

The Holy Spirit and Prayer

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"- but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

I Corinthians 2: 9, 10&12

We live in a world where communication is flawed. Ever try to communicate something to your spouse only to have them do the opposite? Sure you have. Do you have trouble at the workplace with communication from management? I'm sure you do. Ever have problems with miscommunication with your children or in-laws or even your pastor? Sure you have. I find my wife and I seem to speak different languages at times. She will tell you I'm just not listening. ☺ The truth is, I sometimes listen from my perspective. Do you think we all may do that with the Lord too?

I know that the Lord wants to tell me things and answer questions that I have, but I also know that I listen with an earthly perspective. How can I help it; I live in this world. Paul says to the Corinthian church, "For though we live in this world we do not wage war as the world does" (II Cor. 10:3). Paul was talking about a war that goes on between Christians and our adversary. This war cannot be fought by using man's techniques and strategies. The same is true of heavenly communication. God wants to talk to you and communicate things to you that you ask him about or that you need to know. God also wants have an ongoing relationship with you. He wants to stick closer than a brother. He wants to have fun with you. He wants to love you. He wants to leave lasting impressions deep in your soul that will bring life to you in the middle of this messy world. The problem is that we get this communication from him but are not hearing his language. We cannot listen with worldly ears and perspectives.

Jesus prayed to the Father, "My prayer is not that you would take them out of the world but that you would protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world even as I am not of it" (John 17:15 & 16). What a revelation. We are not of this world even as Jesus was not and is not. Therefore we cannot listen to God from a worldly mindset. This is wild and crazy, but the Holy Spirit, who is the communicator of the Godhead; speaks to us in a different language than English-speaking people do. No, I am not just talking about tongues. That is true, though. He does know all the different tongues of men and angels, but I am talking about a heavenly language that reveals what no eye has seen, no ear has heard and no mind has conceived. I'm talking about a language that takes the deep things of God and makes them Known, capital K, to you. Why do you and I miss most of it? It is how we listen. Communication is not just about the impartation of the speaker. It is also about the receptors of the hearer. God's words are perfectly communicated. But his words are not perfectly received. I'm going to stop here, but meditate on Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:17-19 and see if you can identify Holy Spirit receptors and put them to good use. You will have the most fulfilling life if you can receive the communications of God.