

# **SERIES - The Tabernacle Prayer**

## **SERMON TITLE - Praying in the Spirit**

### **Romans 8:26**

**INTRODUCTION:** We are a series of sermons where we are looking at the Tabernacle old Testament Tabernacle as a pattern for prayer. Remember you are the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit in this age. We said last week the Tabernacle consists of the 3 parts:



1. The Outer Court - Points to the Son
2. The Holy Space - Points to the Spirit
3. The Holy of Holies - Points to the Father

**Last week we began looking at the Outer Court.**

1. **The Outer Court** - *Pointed to God the Son*
  - The Brazen Altar - where sacrifices were made, reminds us that we can only pray by way of the cross of Christ - the lamb of God who takes away our sin.
  - The Laver - where washing took place symbolizing the appropriation of grace. We said - if we cherish iniquity in our heart the Lord will not hear us... but the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Today we come to...

1. **The Holy Space** - The Holy Space points to God the Holy Spirit
  - The 7 branch Candlestick which is symbolic of the 7 fold Spirit of God.
  - Table of Shewbread - Pointed to the Word of God
  - The Alter of Incense - Symbolic of our Worship

All ministries of the Holy Spirit.

**Twice in the New Testament we are told to PRAY IN THE SPIRIT**

#### **Ephesians 6:17-18 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> **praying at all times in the Spirit**, with all prayer and supplication.

#### **Jude 19-20 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and **praying in the Holy Spirit.**

The Greek word translated “pray in” means “by means of,” “with the help of,” “in the sphere of,” and “in connection to.” This is not some deep mystical experience, but rather simply praying in concert with the will of the Holy Spirit — His desires, directives, and decrees. It conveys the same idea as being FILLED with the Spirit as you pray.

### **THERE ARE TWO PRINCIPLES AT WORK WITHIN EVERY SAVED INDIVIDUAL:**

1. The principle of the **Flesh**
2. The principle of the **Spirit**

At this moment right now - you are either in the Flesh or in the Spirit. By the way, sermons are a lot better when they are heard in the Spirit.

There are two ways to pray - in the **FLESH** or in the **SPIRIT**.

### **Romans 8:5–7 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Some of us have the idea that the enemy wants us to commit scandalous sins in the flesh. He wants you staggering drunk, looking at porn, high on drugs, engaging in adultery. But let me show you something - Satan isn’t so concerning what you do in the flesh, so long as you are in the flesh. He had just as soon you pray in the flesh, teach small group in the flesh, sing in the choir in the flesh as to have you belly up to the bar at some honky tonk. It’s all the same to him!

Some of you find prayer nearly impossible because you pray in the flesh!

- **The Flesh HATES to pray.** <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God
- **The Holy Spirit LOVES to pray**

**The only effective prayer is spirit-filled prayer.**

**Adrian Rogers** - *If you get Spirit-Filled you will have to backslide to not want to pray.*

Friend if you find prayer difficult - you don’t have a **PRAYER** problem, you have a **PERSON** problem. It is because you are NOT FILLED with the Holy Spirit.

Let me show you 3 ways the Holy Spirit helps us pray:

## **1. The Holy Spirit Motivates our Will to Pray**

**Romans 8:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, **by whom we cry**, “Abba! Father!”

**Galatians 4:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

Any desire within you to cry out to God as your Father is there because of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ.

Now any old sinner will cry out to God for help in the midst of a car accident. But the true child of God has an **internal motivation** to cry out to God as FATHER on the good days and the bad.

**There are two ways to approach God:**

- As a business transaction - I did this, now you must do that...
- As a Father - I love you and I trust you... here are my desires... but I trust you.

**LISTEN:** Nothing moves the heart of God like his children calling him daddy. No King, no President, no Prince, No Dictator can get his attention at will, but when the least of you call out to him, “Oh Daddy” You have His complete and undivided attention.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Max Lucado tells the story in his book, “**Before Amen**” of when his daughter Jenna was 13 years old. She was performing her piano recital before a crowded auditorium of people. Right in the middle of the piece she was performing her mind went blank and her hands froze. She totally lost her place. There was a long awkward silence... eventually she found a place she could complete it and finished the piece. She stood, curtsied with a trembling lips and briskly walked off stage. As the crowd mercifully clapped, Max and his wife slipped out of the auditorium to meet Jenna in the backstage area.

**EXCERPT:**

When Jenna saw her mother and I she through her arms around me and buried her face in my shirt and said through her tears... “OH DADDY”. Mom and Dad sandwiched her with affection. *If a hug could have extracted embarrassment, that one would have. At that moment I would have given her the moon. All she said was, “Oh Daddy”.*

You know what that’s like. If you being fallen sinners no how the cry of your child motivates your heart - HOW MUCH MORE would Holy God respond to the cry of His child.

Now it is the **Holy Spirit** who is able to take all of your mental backlash when it comes to prayer and reduce it down to a simple, “Oh Daddy”. That, “Oh Daddy” will accomplish more in a split second than all the liturgy you can muster.

## 2. The Holy Spirit Guides our Prayer

### **Romans 8:26–27 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

<sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### **Romans 8:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

**When Paul commands us to be filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18 (ESV) He draws an interesting comparison...**

<sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.

Drunkenness and Filling are similar in that they both speak of coming under the strong influence of an alien substance.

### **When you are drunk -**

- You think differently
- You respond differently
- Your morals are altered
- There are certain things that you will engage in that you wouldn't in a sober state of mind.

### **Why? You are drunk.**

Well the influence of Alcohol is not entirely unlike the influence of the Holy Spirit. I don't mean that you stagger around uncontrollably; as a matter of fact one of the fruits of the Spirit is self control.

- But you do think differently
- You do respond differently
- Your morals are altered
- There are certain things that you will be engaged in that otherwise you would have avoided in the flesh.

**This statement is in the imperative mode, which states a command.**

It is an emphatic imperative, and is literally translated, "**Be being kept filled with the Spirit.**" It is a command that includes the idea of *conscious continuation*. So it's not an option, but you will answer to God as to whether you were filled with the Spirit of God.

**The word FILLED is the word PLAYRU in the Greek carries the three fold idea of pressure and permeation and total control. Let's look at each of those ideas -**

### **a. FILLED = A HEART GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*The word playru was used in bible times to describe... \*A sail being filled with the wind.*

*It is being acted upon by an outside force and it is being carried places it could not go in it's own strength. It is being filled.*

- **Matthew** records that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil (Matt. 4:1).
- **Luke** clarifies that further by saying, "Jesus, being full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness" (Luke 4:1).
- Mark makes it even stronger: "The Spirit drove [Gk., ekballo] him into the wilderness" (Mark 1:12).

When you pray in the Holy Spirit - he will bring things to mind that you hadn't intended to praying for.

**EXAMPLE:** Do you ever sit down to pray and get out your prayer list, but some circumstance or situation just won't go away - that may be the Holy Spirit saying, set the prayer list aside and let me tell you what to pray for today.

You cannot pray adequately for all things. You should not try to pray for everything, but there are certain things that God wants you specifically to pray for, and there are certain ways God wants you to pray for them.

**ILLUSTRATION:** I've had times that I'm praying for someone and the Holy Spirit led me to pray differently for them. I've had times when the Holy Spirit led me not to pray for them at all, because God's will was determined and it was not going to be altered.

Then there are times, when the burden is so great, and the situation is so large that it's impossible to adequately communicate to God our hearts desire...

**Romans 8:26 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, **but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.**

**ILLUSTRATION:** Words are trucks that carry thoughts. So when we pray, we take our thoughts, place them in the bed of WORDS, and those words carry our thoughts before God. But listen, sometimes our thoughts are too big for the words to carry. It is then that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

## **B. FILLED = A HEART DOMINATED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

To understand the influence of a spirit filled life let's look at how the word *pleroo* was used other times in the Bible.

i) **John 16:6**--Jesus said, "Because I have said these things unto you, **sorrow** hath **filled** your heart."

ii) **Luke 5:26**--Luke said the people "were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were **filled** with **fear**."

iii) **Luke 6:11**--Luke said the Jewish leaders "were **filled** with **fury**, and discussed one with another what they might do to Jesus."

**You know we are emotional creatures.** We experience a variety of emotions every day, but occasionally we will have an experience that will tip the scales.

### **Example:**

1. You get a phone call and find out that your mom just passed away and you are, filled with sorrow... Sorrow dominates your life at that moment.
2. You find out that you got the job you have been praying for... joy fills your life.

### **It tipped the scales**

Here is what I see in most Christians lives.... The scales are balanced. They want a little bit of the Spirit, they like good music and emotionally appealing sermon. But, they don't go home and study the word, they don't allow the truth of scripture to drive them to the prayer closet.... They balance it out with sports or hobbies!!!

**ILLUSTRATION:** Paul Bear Bryant's Mom and Dad never watched him coach a single game. One time they walked into an arena intending on watching, but they found it so hard to maintain the fullness of the spirit with the strong influence of a game that they would leave, go to the hotel room and pray for their son and the team.

I'm not saying sports are worldly or sinful, from what we can tell Paul was a sports fan, he used boxing, wrestling and racing analogies... but I am saying the fullness of the

Spirit is something you have to give yourself over to. You must separate yourself from anything that would compromise being filled by the Holy Spirit.

You may be thinking -

### **3. How does one get filled with the Holy Spirit?**

**1. You must be saved**

**3. You must confess and forsake all known sin**

**4. You must request that the Holy Spirit fill you**

**Luke 11:11-13 (ESV)**

**11** What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; **12** or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**

**5. You must cultivate the filling of the Spirit through the Word, Prayer and Obedience.**

**CLOSING ILLUSTRATION:** The Holy Spirit wants to wear you like I wear this shirt. This shirt has on power in and of itself - but me filling this shirt makes it able to do anything I am able to do. In the same way - when you are filled with God the Holy Spirit, His limitations are your limitations.... and friend He has none.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS TO:

Speak through your lips  
Go through your feet  
Heal through your hands  
See through your eyes.

**YOU CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT HIM  
HE WILL NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU**

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit at this moment? If not, make your mind up that you will be before you leave this auditorium.