

Filthiness of the flesh & Spirit

By Dave Roberson

The most powerful teaching tool the Holy Spirit has at His disposal is the new nature God has given to us, and, because we have this new nature, the Holy Spirit uses it to cause us to understand spiritual things. Anything we do to increase and develop ourselves in the Spirit and in the fruit of the Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, etc., will increase our capacity to understand the things of God.

Praying in tongues plays a fundamental role in developing and enhancing our new nature and the fruit of the Spirit. As you know, tongues is a revelation gift. When Paul said, ... ***“not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”*** (1Cor. 2:13), He meant that the Holy Spirit is a mediator between God’s Spirit and ours. Praying in tongues is a medium of ex-change. The more we pray in tongues, then the more revelation knowledge flows from God’s Spirit to our understanding.

This is why Apostle Paul said: ***“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries”*** (1 Cor. 14:2).

The mysteries we are speaking are not for God’s benefit. Think about it; which one of us is going to sneak up on God’s blindside and whisper some deep, dark secret in His ear that He wasn’t already graced with knowing a couple of millennia before we were born? The mysteries we’re speaking are not for His sake, but for our sake.

Praying in tongues is like any other form of prayer—it is designed by God to be answered. But how do you know when He is answering? You can know because the mysteries of everything Christ is in you, to you, and through you, the hope of glory are revealed to you.

Apostle Paul said, “This man speaks mysteries” He is praying the understandings of the mysteries of Christ up before the throne of God and when he does, guess what? When God answers, an impartation takes place—the Holy Spirit uses our new nature to get us to understand God things. All of a sudden, we understand a mystery that we never understood before, like a mystery about faith, hope, or healing.

Praying in tongues is also an “edification gift.” It will reveal things that we need in our life and our walk with God to get above and beyond the ceilings that keep us from walking in His fullness. If we need fasting, for example, then that will be the mystery He will start to reveal to us. Fasting will add to your life what only fasting can add.

Someone might say, *“I’ll just pray in tongues and forget about fasting.”*

The reason He delivered you to the revelation of fasting was so that you would fast. If you do not choose to fast and that is what you need, He will just deliver you back to fasting until you do it so you can reap its benefits and move on. What if you have trouble understanding the Word of God? He will deliver you to meditation and assimilation until you have so prepared your soul for day and night meditation that your revelation knowledge makes the theologians stand in awe just listening to how much you know and understand.

But what if you don’t want to meditate and assimilate the Word? Keep praying in tongues and God will deliver you back to it. He will keep bringing up your need to read and meditate on the Word until you do it and start producing the fruit of assimilation. He always knows exactly what you need. If the Holy Spirit sees that you need private worship or any kind of fellowship with the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, He will deliver you to some form of worship.

I’ll never forget the vision God gave me that opened my understanding to the power there is in worshipping God. In this vision, I saw a rock land in a pond that caused ripples to move out from where it landed into every nook and cranny in the pond. One ripple caused another one and then another one. The other one would go further as the one behind it kept pushing it, and another on would keep on pushing. I asked God what the first wave was. He said, “That is when you begin to build a reservoir, a pool, of the compassion and love that your new nature has the capacity to hold.”

And the second wave? He said, “The second wave is the one you are looking for when you are fighting the good fight of faith and emotions are contrary, arguing against everything the Word has said to you, for you, or directed you to. It is kind of a baptism of your senses where joy and peace do not have to be fought for, they are yielded to. This is what you are looking for, to come to that place where you can come into agreement with what is working in your spirit. Eventually your senses and emotions will line up and count everything joy, which becomes your strength against all that Hell has to throw at you.

He told me that the third was geographical. It was a filling of the geography—the physical area—where a person walked, what they did, what their call was. For instance, if you are called to be a businessman, then God’s Presence will come in with you. He will get involved in the decisions and He will move on people in your behalf.

With this kind of presence, you can walk into a room and people will start to cry and repent without you even saying a word. You can pray for people and they will be healed. God’s presence will follow you around. Why? Because you loved Him enough to follow Him around through worship and fellowshiping with Him, so He will start following you around and manifesting Himself. These are just a few things I have learned about private worship, the key that the Holy Spirit has delivered me to, because it was what I needed most in my life.

The Holy Spirit, through our praying in tongues and the process of edification, starts building us up above the ceilings or strongholds in our life before He lets us have a good look at them through the process of mortification. There are three areas where mortification takes place: spirit, soul, and body.

The body encompasses filthiness of the flesh: smoking, drinking, chewing, etc. The soul deals with hatred, strife, and all those kinds of sins of the heart. He will deal with these things and move them right out of our lives, if we allow Him. You see, when a person comes to a stronghold or an impasse, they either quit praying or the strife gets moved out of their lives. The choice is ours to remain vigilant in prayer or quit.

The third area of filthiness of Spirit, as Paul taught in 2 Corinthians 2:1:

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Filthiness of spirit is wrong doctrine or believing or leading others into wrong doctrine. This is what James was talking about in the third chapter of his book:

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body

Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. (James 3: 1-4).

James is saying, *“Be not many teachers, receiving the greater condemnation. If a man offend not in word or doctrine, the same is a perfect man able to put a bit in a horses’ mouth to lead him.”*

And if he is speaking of doctrine, the same is a perfect man able to put a bit in a horses’ mouth to lead him. And if he is speaking of doctrine, he is talking about the teacher’s ability to lead the body of Christ into victory or into error. The teacher is the one at the helm of the ship that leads in the proper heading away from the storm or right into it. It’s the little kindling that causes the big forest fire of wrong doctrine or the right one. *“Be not many teachers receiving the greater condemnation.” It’s one thing for you to go off into wrong doctrine in your own life, but it’s another to champion a cause that leads a lot of people off into wrong doctrine. Both are wrong. Filthiness of spirit is a lot worse than flesh because it can put a whole lot of people in hell.*

We build ourselves up above these things through praying in tongues. We pray the mysteries of God and the Holy spirit communicates them to our spirit, which produces mortification of the flesh and soul. The Spirit separates us from the things we need to mortify by edifying us up above them.

I can remember when I first started experiencing the edification-mortification process. I didn't know what was going on, but some things had a hold of me and I noticed that the Holy Spirit would edify me in certain areas. I would not quit praying and building myself up, then I would stop and look back at the stronghold through His eyes. I would see how ugly it was and that is when the deep intercessional groaning would kick in **Romans 8:26:**

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.

The Holy Spirit steps in and makes intercession for you with groaning which cannot be uttered. It's the kind of prayer inside of you where you cannot walk where you are anymore. You hate it as much as God does and He says, ***“Good, because when you didn't care, what did I have to work with?” Once you hate it as badly as He does, it's on its way out!***

Considering all of these things, I would suggest you do not stop praying. Isn't it interesting how God made it as easy as He could for us? He came up with a foolproof plan. In His foreknowledge He knew that we would need a lot of helps.

God has the ability to look through eternity and He knows what we will be doing ten years from now. This is one of the attributes that makes Him God: ***even though He KNOWS, it's up to us to what our future will be. The CHOICE is ours!***

Let me illustrate this. Let's say that the Godhead had a meeting way back before we were created. At the head of the table was the Father, at His right hand Jesus Christ, and at His left, the Holy Spirit.

God the Father plans the whole universe and Jesus says, ***“I'll create it.”*** The Holy Spirit is the regenerator. They look down through time and they see the fall, so Jesus says, ***“I'll go and redeem them.”***

The Holy Spirit says, ***“If you do that, then I'll do the work. I'll be the regenerator.”***

So they look down through time and they say, ***“Oh wait, you died for them and they have a new nature but they're still flopping around and don't know what to believe.”***

And the Holy Spirit says, ***“OK, I'll step in and I'll be the power with them.”***

So they look at that for awhile and pretty soon they say, ***“Yeah, you're the power but most of them don't use it.”***

The Holy Spirit says, ***“Hmm, what will we do about this?”***

Finally, the Holy Spirit says, ***“I have an idea. How about I just do most of their praying for them? All they would have to do is release their faith and just let the language of tongues come out of their mouth. If they can manage that much, we can order their life. Do you think they'll do that?”***

But if you keep praying and edifying yourself, you will keep climbing higher and higher, and soon you will get past the ceilings in your life. His power will keep increasing and the fruit of the spirit—peace, quietness, and the things that life is made out of—will get stronger.

These things I say are meant to encourage you. We do not have to sit day after day in the same circumstances or at the same level of knowing God. It's our choice to do something about it and He has made it simple for us—he supplies the prayer that He fully intends to answer, and all we do is yield and cooperate with Him.

The devil likes to condemn us. He shows us our wicked past, but in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness and our past becomes yesterday. We live in today. We may have strongholds, but we do not have to hold it any longer; for with the precious Holy Spirit ministries to us, we will rebuild all our failings through the Holy Spirit of God...***and the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will never fail us as long as we are walking in His Spirit and not in the flesh!!***