

THE ANATOMY OF WORSHIP AND INTERCESSION

A QUICK GUIDE FOR SPIRIT-LED PRAYER

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This is what happens in Spirit-led worship: “We do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit comes to help us in our lack” (Rom 8:26). Almost in a word, the Apostle Paul gives a giant insight into the inner meaning of what we can do as individuals in private prayer and in gatherings. Today, our prayer can be lifted to a deeper dimension of power, love and effectiveness. Through this article, I invite you to take a look with me at what it means for the Holy Spirit to “help” us in our prayer.

I Together with the Spirit

In Greek, the word St Paul used was “sunantilambanomaí.” It’s actually three words fit into one. The four letters of the English “help” can scarcely do any justice to the 17 letters of three words he put together. You can learn how to flow with the Spirit to get the work He wants done through you when you worship him and enter into intercessory prayer.

Here are the three Greek words:

“sun”;

“anti”;

“lambanomaí”

Let’s first look at the word “sun” (pronounced, “soon”). It means “together” in English. In Spirit-led prayer He comes so that we should work together with God. Our worship—and the intercessory work that is birthed through it—is meant to be a commingling of His energies and ours, a synergy of the human (yours) and the divine (His). The fact is that God has ordered His Kingdom in such a way that He needs you and your prayer to accomplish His purposes. Think of it! Your spirit was created to energize in common with God’s Spirit.

When we do not pray with the Spirit, our prayer is more of a human endeavor destined to do little, even if it does produce a certain psychological fulfillment. When we impose our agendas in prayer, it ceases to be with the Spirit. In addition, if we do not do our part

by consenting to this synergy, what He wants to accomplish is frustrated by our spiritual inaction.

Praying it through

The question is simply, will we co-operate with God’s Spirit? Here’s an easy way: Please join me in this prayer:

Holy Spirit, I give full consent for you to do anything you need to me. Break me, so I will be fully working together with you that your Kingdom is established through my worship and intercession. I pray in Jesus’ name.

II Anti-prayer

The next part is familiar. It is the word “anti”. I’m sure you know that it generally means “against” in English. Right? Yes, but there is a deeper spiritual truth. How, indeed, can “against” have anything to do with “help”?

Consider these two points:

1. “Anti”, that is against, is really for us, when it comes to the Holy Spirit “together” with us, coming against what we are called to battle for. We simply are lacking in our fight against sin, vice, strongholds, powers and principalities. That’s why Paul says, “the Spirit comes to help us in our lack” (Rom 8:26). Lack is incapacity. In

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Spirit-led worship we often do spiritual combat against these things as we move into intercession. Sometimes it is a battle against the flesh just to surrender to worship, isn’t it? If your heart is in the right place, the Spirit will fight for you, and provide the mighty spiritual weapons of His power in this struggle. The Spirit will beckon Jesus, the Lion of Judah to be our Mighty Warrior against any evil power. Spirit-led worship is just the place for warfare in the Spirit!

2. “Anti” has also the sensation of the English phrase, “in front of” or “opposite”. In Spirit-led intercession, when He takes hold of our prayer, He invariably positions us opposite or in front of the issues, places and

persons that are on His heart that He needs for us to synergize with Him and each other about. And equally certain, these are a lot larger than our small worlds would have our fleshly prayers engage. That is the essence of Spirit-led prayer, and it takes away our fleshly agenda in favor of that which will make a real difference for the coming of His Kingdom.

Praying it through

Father in Heaven, your kingdom come, your will be done. I once again surrender myself to worship you and obey your inspirations. Help me to break through to a free worship, unfettered by my flesh. I receive the weapons of righteousness to be used on the field of battle that you has purposed for this hour of history. I proclaim myself on the side of your Son, the Lyon of the tribe of Judah. Place in front of me the issues, persons and places that are on your heart, that through my synergy with your Spirit, your kingdom come. In Jesus, name.

If you have the gift, I would like to invite you to start to “pray in the Spirit on every occasion” as St Paul exhorts in Ephesians 6:18. By exercising the gift of tongues and opening yourself to the greater gifts, the Spirit of God will begin to take hold of your prayer.

If you have not received the gift of tongues (talked about by Paul in chapters 12, 13 and 14 of 1 Corinthians), I invite you to explicitly ask God for it. One easy way to “yield” to this gift is to experiment with different sounds, syllables and combinations of syllables to accustom yourself to pronouncing sounds outside of your understanding. Avoid the pitfall of analyzing the sounds or whether or not they are from God! Then, with heart and mind – in a child-like way – turned to God, begin to actually pray with these sounds. Ask God to immerse you with His Spirit, and pray in this way. St Paul affirms about the gift of tongues, “I pray with my spirit and I also pray with my mind” (1 Cor 14:15). We’ve spent so much time praying with our mind; let’s pray with our spirit in the Holy Spirit!

III Let the Spirit take hold

Let’s now complete this meaning-packed description of Holy Spirit prayer. *Lambanomai* in Greek means to “light on” or “take hold of.” How exactly can we let the Holy Spirit “take hold of” our prayer? Very simply by



the active use of the gifts of Spirit. When these gifts are in operation, God gives us manifestations of His direct will for our prayer. That informs, shapes and points us to the things that are on His heart, the things that He needs us

to engage spiritually so that His Kingdom can come. Let’s look at a few examples:

- Tongues seeks to put our human spirit in harmony with the Spirit of God
- Word of Knowledge gives us what to pray for;
- Word of Wisdom indicates how and when we are to pray for this.
- Discernment gives us purity in our intercession,
- Prophecy imparts God’s purpose for the issues and people he brings to us, and their destiny in Him;

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All of this—and more—is the *lambanomai* of the Spirit in worship leading into intercessory prayer. Through these gifts, he alights on the prayer, takes hold of it, like a honey bee alighting on a flower, both enabling the impartation of cross-pollination in order to bear fruit and also to collect that which will make rich honey in the comb.

Praying it through

1. Simply pray: *Father, in the name of Jesus your Son I ask you to increase your gifts in me and manifest them through the Holy Spirit. I give you my consent to move me to share them, use them and through them, to build up the Body of your Son.*
2. Return often to pray in tongues, every time you think of it, purposed to stir up the greater gifts and increase the Anointing of your prayer. Let the Spirit of God be as the honey bee. You are the flower; let Him bring fruit and honey to your prayer, to your life and to your world.