

Okay, we had some passages -Romans 8:26, Galatians 4:6, Jude 20, and Ephesians 6:18.

Romans 8:26 – Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words...

Alright, who makes groanings that cannot be uttered? I now want you to listen to that. *The Spirit groans*. Did you get that? *The Spirit groans*.

Galatians 4:6 - Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba! Father!" Alright, in Galatians 4:6, someone cries Abba Father, and in Romans 8:15, someone cries Abba Father. Who is it that calls "Abba Father" in Romans? The believer does. Who calls "Abba Father" in Galatians? The Spirit of God. Now, let me read it. Galatians 4:6 - And because you're sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying "Abba Father." In Romans 8: 15 - Whereby we cry, "Abba Father." In Galatians, the Spirit cries, "Abba Father." In Romans, we call "Abba Father." Now then, there is someone inside us who cries, "Abba, Father." But we also cry "Abba Father."

Jude 20 - But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit...Here, we are told that we can do what? We can pray in the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:18 - With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints... Alright, we pray where? In the Spirit.

Alright, I'm going to read now. The passage is out of Zachariah.

Zachariah 12:9-10 - It shall come to pass in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem, and I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplication. And they shall look upon these, and they have perished. So that they will look at Me whom they pierced; and they will mourn for Him, like one mourning for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. Now the Lord says, "In that day...and this is speaking of the day of the Lord Jesus...I will pour out the Spirit of grace and the Spirit of prayer." We live in a day in which there is a Spirit of grace, and there is a Spirit of prayer.

I want to go back to Ephesians 6:18 and look at it with you. Ephesians 6:17-18. Here is the word and the prayer. Ephesians 6:17 - And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying always with all prayer in "spirit." Brethren, will you mark out the word "the"? It is not in the Greek, and take the word "Spirit" and make it a small "s". Praying always with all prayer in spirit.

Now then, let's all turn to James 5:17. Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed. Can someone with something besides the King James read that? Alright, thank you very much. That is the correct translation of that - *and he prayed with prayer that it should not rain...*

Now then, brothers, tonight I am going to ask you to forget everything you ever knew about prayer and chuck it. Prayer has been the dearest, biggest burden that Christians can have. We're together, Hallelujah! I didn't know what was going to come out there. Oh, it's been such a burden, hasn't it? And we've been told over and over and over and over to pray. Now, brethren, listen, just forget everything you've ever done. I can just about assure you that it's been wrong. I will say to you: do not stop praying. If you have the choice of not praying and praying the way you are praying now, pray the way you're praying now, because every once in a while, you'll accidentally hit the switch and turn on the light. Alright, good. So, every once in a while is better than never.

But I would say brethren, there is a better way to pray. Forget everything you know about prayer, and let's look. Okay, I really discussed this today, but I'm going to go over it because I really know that you can't really believe this. I am going to read this: this is in 1 Corinthians 2 - for what man knows what the things of a man save the spirit of a man. My spirit is the only thing that knows me. The spirit that is in me, my human spirit, knows me. Okay, now praise God. There is one thing in this universe that knows me and what I need, right? That is my spirit. Okay, I got one in just right, which is in him. Even so, the things of God are not known by any man.

Now that there's someone else in this universe, and it is God. Now, I know myself. Do I know God? Do I know what's on his mind? No, I don't, not yet; I'm going to tell in a minute. There is only one who knows God and what's in Him and about Him, and what His mind is, and who is that? The Spirit of God. And who is the Spirit of God? The Lord Jesus is the Spirit of God. And the Lord Jesus is the Word, brother, and the Lord Jesus is the Life. And he is the Spirit. Praise the Lord.

Alright, now then, we've not received the spirit of the world. We have received the spirit, which is of God. Now we have a spirit from God that we might know of the things that are freely given to us of God. Does that mean he's going to give me a Cadillac next week? No, brother, I don't even have to know it by word. There is something within me that can know the riches of Christ, even if I can't understand them and call them by name. Have you had that sense last month and this weekend? Praise God, I knew that all the time; I just couldn't quite say it. Did you have that sense? I knew this was my heritage. I knew I had the right to them. I didn't quite know how to say it. Alright, you knew, but without the word to express it. Okay, which things also we speak? Not in the words of man's wisdom and teachings, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things to spiritual. There is a passage of scripture in 1 John that says, " You need no man to teach you, right? Alright, the Holy Spirit teaches us.

Now then, the next verse says, "The foolish man, of course, cannot understand the things of God because they are spiritually understood. Now, it is important that we get the last part. Who has known the mind of the Lord? This is Father. Who has known the mind of the Father? There is only one: the Lord Jesus Christ, who can instruct Him. Who has ever instructed the Father? You say no one? Brothers and sisters, we'll tell you in just a minute. Is there someone who has ever instructed God? Yes. Brother, we have a great High Priest,

standing at the right hand of God, who has sympathy for us, for He has been like us...no, he has not sinned...interceding for us to the Father. What did you say? Is He seated? Oh, sometimes, brother, sometimes He sits, sometimes He stands; it depends on what His position is. Yes, brother? Why can't He know? Why does He have to have Jesus tell Him how we are suffering; how we are? Brother, it is because even the Father is a spirit and He knows by the Spirit. I ask you how you know the things you know. How do you know? By your mind, your brain? Alright, God has a way. He knows by the Spirit, but brother, even more than that, there is one who knows even better than the Father, for He has sympathy. It is one thing for the Father to know; it is another thing for a man to intercede and explain to Him and to intercede for the weakness of man, even though the Father knows, the Son deals with the Father in the matter of mercy. But, brother, no, it's really not. But we have to say that the Father has chosen to know man, especially the children of God, in the Spirit. This business of saying God is omnipresent and omniscient, and He knows all things; that's good, but that's a worldly term. We have to take the scriptural term.

The Father knows, but brother, it's more important even that we know Him. Let's look at it from this viewpoint. I cannot fully answer your question. I do not know why someone who knows all things needs to be instructed. I only tell you, brother, that God has allowed One who has come to this earth, live in it, and knows us and sympathizes with us, to stand as our Lawyer and a High Priest and intercede for us. That's all I can tell you; I can't explain it. Does anybody want to argue that point?

The question is: Is Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit? I'm surprised no one has asked this question before. Is Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit? The first man, Adam, was made a living soul; the last man, Adam, was made a life-giving spirit. Now, he is either the Holy Spirit, or there are two spirits. One of the two. Okay, in 2 Corinthians, there is a passage of scripture that says, "but we all with one face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are transformed...that's not changed. Transform is the same word in Romans 12:1...into the same image from glory unto glory even as by the Spirit." Has any translator got the gumption to translate this the way it should be? What sister? The Lord. We are changed from glory to glory by the Lord, the Spirit: the Spirit, the Lord. The last man, Adam, became a life-giving spirit. He who is joined with the Lord is one spirit. We are transformed from glory to glory by the Lord, the Spirit. I know that the riches of the triune God are too much for all men to comprehend, but there was a man upon this earth, and He came on to this earth and lived; He fell into the earth and died. He rose again, and he came into a room without opening the door, and He breathed on them, and He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." And he disappeared, but he didn't leave; He was still in there.

And that's not all. The Lord Jesus also said in John 14 that He is with you...He is speaking of the Holy Spirit...He shall come...He is with you and shall be in you. Who was with them? The Holy Spirit? The Lord Jesus. He said He is with you, and He shall be in you. You cannot say the Holy Spirit is separate from the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus has been translated into the Spirit, and He is the Holy Spirit. He ascended. Where is the physical body of Christ? Brother, I'll tell you where the physical body of Christ is. It's at the right hand of the Father. You say,

then, if He is at the right hand of the Father, He cannot be in you, but the Word of God says, the Lord Jesus Christ is in you. He said to Timothy, "The Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit. And the Word of God also says, the Father is in your Spirit, and of course, the Holy Spirit is in your Spirit.

Do you have three Gods in you? Do you? There is only one God. The Father is in you. The Son is in you. The Holy Spirit is in you. You know who's in you? The triune God is in you. You say the Son is at the...in physical body, as a man...beside the throne of God? That is right. And is he in you? That is right. You say that's impossible. That is wrong. Brother, there is some electricity in that bulb right now that is at this exact instant in a generator. It's the same electricity. The self-same atomic electricity. It's lighting up that bulb; it's down in that generator. It's in the same place at the same time; that's as close as man can get to understanding the Lord. I can only say to you, brother, that He is in you and He is also with the Father. Thank you, brother, for asking the question. That's precisely where I wanted to go.

What did we say a little earlier today? That Jacob, when God began his building, Jacob lay down and put his head on a rock, and that night, he saw a ladder and the angels ascending and descending on that ladder. Then the Lord Jesus said, "From this day, when He came, you shall see the angels of God ascending and descending where? On Me. There are angels that come down Jesus Christ, just like a ladder. They come down, and that ladder also reaches to heaven. There is a ladder that is firmly placed upon this earth, and it goes all the way into the highest heavenlies, and it touches the Father. That ladder is embedded in me right here, and at the same time, that ladder is embedded in the Father. And there is an ascension and a descension between the two: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Now then, brethren, I want to ask you a question. What is prayer? Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. That's good enough. That's good enough. Hallelujah. Using the ladder. Brother, I'm going to go just a little bit further. This passage of scripture, a moment ago in Romans, that for a moment I was confused, is in Romans 8:15, where we groan; we cry, Abba Father, right? And then in Galatians 4, it says the Spirit groans Abba Father, right? There is something within us that groans. Sometimes it's us, and sometimes it's the Spirit. Something inside groans.

Now, then, brothers and sisters, what is prayer? What is real prayer? I'm not talking about this religious stuff, but what is real prayer? Do you know, brethren, what real prayer is? Groaning in the Spirit? That's a little bit of it. I have Jesus Christ in me, and I have Him in the Father. He searches me, and He sees my need, right? We learned that a minute ago. He's in my spirit. My Spirit knows me, and my Spirit is mingled with His Spirit. Remember that? Who knows the mind of God? The Lord Jesus knows the mind of God and can instruct it. And where is the Lord Jesus? He's at the right hand of the Father. If somebody in here is really smart, they can tell me what prayer is. Yep. That's right, brother. That's just beautiful.

It is my Spirit groaning to His Spirit. Or His Spirit groaning in me and just taking inventory of me, not only seeing my needs, but seeing who I am and what I am, and seeing my very

essence in being, and then turning to the Father up here and groaning there, explaining to the Father. You see, and then that same Spirit turns to the Father and understands the Father and knows the Father, what's in the Father, in the essence of the Father, and comes and delivers that to me. Praise the Lord, isn't that great?

But brother, you still haven't told me what prayer is. Do you know what prayer is? This is just wonderful. Yes, sister. You know, our little minds bog down, but we have to say in a sense the Father is really on the front. And the Lord Jesus...let's look at the last verse of scripture that was ever written to Corinth, okay? We can see a little bit. That's the only way your prayers get answered, brother. Those are the real prayers. The grace, the Lord...the last verse is 2 Corinthians 13:14 - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit...and sister, that word communion could just as easily be translated as the transmission of the Holy Spirit, the pipeline of the Holy Spirit, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit connects...it's like a pencil, sister. There is a writing down here. The Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus are here in me all the time. At the same moment, there is a transmission, a pipeline, and in the Father, and He is in me at the same time that He's on the throne. Oh, brothers and sisters, someday you'll understand that you're in Him at the same time that you're right here.

Now then, what's prayer? Do you know what real prayer is? The real prayer is Jesus Christ in the Spirit. Prayer is Christ. Prayer is Christ. He is our peace. He says, "I'm your peace." He is our rest. He says, "I'm your rest." He says to you, "I am your food." He says, "I am your drink." He is your drink. Brothers and sisters, He is also your prayer. One of these days, you're going to wake up and throw the cover of the bed, and you're going to say, "Christ is my everything." Christ is everything to me.

In the Old Testament, the offerings were offered up. They were a praise to God. And what were the offerings? They were a type of Christ. And the incense was offered up to the Father. What is the incense? The incense is the prayer that goes up, but brother, if you will look at what the incense is and what is made out of all, its element is Christ. It's Christ ascending to the Father. It is Christ; it is the Father descending into you. It's the Lord Jesus Christ on the one end, and it's the Lord Jesus Christ on the other end, praying for your spirit and in your spirit to the Father, and it is the Father speaking to you in the Son to your Spirit. Brothers, when you're in the Spirit, you're in the Son. When you're in the Spirit, and you speak...when you're in the Spirit speaking to the Father, you are just offering up Jesus Christ. You may have a petition, but it is Christ as that petition.

Now then, now then, Ephesians 6:18 says, "Praying always with all prayer." Now, brother, you pray a prayer. Have you ever thought about that? That you pray a prayer? Alright, if you pray a prayer, that's two prayers, right? You pray a prayer. Alright, whose prayer is prayed? Not mine; you *pray* a prayer. You are praying the prayer of Christ. You are praying His prayer to the Father. This is what prayer is. You are praying the movement, the working, and the inventory of the Lord Jesus in your Spirit to the Father's Spirit.

Now then, no one is going to believe this. Read that verse in the interlinear (Bible). Have you ever seen one of those before? Has anybody ever seen an interlinear Greek before? James 5:17 - Elijah, a man, with feelings like us, with prayer, he prayed. With prayer...he prayed for it not to rain, and it did not rain upon the earth; how many years? Three years and six months. Elijah prayed with a prayer. Whose prayer did he pray? Do you think that if Elijah just stood there and said, "Stop raining," that it was done and good? Oh, there was a prayer in his spirit, and he prayed it.

Now then, brothers, if you will notice in Corinthians, it says, "When you come together, some have a prayer." You come in, and you say it. I don't care if you got it last Tuesday; if it was the Lord's, it'll last a little while. You just come in and you just...that's right, amen, Praise the Lord...you pray with prayer. Amen. You ask why some people don't get healed. Because you don't pray with prayer. Why don't some prayers get answered? You don't pray with prayer. It is the prayer of the Lord Jesus, but let's forget this stuff about praying for healing and praying for that. Brother, the purpose of prayer was not to get things.

If you will notice, that is pure religion. The Lord Jesus Christ said the Father knows the hairs on your head. He knows that the lilies do not toil and they do not spin, so stop sitting around asking for things. Your Father knows. If you need an automobile or money, or you're hungry or something, you say, Lord, Matthew 5...and let it be. For prayer, brother, prayer is just the Lord Jesus, and you feed on Him; you just feed on Him. And He speaks to the Father, and the Father speaks to you. You know, listen, this has been...this has been right in front of us all the time, and we have not been able to receive it.

Romans 8:22-26, did you get it? Alright. The very earth has fallen and groans for the day it will be changed, because it is so weak. Now then, I, too, come to the Father. I have a hope. I have a hope that I patiently wait for, but I have an infirmity, and I come to Him, and likewise, the Spirit helps our weakness. For we know not what we should pray for, the way we should, but the Spirit prays; the Spirit makes intercession for us, with groanings that cannot be uttered. Brothers and sisters, the Spirit is within you, and he knows your weakness, and He prays to the Father, and you don't even hear it. It is with groanings. I mean, it's not even uttered in words. It is in words that cannot be understood.

Now, tonight, step one: the first thing I would say to you about walking in the Spirit, living by the Life, is brother, when you want to groan, groan. There is the Spirit moving inside of you. You get up on one of your days with everything on you, and you're weak. Brother, if you listen very, very carefully; sisters, if you listen very, very carefully, there's some groaning going on down inside of you. You cry at times, *Abba Father*, and other times, the Spirit cries, *Abba Father*. Well, the spirit groans for you. It prays for you. It prays *in* you. The Spirit is praying in you. Just groan, and you'll sense a rising; you will sense the weakness being strengthened. That's step 1.

Brothers and sisters, just groan. Now I'm dead serious. I'm saying this to you, and you must do this. Let us say that the great battle begins in the morning, whether we set our mind on the flesh or the spirit. Brother, as soon as you become conscious, say, "Oh, Lord," and you

begin to exercise the spirit. Spirit, wake up; go to work. Just groan, "Lord. Oh, Lord." Now, brothers, I don't mean in a superficial way, but I mean with a real sense of being in the Spirit. Just groan, "Oh, Lord. Oh, Lord."

The Lord Jesus Christ is our prayer. Brothers and sisters, He is your food as the word. He is your food as the word. He is your air as the word. You breathe him. It is God-breathed, and you just breathe Him. And you can breathe His Name. "Oh, Lord." Just breathe. The Bible says in Romans 10 that He is nigh unto you, as close as what? As close as your mouth. Just open your mouth. This is the beginning of the exercise of your spirit in the morning. Take a deep breath...and groan. And then, what do you do? What did he say? He says, close as your mouth. Therefore, you do what? You call on him. You call on him. "Oh, Lord. Oh, Lord." Call on the name of the Lord. That's just a little exercise of your spirit; a moving of your spirit. The Bible says in Luke that the Lord Jesus groaned...where? In spirit. Alright, do you want to be in spirit? Groan. Just groan. That is being in spirit. "*Oh, Lord.*" You can sense a groaning of your own with the groaning of the spirit. That's number one. Sister. Brother. When you meet the Lord in your first consciousness in the morning, just say, "Oh, Lord." Confess Him with your mouth and breathe Him in as a groan. "Oh, Lord." Take Him in.

Alright, you have to really be serious about this. Not, "Well, maybe I'll just be in the flesh today, but I'll say Lord." No, you have to really be serious. I intend to be set on the spirit. I need...I intend to draw upon him as my life's source. I intend to be in my spirit and in Him. I intend to live by this Life. You start that day, "Oh, Lord." With a groan, with a breath, and with a Word. The groan. The breath, and a Word.

Alright, now then, that's one. That's one. Actually, brother, that's two. When I was here last time, I said pay attention to the sense of life and go along with it, and when you feel darkness and death, turn from it, and set your mind on the Spirit. Now, step two, brothers. Groan. Breathe. And say a Word. He can never be further away from you than your mouth. That's the furthest that God can ever get from any man. He is as nigh as your mouth. I do not understand this; I can only tell you that the Lord places great emphasis on a man's mouth. Paul said, "Let every man seek after prophecy." To use your mouth to confess Him. To praise the Lord with the tongue. All I can say, brother, is it's true. Just call him. "O, Lord. O, Lord." Exercise the mouth in an effort to throw the switch, to exercise the spirit.

Alright, now, then that's two. Now, then here's three. Alright, we're...I don't know where you are, but let's turn back to Ephesians. Brothers and sisters, we are going to learn something utterly and completely new. Now, we have chucked everything, and we're going to learn the most practical thing for all of us to begin to learn to exercise our spirit, to contact the Lord's Spirit, to live by His Life, rather than our own. It's in these two passages of Scripture, and we're coming very close to the end.

Verse 17. This is Ephesians 6:17. We have already looked at it. *The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* What is the word of God? The Spirit. So, we come to the word of God, and we feed upon it, and we take it as Spirit. Now, then, brethren, it also says, praying always with all prayer. How do you pray? You pray with prayer. You pray with prayer. With all

prayer. That doesn't mean "all prayers"; it means there is a prayer within you, brother; pray with that prayer. Pray with that prayer. Alright, now that's two things. What is that? That is taking the word of God in spirit, and it is praying in the spirit. It is praying the Lord Jesus. It is the Lord Jesus praying to the Father. It is the Lord Jesus in you. I will put it this way. Perhaps this is the best way to say it.

Prayer is the echo of the Lord in your spirit and in the Father. You sense something in you, echoing: pray it. You sense something in you groaning: pray it. You sense a prayer in you: pray it. Have you ever sensed a prayer? I believe, brothers, there have been times when you sensed a prayer, and what you did was to fellowship with a brother. There have been times you have sensed a prayer, and you just let it turn into a thought. Brother, be very quick to sense a prayer and pray it with your mouth. Pray the prayer of the Lord Jesus in you.

I am going to give you a million dollars. This is the most helpful thing that you can do to really be in the spirit, but before I tell you what it is, I want you to make an agreement with me. Whatever we do in the church, whether it's a meeting, let us never give ourselves or what we do a name. Do you understand that? We never want to be the gospel chapel out here, right? The moon is not called a Baptist moon, is it? It's the moon. This is the church, so we don't call it some kind of...it's just with the brothers and sisters. When we do things, we don't give a name. As for number two, brother, don't make anything legal, right? One week, we will do something this way. Next week, we will do it that way. Whatever we do will have to be new and fresh. Okay?

Now, this is starting off as just a word. Thirdly, brethren, will you try this? Will you try this? I'm going to tell you something. Is it, Gene, I'm not going to read anything till you tell me what it is? Okay, if it's just not so terribly terrible, will you try? I want to see some hands. Alright. Okay, praise the Lord.

The word of God is Christ, and prayer is Christ. The offerings were Christ. The incense was Christ. The Life in you is Christ. The thing that pleases the Father is Christ. The only thing about you that ever pleased the Father is the Son. So let us just come and take the Word that is Christ and offer it to the Father. Praise the Lord. The Word of God is living and quick, sharper than any two-edged sword, dividing soul from spirit. The soul cannot withstand the word of God. The soul cannot withstand the word of God; it will invariably split the soul from the spirit. And this is the living word of God, when it is in spirit, and the spirit is what prays. So, pray the word of God. And brother, you can't pray the word of God but a minute or two, and it'll split the soul...*and you will be in spirit.*

You say...I'm a doubting Thomas. Okay, here is something that can be proven by experience. Brothers and sisters, just come to the Word. Are you listening? Because we are here, right now. You open the Word of God. You come to it and just throw away the mind. I don't want to learn a thing; I want to feed. And you open the word of God, and you just read it a little bit, and you get a little sense; a little echoing: tell the Father. You're offering up the Word, the Lord, and you're offering up the Lord in spirit. You say, "What are you offering up?"

Brother, I don't know. Who's praying it? I don't know. All I know is that this is the ladder from heaven to earth. This is being in spirit.

Brother, after a moment, you will pray a little bit more, and you'll get just a little...wow, praise God. And then you'll see something else, and all of a sudden, oh, praise the Lord. Father...and you speak it to Him, and suddenly there is a sense that you are in reality; you are in the Spirit, and you're living by a Life that sure doesn't look like yours. And you go on and offer it up to the Lord. Offer up His Word to Him as Life; pray back to Him: Himself.

This book, brethren, is a testimony given to you; it's an old one and a new one, right? You take it and pray back to him. Read back to Him His testament to you. Okay? I'm going to tell you something. You've got to do this five times. At least five times. I don't want to be legal, but I want you to do this 5 times on five separate days. Why, Gene, do you want me to do this five times? I will tell you why, because the first time you do it, you will be about as conspicuous...you'll feel about as conspicuous as if you stood out on the Bakersfield expressway out here in your pajamas. (laughter) That's exactly how you will feel, but that's alright, because pretty soon you'll get to enjoying the fellowship of the Lord in his Word so much, you don't care what you look like. Praise the Lord.

Now, brothers and sisters, this is a real good step; this is a real good beginning in exercising our spirit, by being in the spirit, and by living by another Life.