 13:2
2. a hidden purpose or counsel; secret will:

COMMENTARY: As discussed above, this is the flow that allows us to communicate the most intimate “secrets” of our hearts in a totally private manner — just between us and the Father. This flow is especially important because, with my conscious mind, “I don’t know my own heart” (Jeremiah 17:9).

This flow allows me to unburden my heart in a specific manner rather than the general way that is the product of praying with my “head-language.” I need to be able to completely “unburden” my heart to Jesus. I need to be able to know that all of my “secrets” have been prayed for. This flow allows that!

This flow can also be especially useful when needing to pray about “personal” things while you are praying with a group of people.

THE PRAYER/FLOW THAT BUILDS UP AND STRENGTHENS:

1 Corinthians 14:4 **He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.**

Jude 20 **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,**

COMMENTARY: The Apostle James (Chapter 3) states that our tongue is our most “unruly” (untamable) member of our bodies. If our tongues can be “tamed” (so that we “offend not in word”), then our whole body can be “bridled.” Again, James states that “no man can tame” his own tongue. When we yield to the Spirit of the Lord and allow Him to tame our tongue, then this experienced yieldedness will bring about a more surrendered body. This will “edify” us in God. Because I will be more submitted to God through yielding my most unruly member to be submitted to God, **MY FAITH WILL BE BUILT UP!**

THE PRAYER/FLOW OF THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING GOD:

1 Corinthians 14:16-17

16 **Else when thou shalt BLESS WITH THE SPIRIT, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen AT THY GIVING OF THANKS, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?**

17 **FOR THOU VERILY GIVEST THANKS WELL, but the other is not edified.**

Hebrews 13:15 **By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.**

Colossians 4:2 **Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;**

2 Corinthians 4:15 For all things are for your sakes, **that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.**

Jonah 2:9 **But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.**

COMMENTARY: In these verses, Paul takes this flow of tongues beyond just “praise.” He declares that I can flow in the Spirit in tongues in a manner that is “giving thanks WELL”! A basic Biblical study will show how very important true thanksgiving is to our relationship with the Father. Being branded by God as “unthankful” is a serious charge. Therefore, if there is a means whereby I can “give thanks well,” why would I not want to daily experience and participate in it?

THERE IS A FLOW/TONGUE OF MINISTRY PRAYER.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, **and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.** The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Luke 22:32 **But I have prayed for thee,** that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Ephesians 1:16 **Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;**

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, **do not cease to pray for you,** and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover as for me, **God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you:** but I will teach you the good and the right way:

COMMENTARY: One of the most basic “ministries” of praying in tongues is actually praying for others through tongues (either in their presence or not). Paul’s declaration in Romans 8:26 that we don’t know what to pray for as we ought is never more true than when we are praying for others. I don’t know their hearts; I don’t know their innermost struggles; I don’t usually know what another person needs (or at least the details of the need); whether I know what they need or not, I don’t know how to “fix” what they need and I don’t know how to pray for that need; **but GOD DOES. So, why not let Him pray through me as a conduit for that person and their needs?**

I am my brothers keeper; and, he is mine. Many times and in many ways the Father communicates to us that it is both our privilege and responsibility to pray for others. But how can we effectively do it? **ONLY,] by praying in this flow of the Spirit in tongues!**

THE PRAYER/FLOW OF SUPPLICATION/INTERCESSION:

FIRST A WORD ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERCESSION:

Isaiah 59:16 And **he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor:** therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

Isaiah 63:5 And **I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold:** therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

WONDERED = (Hebrew) "to stun, devastate, to be desolate, to be appalled, to stun, to stupefy"

COMMENTARY: Our Father was stunned, devastated, and stupefied that He could find no one to participate with Him in intercessory prayer for lost souls. Why?

Ezekiel 22:30-31

30 **And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.**

31 **THEREFORE** have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.

WHEN THE LORD CANNOT FIND SOMEONE TO "STAND IN THE GAP AND MAKE UP THE HEDGE" FOR A PEOPLE OR A LAND, HE IS BOUND BY HIS WORD TO EXECUTE JUDGEMENT UPON SIN. GOD CANNOT VIOLATE HIS OWN WORD! AND, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO LIE. SO, WHEN HE CAN FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL JOIN WITH HIM IN INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR A PERSON, PEOPLE, OR LAND; HE IS THEN "ALLOWED" BY HIS WORD TO SHOW MERCY INSTEAD OF JUDGEMENT!

INTERCESSION IS THIS IMPORTANT TO GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE! BUT, WILL HE FIND SOMEONE WHO IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE WITH HIM IN ALLOWING HIM TO INTERCEDE FOR THE LOST THROUGH THEM?

SINCE INTERCESSION IS SO VITALLY IMPORTANT TO GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION FOR MANKIND, HOW CAN HE LEAVE THIS TOTALLY UP TO US? THE ANSWER: HE DOES NOT!

HE GIVES US THE FLOW OF THE SPIRIT OF INTERCESSION/SUPPLICATION!

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession [GK = #5241]for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh **INTERCESSION** [GK = #1793] for the saints according to the will of God.

INTERCESSION (*Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain*) = NT:1793 *entugchano*; **to ask for something with urgency and intensity — to plead, to beg, to appeal to, to petition.**

NOTE: The Greek words translated “maketh intercession” in these two verses are DIFFERENT. The first (#5241) is defined earlier in these notes. When comparing the two Greek words, you will find that the difference is significant. It is not just semantics.

The first (#5241) primarily speaks to the Lord's willingness and desire to come along side of us and “help us” to pray.

The second (#1793) is saying something completely different. This Greek word is describing the most significant type of prayer that the Father wants to pray through us. **It is one where He prays through us for others by using His words, His burden, AND His authority!**
— **THIS IS INTERCESSION!**

FOR (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*) = NT:5228 *huper*

Meaning **for, in behalf of, for the sake of, in the sense of protection, care, favor, benefit...After verbs implying speaking, pleading, intercession meaning for someone.**

NOTE: This word is not speaking of just the object of the prayer, but it also speaks of the method of prayer, i.e., “interceding for someone THROUGH US.”

COMMENTARY: While these verses first and foremost apply to prayer in general in addressing the common human infirmity (“we don’t know what to pray for and how to pray for it”), the second verse specifically addresses INTERCESSION as a ministry flow.

INTERCESSION is the most important prayer that we can pray and it is the prayer that the enemy fears the most.

Supplication and *Intercession* are very similar in function and operation (they may even “sound” the same to our and other’s ears as well), but the focus of the prayer is very different. This difference in focus (what/who is being prayed for) is the defining difference between the two.

In supplication, I am praying for myself and my needs. It can also be considered supplication when I am praying for my own family. Therefore, even if supplication is prayed in tongues, I usually know what (or whom) I am praying for.

Intercession is always prayed FOR SOMEONE ELSE — specifically or in general. In intercession, I rarely know the specifics of what I am praying for.

Supplication and intercession are included together here in this section because they are essentially the same flow of prayer and are yielded to in the same manner.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THIS: I can pray these prayers, having been “motivated” to pray them by my own human emotion. But, this lesson is focused on praying these prayers when motivated to do so by the Spirit of the Lord. The chief difference between the two motivations is that when human emotions are the motivator, MUCH emotional energy will be expended and the overall experience will be very draining to the human side of us. The by-product of this expenditure is that we will not look forward to our next experience with intercession/supplication. Consequently, we might find ourselves consciously or sub-consciously avoiding praying either of these prayers. The results of that could be disastrous for the ones in need of those prayers.

However, when it is the Spirit of God that is motivating me to intercede and He is the one doing the praying, it is HIS “FEELINGS” that are being prayed and the “negative” effect upon my human body and emotions is minimal, especially if I follow up this prayer with a time of flowing in “rest and refreshing” tongues.

THE KEY POINT OF ALL OF THIS DISCUSSION IS: If the Lord has “words” that He wants to pray through me, does He not ALSO have “feelings” behind those words? The “feelings” that I have when truly praying/praising in tongues are always produced by the Spirit. This is even more the case when praying intercession/supplication. I AM NOT JUST YIELDING TO THE LORD’S WORDS; I AM YIELDING TO HIS SPIRIT AND ALLOWING HIM TO EXPRESS HIS “FEELINGS” THROUGH ME!

When praying supplication/intercession in tongues, the adversary will try to stop me or at least try to make me doubt the validity of what I am doing by questioning me about “the feelings” that I am expressing when praying. This is nothing new to him. He tries to get new believers (and those who are breaking through to new levels of yieldedness in tongues) to doubt the words/sounds coming out of their mouths. He accuses us of “making up” the sounds/words. If he will do that with the words that we are speaking in tongues, then he will most certainly try to get us to question the “feelings” that accompany our interceding or supplicating. Don’t believe his lie! Both the words and the feelings are from the Lord!

THERE ARE TWO PRIMARY TYPES OF INTERCESSION: WARFARE AND TRAVAIL.

WHILE THEY ARE DIFFERENT IN FLOW AND EXPRESSION, BOTH ARE VERY FOUNDATIONAL TO REACHING THE LOST SOULS OF OUR CITIES.

***WARFARE INTERCESSION* EXERCISES GOD’S AUTHORITY THROUGH US TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY.**

— IF THERE IS NO WARFARE INTERCESSION, THERE WILL BE NO VICTORY, LIBERTY, OR FRUITFULNESS!

***TRAVAIL INTERCESSION* IS THE SPIRITUAL “LABOR PAINS” OF THE BIRTHING PROCESS.**

— IF THERE IS NO TRAVAIL, THERE WILL BE NO SPIRITUAL “BABIES” BORN!

THE FLOW/TONGUES OF IMPARTATION:

ANOTHER VERY SIGNIFICANT FLOW OF TONGUES IS IMPARTATION.

COMMENTARY: *Impartation* occurs when we yield to the Spirit of the Lord to use us as a conduit for Him to transfer (pour out) certain giftings (empowerments) upon individuals or a body. It is empowerment to do those things that are necessary for that individual or body to fulfill their purpose in God's Kingdom and/or His specific will for and through them.

Romans 1:11 For I long to see you, **that I may IMPART unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;**

Romans 1:11 (*The Amplified Version*)

11 ...that I may impart and share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen and establish you;

Romans 1:11 (*Bible in Basic English*)

11 For I have a strong desire to see you, and **TO GIVE YOU SOME GRACE OF THE SPIRIT, so that you may be made strong;**

IMPART (*Strong's*) = NT:3330 *metadidomi*: to give over, i.e. share.

(*Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*) =

TRANSFERRING SOMETHING TO ANOTHER.

GIFT (*Strong's*) = NT:5486 *charisma*; from NT:5483 [*charis* = *Grace*]; a (divine) gratuity, i.e. deliverance; (specifically) a (spiritual) endowment, i.e. (subjectively) spiritual qualification, or (objectively) miraculous faculty.

**[GIFT IS LITERALLY THE RESULTS OF GRACE;
IN GREEK, THE SUFFIX -MA MEANS “THE RESULTS OF.
THEREFORE, GIFT IS REFERRING TO THOSE
EMPOWERMENTS THAT THE FATHER GRANTS TO US BY
GRACE AND OPERATES IN US THROUGH GRACE!]**

Romans 12:6,8

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us,...

8 ...he that giveth [IMPARTETH], let him do it with simplicity [*Strong's* = “sincerity (without dissimulation, i.e., pretense or show OR self-seeking)”];...

THE SPIRIT OF GRACE AND OF PRAYER IS POURED OUT UPON (IMPARTED TO) US FROM THE FATHER

Zechariah 12:10 **And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications:** and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

SUPPLICATIONS (*Strong's*) = OT:8469 *tachanuwn*; from OT:2603; **earnest prayer:** KJV - intreaty, supplication.

Zechariah 12:10 (*Bible in Basic English*)

10 And I will send down on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and of prayer; and their eyes will be turned to the one who was wounded by their hands: and they will be weeping for him as for an only son, and their grief for him will be bitter, like the grief of one sorrowing for his oldest son.

Zechariah 12:10 (*New International Reader's Version*)

10 I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on David's family line. I will also send it on those who live in Jerusalem. They will look to me. I am the one they have pierced. They will sob over me as someone sobs over an only child who has died. They will be full of sorrow over me, just like someone who is full of sorrow over an oldest son.

THERE IS A "SPIRIT OF GRACE" AND "A SPIRIT OF PRAYER"! HOWEVER, THESE TWO CANNOT AND MUST NOT BE SEPARATED IN OUR DAILY LIVES!

LET US THEREFORE RECEIVE THE IMPARTATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GRACE PRAYER!