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How You Can Be Led by the

Spirit of God



LEGACY EDITION

Praying Through

There must be action on the earth before Heaven moves. So you can see that the Holy Ghost is looking for people who have dedicated themselves to prayer. We sometimes call these people “prayer warriors.” People who give themselves to prayer often sense the Spirit of God moving throughout the earth as He tries to find somebody He can use to pray things out!

Why? Because somebody’s got to pray about it. Somebody has to pray it out! Do you know what I mean by “praying something out”?

The old-time Pentecostals called this practice “praying through.” When you have what some people call a leading—when you have

an urge or burden to pray—what do you do? You pray! And when you don't know what you're praying for, you pray in tongues, speaking mysteries, speaking divine secrets as First Corinthians chapter 14 tells us.

“Praying through” simply means that you keep praying until you have a note of victory. What do I mean by a note of victory? Well, after you've prayed for a while, you'll begin to laugh or sing to yourself in tongues. You see, a while ago, you had this burden. You felt this heaviness. Then you prayed. And suddenly, you feel as though the burden is gone. You have a sense of gladness. Those signs tell you that you have prayed the situation through and have the victory!

The Importance of Praying Through

When you have a burden or leading to pray, it's important to yield to that leading and pray until you've prayed through. When you do, you'll experience victory.

Years ago, I read the testimony of a missionary named Brother Boley in a Full Gospel magazine. Later, I had the opportunity to hear him preach in a church in Dallas. In his message, he reiterated his testimony.

Brother Boley and his wife went out as missionaries to Africa in the early 1920s. They went inland, into the very heart of Africa, and built a mission there for a native tribe.

One day, a neighboring tribe kidnapped a six-year-old girl from the tribe he was ministering to. Brother Boley knew the customs of the local tribes. He said, “We knew that if we didn't get the little girl back before sundown, we would never recover her. I got a native man who was saved and could speak the dialect of that tribe. And we went over there.

“Before we got there, we could smell this awful smell. They had a custom of taking an animal and killing it. Four or five women of the tribe had to prepare it. Then, they’d hang this animal on a pole at the entrance to the tribe’s land. Everyone who came in had to take a knife, cut a piece off that meat, and eat it. If you didn’t eat, the women who had prepared the meat would be killed.”

In that hot, humid climate, the meat had putrefied. Brother Boley told his interpreter, “We’ll have to eat a bite of that. We don’t want those women to be killed. Jesus said, ‘One of the signs that’ll follow believers is that if they drink any deadly thing, it’ll not hurt them.’ I supposed that we could also eat any deadly thing, and it would not hurt us. So we said, ‘In the Name of Jesus.’ Then, we cut a chunk off that rotten, putrefied meat. We each ate a bite, and it never affected us in any way.

“We made a deal with the chief of that tribe,” Brother Boley said. “We traded him a bunch of trinkets and beads and things for the girl. But then night overtook us.”

Because it was dangerous to travel the jungle at night, Brother Boley and his interpreter stayed overnight in the tribe’s guest hut. At midnight, they were awakened by the sound of drums. The interpreter told Brother Boley, “That means we’re dead. That’s the death knell. It’s dawned on the chief that they don’t have to give up the girl. They can just kill us and take her back.”

The two men heard the tribe members moving around outside the hut. Knowing they were about to die, they committed themselves into God’s hands and then stepped outside. Brother Boley said, “I shut my eyes and waited. I know it was just a few seconds, but it seemed like a long time. Nothing happened.

“I heard strange sounds, and when I opened my eyes and looked, the warriors were on the ground! And they were bowing up and down, their knives laying on the ground!”

Brother Boley asked his interpreter what the warriors were saying. The man responded, "They're worshipping you. They think you're a god. They say that when you stepped out of the hut, two giant men in white apparel with a giant sword in either hand stepped out right beside you."

Thank God for His deliverance! But that's not the end of the story. There's more to it.

Soon after his miraculous deliverance, Brother Boley went to check on a lady who was manning a missions station for another local tribe. When he arrived, the woman asked him, "Brother Boley, did something happen to you last Monday night about midnight?"

He said, "Why do you ask?"

"Well," she said, "I always work 14 to 16 hours a day, and I was very tired that Monday, so I got to bed and went to sleep. I was awakened with a burden to pray. I lay there in bed and began to pray. But I was so sleepy, I fell back to sleep. I was awakened again. And I had the same burden to pray! So I prayed, but I was so weary that I fell back to sleep. I was awakened the third time about 10:30 that night, and I decided to get up because I knew if I lay there, I'd go back to sleep."

The woman got out of bed, got on her knees, and said, "Lord, I don't know what it is you've awakened me to pray for. I don't know who it is who needs prayer. I just trust the Holy Ghost to give me utterance." And she began to pray in other tongues. She prayed approximately an hour and a half in other tongues.

"While I was praying," she told Brother Boley, "your face kept flashing before me. I don't know whether I was praying for you or not. At midnight, I knew I had prayed through. I began to laugh. I began to laugh in the Spirit and sing! The burden lifted. Instead of a spirit of heaviness, I felt a spirit of lightness."

Appendix 2: Being Led by the Spirit of God in Prayer

The night she prayed was the same night Brother Boley was delivered from death. It was a mystery to her why she was awakened to pray, but it wasn't a mystery to God! What if she hadn't prayed? Thank God, she did!

You can see the necessity of following that leading to pray, even though we don't know what it is we're praying for. Afterward, we sometimes find out what we were praying for. Sometimes, we'll never know until we get to Heaven. But how important it is that we respond to the Holy Spirit when He leads us to pray!