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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

20. The Dynamic of the Spirit, Part 2: The Spirit Helps Us Pray

This is the second half of a teaching on how the Holy Spirit works in a believer's prayer life. It walks through four roles of the Spirit in prayer: He teaches you to pray, He burdens you to pray, He empowers you to pray, and He multiplies your faith. The core claim is that we cannot pray rightly on our own — the Spirit both instructs us and prays through us.

Key takeaways

- You are totally dependent on the Spirit to pray. He is the 'paraclete' — the helper who stands beside you and pleads within you, like a counselor in a courtroom (John 14:26).
- The Spirit only teaches you to pray for what is in God's will. If you pray for carnal desires, He goes silent — a gentle restraint signaling you're praying on your own.
- Praying in the Spirit is always in harmony with God's Word, because the same Spirit inspired the Word. God's glory is the primary aim; His goodness to you and others is secondary.
- The Spirit puts a burden on your heart for a hurting world. 'We must feel before we can heal.' We are saved not just to be happy but to bless — chiefly through intercession.

- The Spirit empowers prayer; no one has prayer power in themselves. The more you prevail in prayer, the more He fills you with love and power.
- The Spirit multiplies genuine faith (not wishful 'pseudofaith') by revealing God's greatness and impressing specific promises on your heart.

Passages worth keeping

"We must feel before we can heal. We must see before we can prevail."

Sums up the section on the Spirit giving us a prayer burden for others.

"The Paraclete is saying by His silence, 'I can't endorse that prayer... Wait, wait, and I will help you see a better way, a better prayer.'"

Pictures how the Spirit restrains prayers outside God's will.

How it connects

The chapter ties prayer directly to the Trinity: the deepest prayers come from the Father, by the Spirit, through the believer, back to the Father, and are 'amen'ed' by the Son — so believers are never closer to God than when praying in the Spirit.

Scripture referenced

- **Eph. 6:18** -- Praying 'in the Spirit' — surrounded by His atmosphere

- **John 14:26** -- The Spirit as paraclete/teacher who helps us pray
- **Rom. 8:26** -- We don't know how to pray as we ought; the Spirit intercedes (implied throughout)
- **Ps. 37:4** -- Delight in the Lord and He gives your heart's desires — because they match His
- **Rom. 5:5, 8** -- God pours His love into our hearts by the Spirit
- **Rom. 4:20-21** -- Abraham strengthened in faith as a model of Spirit-affirmed faith