

BFF409 The Spirit Helps Us Pray

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: Wow, what a deep bass greeting. I thought you were pretending to be Lurch.

Scott: You rang.

Steve: I'm sorry about your cold.

Scott: That's OK. It's just a little cold. I can sing bass this morning. You know the old "Jungle Book" movie with the cartoon version, where the buzzards are singing that's what friends are for, and like barbershop quartet style, and then the tiger comes in at the end. I can actually hit that note when I'm like this. I'll be like, "That's what friends are for."

Steve: Good job.

Steve: OK, so here we are. A sunny Tuesday morning, and it's still spring, although it feels like summer right now. As much as the seasons and our bodies change, we know that God doesn't change. Let's pray.

Father, thank You, that we can always draw near to our rock, our fortress, one who doesn't change. You're the same yesterday, today, and forever, regardless of our filters and our bodies and all that we're going through.

Thank You that You're the saint. Thank You that You're loved. Thank You that You're near to us when we call. Wash us afresh this morning in the Blood of Jesus. Wash us with the washing of Your Word. Cleanse us, fill us with Your good spirit and help us to have ears to hear what you're saying to us today in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: I had a long driving weekend. My cousin's daughter was being married 256 miles away. I left Saturday morning after taking care of the grandkids and getting breakfast for everybody and walking the pups, and I jumped in the car and drove about four and a half hours and got there in time to take a quick nap at the hotel.

Then I attended the lovely wedding and saw my cousins and relatives. My brother and his wife were there. It was like a family reunion as well as a wedding celebration.

In the process, I had lots of time. On the way down, I listened to most of the Book of Judges, big chunks of the Psalms, and it was so edifying. I also had opportunities to apply my spiritual disciplines of seeking God according to all these principles that He's been laying out for us for priests.

A couple of years ago, we started going through these principles of coming to His presence. We make a joyful shout, we sing, come into His presence with singing, we

give thanks, and we praise His name. I've been ordering my way this way. As it says in Psalm 50, "He that orders his way aright, I will show the salvation of God" so I've been ordering my way this way going on my 6th year.

As you remember, a couple years after that began, God led us into the tabernacle, where I observed the parallels. You come into His courts with praise. You enter His gates with thanksgiving. Perhaps these are the gates into the court of the tabernacle. The first thing you see is the altar, and immediately you think of Jesus dying for our sins. Then you see the brass basin, which is where the priests had to wash their feet. Then you go into the first chamber, and on the left, you see the golden lampstand, which represents the church. The priest's job was to fill the lamps with oil, which represents the Spirit.

As I was going through these disciplines, the neat thing was I didn't have the opportunity to have my laptop in front of me or to read anything that had been printed out because I'm driving. It was all from memory. It was all from having done this for over a year now, and scriptures kept coming to my mind. The first one that came to my mind was 1 John 5:5-8.

"Jesus is the Son of God. This is He that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ, not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. And the Spirit is the One Who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three that testify, the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree."

Now that was awesome to me because I saw in that one passage, the altar, the basin, and the golden lamp-stand as the blood and the water and the Spirit. Then two other verses came to mind, 2 Corinthians 13:14. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." This is the Trinity.

Now you probably know that there's not one magnificent Trinity verse in the Bible. If you read the Bible enough, you'll see the Trinity, and this I think one of the better verses that captures Jesus, God, and the Spirit, the three.

There's another verse of 1 Thessalonians 5:23, "May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." It's not as clear as 2 Corinthians 13.

We have a spirit, a soul, and a body, and I've been thinking about how we're supposed to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, strength. There are these different components, but I hadn't put them together with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit before.

However I need to go back to my driving before I go off on a tangent. As I'm driving, I'm wanting to do my spiritual discipline. I'm wanting to come into his presence with singing, etc. I started by making a joyful shout. I followed it up by singing hymns, which I've memorized. I then went through giving thanks and praising His name. Then I went to these next three, the blood, the water, and the spirit.

I'm telling you this because we're in the middle of our study on the Holy Spirit, and it just went from being head knowledge, you might say, or even spiritual knowledge, to fodder for prayer. Now, that might be the title of this podcast. I'm not sure.

I have read these passages so many times in these disciplines. I have 17 studies which I read through, and I cycle through them. As I do, the words are not just words. They're not liturgy. They're not readings. They are is the inspired Words of God.

The more that I read them, the more they get inside of me. I don't know how to describe it, but I'm also getting inside of them, and they're becoming a part of my prayer life. This is how I think we need to be praying, since if it is scriptural it is true and according to His will.

I'm going to touch on a couple of passages that were quickened to me as I was praying, and I'm going to do it in the order that God revealed them to me because it was the Spirit which we've been studying now for about eight podcasts.

When I came to considering the Spirit, all of a sudden I started not just praying God fill your church with your Good Spirit because the lamp stand is the church and fill her up so that her light shines. That's why they filled up these lamps so that there was a light shining, and what was the light to be doing and all these things.

Instead of just reading through these passages, I began to pray them and see if I can explain this. I don't know how well a job I'm doing on this. As I am praying for the church, immediately I thought of Ephesians 5:18, "Be filled with the Spirit, and John 4, "True worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth."

I prayed, "God, fill us, because I'm a part of the church. I say, fill us with Your Spirit. Help us to worship You in Spirit and in truth. And help us to die to ourselves. Help us to learn to say yes to Jesus and no to ourselves. Help us to take up our cross.

On our last podcast we considered that Jesus, by the power of the eternal Spirit, offered Himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. So I prayed, "Holy Spirit, help us to die to ourselves, help us to live to You." I can continue on this vein as I pray for the church. "The Holy Spirit has made you overseers to care for the church of God," this is Acts 20:28, "Father, fill Your leaders with Your Spirit."

As I was driving back, I chose back roads and was passing churches in session, as this was Sunday morning. I started praying for these churches, "And bless us, Spirit of God, because you're the one that made us overseers."

Then I thought of Romans 5:5, "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" and I prayed, "Father, help us to take in your love. Spirit of God. Be poured into our hearts so we can comprehend Your love in a new way."

John 13 says, "A new commandment I give to you that you love one another just as I have loved you. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."

This is the reason why we need to love each other. Not just so we can love each other, which is the correct thing to do, and is good in and of itself, but so that we can be an example, we can be a light. Light is tied in with the golden lamp-stand. Matthew 5:14-16 says, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Who's in the house, the first room in the tabernacle? These are the 12 tribes lying on the table as the shewbread. The Spirit is given to us so that we can love each other, and as we love each other, we can be a light. I also know that I can't love one another until I've first been loved by God. That's the Spirit of God that helps me to love and receive His love so then I can give it out.

It was these verses on the Spirit that just started pouring through me as I was praying, and I went, "Oh, this is why I'm studying the scripture so much. It's a part of me now, and I can pray it and apply it."

Let me go back to the first one, the blood, the altar. Exodus 29 says, and this is review for those of you that have been listening, "This is what you shall offer on the altar, two one-year-old lambs each day, continually. The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight."

Then Hebrews 10, "Our high priest offered Himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time." For by that one offering, he forever made perfect those who are being made holy. Hebrews 13:12, "Jesus suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood." Hebrews 10:10, "God's will for us was to be made holy by the sacrifice of the Body of Jesus Christ once for all time."

As I have read these scriptures over and over, now I'm able to pray for the church. "Thank You, Father, for that single sacrifice for sins that makes us perfect. Thank You that You have sanctified us through Your blood. Thank You that You've made us holy by the sacrifice of Your Son. Thank You that You've freed us from our sins by shedding Your blood for us," Revelation 5.

Instead of simply recognizing the altar, I now ask God to cleanse us by His blood.

Then I consider the water, Exodus 30, "You shall also make a basin of bronze with its stand of bronze for washing. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, with which Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet when they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister."

I recall John 17:17, "Sanctify them in the truth. Your word is truth." And John 15:3, "You are clean because of the Word that I have spoken to you." These passages precede Ephesians 5:25–27, "Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her that He might sanctify her. Having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

In Titus 3, "When the goodness and loving kindness of God, our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our Savior."

I had an awesome time in the car with no time limitations. I had a four and a half hour drive. I prayed and I sang and I believed and I was trying to take notes but I couldn't because I was driving. It was a rich time with God.

It was a result of reading through these passages many times and applying them through prayer for the church. Then, of course, I went through and I bound the strong man, I blessed the church, and blessed God himself. It was awesome.

There you go. That was my weekend. I felt like it was a compilation of reading the scripture and then the Holy Spirit, Who we've been studying, showing me how to apply what I've been learning in my mind and in my heart, through my prayers.

Scott: Rock on, man. That's very cool.

Steve: It was cool. See, this is what I'm really convinced is what God designed us to be. God designed us to be worshipping warriors. He designed us to be priests. Nobody can stop me. I shouldn't put it that way, but you know what I'm saying?

Scott: Mm-hmm.

Steve: I mean, because these things are in my heart and they could be making laws that you can't quote Scripture and you can't pray and all this and that, but now it's inside. It's part of me now. If I was sitting in a cell, I'd be able to sing hymns. I'd be able to believe. I'd be able to apply these Scriptures and continue to do my job. This is my job. This is the work of God that you believe the Bible says.

Scott: You're doing the Will of God as it says in 1st Thessalonians 5:16–18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances."

Steve: Amen.

Scott: For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." It's just pouring out of you now. I'm a witness to that, man. You're doing it. I don't do that on car trips very well. I'll pray for a little bit and then I'm white-knuckling it or listening to music or something, but maybe I'll get there.

Steve: No, let me explain. I think one reason I never did this in the past was I had four kids. My wife and I were trying to manage the kids and keep everybody happy and we're wondering where we're going to eat our next meal.

I know this is unrealistic for many people, but sometimes I even do what I call the shortcut or the short form. I sing the doxology and say the Lord's Prayer because the doxology incorporates coming into His presence with singing. You're giving thanks. You're praising His name.

Then I recite the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name," so we're praising His name. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. Deliver us from evil." We're binding the strong man and we're worshipping God. I call that my Cliff Notes version.

Steve: I'm older and I don't have children climbing all over me and telling me that we need to stop and go wee-wee, and I'm hungry, and how much further and all that. Lots of grace for those of you that are in that camp, but I'm older now and I've got some time to myself.

This weekend, I will be driving all the way New England. I'm going to have a lot more prayer time and worship time in the car because now I think it's 400 miles each way.

Scott: Nice.

Steve: Let's pray. Father, thank You that we're not just sitting here reading scriptures and talking about things that while profitable and spiritual and inspired, that's not the end. Thank You that all these things that we've been learning, we've been storing up just like these vessels of oil, just like these versions in Matthew 25, that they were storing up the golden oil.

I pray that you help us to continue to store up your oil and to not only read your Word, but let your Word dwell in us richly, as it says in the Bible. Let it become a part of our very being so that it just pours forth in ways that we don't even understand.

Thank You for being with me coming home and driving down and back, and thank You for what you taught me today. I thank You for Your Word. It's profitable, living, active, and it's just awesome. I worship You because You are the one who's awesome and You are the one that's worthy of our worship, in Jesus' name.

Let everybody listening today get a fresh draft of living water, living faith, living encouragement, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@Gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.