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THE POWER OF PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

Pastor Sheila Bowling

One of the most controversial and, sadly, most misunderstood gifts of the Holy Spirit is praying in tongues. I am convinced that there is so much controversy aimed at this gift because of the incredible power it releases into our lives. In the same way that many reject the prophetic ministry because of abuses, misuses and bad experiences, the same approach has been taken—perhaps in greater extremes—toward praying in tongues.

Mark 16:15-18

Giving his disciples their commission, Jesus said: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15-18). Then Jesus predicted what would happen: "These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well" (verses 17-18).

This unique gift of the Holy Spirit actually announced the birth of Christianity on the Day of Pentecost. It was highly prized by the man who wrote the majority of the New Testament (Paul). 1 Cor. 14:18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. It equips believers to communicate with God on a unique level and empowers us to **effectively live the supernatural life**. In short, it would make a lot of sense that the enemy would tirelessly fight against something that has such strong potential to hinder/stop his expansion of darkness in our lives and on the earth.

Tongues is a gift. It is a tool. It is powerful, available and absolutely life-changing. However, many receive this gift at one point in their lives and taste its power, but they never actually make it a part of their normal Christian lives.

"Yesterday's encounter with God cannot sustain us for today. Yesterday's touch is insufficient for today's trials." Praying in

tongues is not a one-time event!

Five Ways Praying in Tongues Will Change Your Life Forever

1. Praying in Tongues Gives You Supernatural Understanding of God's Mysteries

"For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries" (1 Cor. 14:2, NKJV). One translations says he speaks secrets. How do we access this revelation?

Communion with the Holy Spirit on His level—in His language. Remember, Paul defines Holy Spirit as the One who "searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets" (1 Cor. 2:10, NLT). As you pray in the Spirit, you will discover things that were previously mysterious and the unknown will start coming into greater focus and clarity.

2. Praying in Tongues Grants You Access to Other Revelatory Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

(1 Cor. 12: 8, 10, NKJV). "For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit ... to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues"

Don't be surprised if, while praying in tongues, the Holy Spirit gives you supernatural insight about something, leads you to pray for people and unlocks clarity over people, situations and even regions, enabling you to effectively pray for and break off the spiritual strongholds that are influencing them.

3. Praying in Tongues Opens Up the Bible in a New, Living Way as You Read It

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak" (John 16:13).

The same Holy Spirit who inspired the writing and assembly of the Holy Scriptures lives inside of you. Praying in tongues could be described as a way the Holy Spirit “shines a flashlight on Scripture.”

4. When praying in tongues, you are speaking directly to God (1 Cor. 14:2). "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God"

As you pray in tongues, you have a direct line to the president of the universe. Tongues keeps us talking *directly* to God, praying in agreement with His perfect will (Rom. 8:26-28).

5. Praying in tongues empowers you to engage spiritual (Eph. 6:18). "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit"

Praying in tongues is not some magic formula that guarantees us some free and easy lifestyle of health, wealth, prosperity and all of those fixings. Jesus assured us that in this life, we will experience tribulation (John 16:33). In the same passage, the same Jesus declared that He has overcome the world. Victory has already been secured at Calvary. In times of trial and assault, it is easy for us to become weary in the place of prayer, often not knowing what or how to pray. Praise God for the Holy Spirit! Paul reminds us “for we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us” (Rom. 8:26). When in the heat of spiritual combat, it is easy to start praying prayers that agree with the size of the attack, emphasizing the problem rather than focusing on the size of the blood-bought victory that Jesus purchased at the cross.

Praying in tongues empowers you to agree with God’s victorious battle plan for your life and your circumstances, no matter what is going on around you. It does not deny reality; it simply positions you to agree with the higher truth of Scripture: Victory has been purchased, and it is yours through Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, we have been seated at the right hand of God for the purpose of ministering to Him and partnering with Him. We are partakers of the heavenly calling that is eternal.

the majority of believers live from crisis to crisis, running to and fro and never truly getting breakthrough . However, as we tap into the power in our spirits through speaking in tongues, we will strengthen and train ourselves to bring the life of our souls (mind, will, and emotions) and the pull of our flesh under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. **For a copy of Pastor Sheila’s message in its entirety, you may purchase the service CD from Wednesday, June 25, 2014.**

WHAT DO YOU DO DURING A STORM?

Chinwe Okpalaoka

“When my heart is overwhelmed, please lead me to the Rock that is higher than I”- Psalm 61:2

In recent times, we have been plagued by various natural disasters. From tornadoes and floods to drought and wildfire, we are reminded regularly that we are living in a time when our lives can literally change in a twinkling of an eye. Many watched the news in amazement when a road in Baltimore, OH gave way as the cars parked alongside it tumbled onto the railroad tracks beneath and disappeared from sight. After much rain, the road could not stand and the cars were swallowed by the earth beneath them.

At the same time, all around us, people are hurting- we all know people who are struggling with unemployment, illness, divorce, infertility, loss of a loved one, etc. Even some of us are experiencing these struggles ourselves. At times it seems that there is so much overwhelming despair around us, but we must not lose hope because we are not a people who do not know their God. At one of his lowest moments, King David penned Psalm 61: 1-4: “*Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto you, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou has been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.*”

In David's cry, we learn where he turned when his heart was overwhelmed. We all have been there before- when it seems like we are consumed by whatever circumstance we find ourselves and it feels like the ground under our feet is unstable. Whether we are hard-pressed on every side physically or spiritually, we have a rock that is higher than we are- his name is Jesus. Jesus is our Ebenezer (our rock- 1 Samuel 7:12). He teaches us in a parable in Matthew 7:24-27 about the importance of building our house on solid rock so that when the storms of life come, and we are buffeted on every side, we are able to stand because our feet are firmly planted in him. As the old hymn reminds us: “*On Christ the solid rock we stand, ALL (emphasis is mine) other ground is sinking sand.*”

So brethren, let us be like the wise builder who does not wait for the literal and figurative storms of life to come before he builds a strong house. He builds his house on solid ground in preparation for the storms that will surely come. But as Jesus himself has reminded us in John 16:33: “In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer! I have overcome the world (In another translation, he says He has deprived the world of the power to harm us).

We may sway from the pressures of life’s storms and we may be shaken, but if we are firmly rooted in Him, we will survive the storms. Like Paul, we can declare that, "we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed..." (2 Cor. 4: 8-12).

Take heart, brothers and sisters and let not your hearts be troubled in these times! We know whose we are and He has promised not to leave us or forsake us. He has promised to be with us till the end of the age. And He is not man that He should lie.



A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

**President Thomas Jefferson
Washington D.C.
March 4, 1801**

Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people, the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth. In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Shirley Parsell

Don't give up praying and believing for repentance revival and renewal for our nation. There have been three major awakenings in our nation in past history and we believe another one is on the way. As Christians, it is our responsibility to pray for our nation. II Chronicles 7:14 tells us that if we do then God will hear our prayers and heal our land.

In May, an atheist lost a case against the "In God we trust" motto on our nation's currency. "Let us give thanks that this affirmation of national trust in God remains an American calling card" (Intercessors for America, The Connector).

As I was praying today, I asked for a "Worldwide spiritual awakening naming all the continents, etc. Let's believe for a GREAT ENDTIME HARVEST OF SOULS into the kingdom of God. Let's pray, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

On My Knees I Will Fall

On my knees I will Fall
On Your name I will call
For You are my refuge and strength
When the trials of life
Bring great pain and cause strife
I will go to my quiet resting place
When I cry out to You Lord
When I stand on Your word
You are faithful to answer my cry
When all hope is gone
When I have no song
I rely on my wonderful Lord

Shirley Parsell © 2006

"I want us to think outside of the context of our own world, our own family and let's look at the larger and bigger picture of things. The problems of our nation have a solution and you're the solution to these things. We need to think bigger. You need to think beyond your generation. You need to think about your children. You need to think about your grandchildren's children. What kind of a nation are they going to grow up in?"

"The foundation of this nation is Christian. Our greatness comes out of our foundation.

Apostle Les Bowling

Excerpt from the Sunday's sermon on July 6, 2014

"GOD IS NOT DONE WITH AMERICA"

Apostle Dutch Sheets

"AMERICA WILL BE SAVED"

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke

"A GREAT AWAKENING IS COMING TO AMERICA"

Jennifer LeClaire, Charisma Magazine

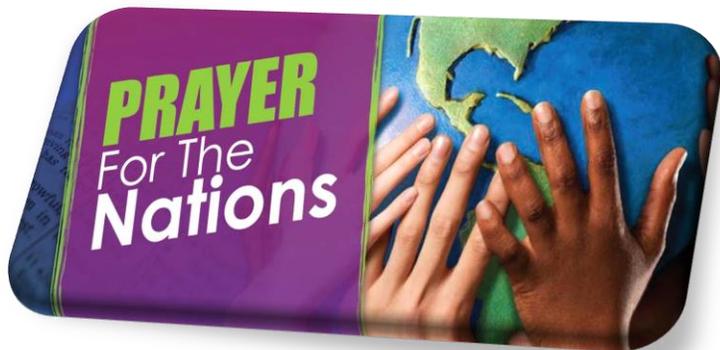
ONE VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Withelma “T” Ortiz Walker Pettigrew spent the first 18 years of her life in the U.S. foster care system and for seven of them she was victimized by sex traffickers in streets, strip clubs and massage parlors.

Now a college student, T has become a beacon of hope, raising her voice against the world’s \$96 billion human-trafficking industry, which exploits 27 million victims, including millions of youths and children. Testifying last October before Congress, T turned her words into action, offering practical tools to improve the child-welfare system.

A modern-day abolitionist, T has set herself free and empowered us to liberate others.

From the 2014 *Time* 100 Most Influential People



63 WOMEN KIDNAPED BY BOKO HARAM ESCAPE AFTER SECT SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTY IN DAMBOA ATTACK

The women regained freedom as captors left to attack the military.

“Some 63 out of about 70 women abducted in Borno State by suspected Boko Haram gunmen last week, have escaped from their captors, security sources and witnesses said.

The women managed to regain their freedom as their captors mobilized out of their hideout to attack military and police formations in Damboa Local Government Area, Borno State, on Friday night and Saturday morning, according to security sources.

A CALL TO PRAYER

On Thursday, June 26, 2014, the Elijah List posted a Prayer Alert from Cindy Jacobs called A Call to United Prayer. In this alert she called upon “every praying person everywhere to stand in the gap and pray for the protection of the nation” (Cindy Jacobs, Generals International, Elijah List and Breaking Christian News). She began to share what the Lord had shown her and said that He had her to issue a warning called “Shields Up” to

On July 3, 2014, Fox News published an article titled US Increases Airport Security Worldwide, Following Report of Increased Terror Threat. “State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki did not provide details about the reasons for the increased security.” (Fox News, Jul 3)

Could this be a coincidence, certainly not. We as Christians need to be sensitive to what the Spirit is saying and begin to pray and intercede for our nation.

16 RECOVERED IN FBI SEX-TRAFFICKING BUST

CLEVELAND -- It is the 2nd largest sex trafficking recovery in the U.S.

From Sunday, June 15 through Friday, June 20, the FBI and its local, state, and federal law enforcement partners conducted Operation Cross Country VIII to address commercial child sex trafficking throughout the United States.

The operation included enforcement actions in cities throughout the Greater Cleveland and Northern Ohio area and led to the recovery of 16 children who were being victimized through prostitution.

Additionally, 12 pimps were arrested on state and federal charges.

To submit a prayer request email us
@ ercprayeralerts.org

or visit

eaglerock.org/prayerrequests.html

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