

How to Use Your Authority

A lot of people think prayer works by how they feel.

“Well, I just don’t feel like praying today, or I started praying and I didn’t feel anything, so I guess it didn’t do any good.”

Feelings belong to the natural realm – real prayer belongs to the spiritual realm. If you wait until you feel something, you’re going to live up one day and down the next.

**Feelings change like the weather!
But the Word of God NEVER changes!**

Jesus said: “My words shall not pass away.” Matt 24:35

The Father has said: “I am the Lord and I change not.” Mal. 3:6-8

So, we don’t come to God on the basis of our feelings – we come on the basis of faith: Heb. 11:6 “It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.”

The Bible also says: “We walk by faith and not by sight.” 2Cor 5:7

So, If we don’t walk by sight, we can’t walk by feelings either.

Faith is not a feeling; faith is believing God’s Word is true because God said it.

So, you don’t pray just to feel better, you pray because God told you to pray.

Pray is how we cooperate with Him, we come into fellowship & partnership with Him..

Excuses people use to not pray:

- I can’t pray because my mind always wanders and I can’t focus.
- I feel dry no. interest to pray

You’re not the first one that your flesh doesn’t want to pray – it’s a common battle all have against our flesh man.

But your spirit can pray because your spirit is born of God.

If you learn this, you can stop being defeated by dryness.

You’ll stop being interrupted by scattered thoughts.

You must stop letting your body boss you around and take authority over your flesh.

Prayer is not something you do only when it's easy, because prayer is fellowship with the Lord; the enemy knows if he can keep you out of that fellowship by you focusing on your feelings, he can keep you weak.

But he can't keep you weak if you'll learn to say, I'm not moved by what I feel but I'm moved by what I believe and I believe God.

So, whenever you feel nothing in prayer – don't quit – you need to learn to press into prayer.

That's the signal to step out of the natural and step into the Spirit.

The Father said: "If you draw near to Me, I will draw near to you." James 5:8

We draw near to God by faith and pray until the Spirit takes hold of us and victory comes up on the inside.

Rom 10:17 "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

- This speaks of a continual hearing of Truth through God's Word.

Praying when there are times when you feel nothing – we must understand what God's Word has to say:

Rom 8:26-27 "The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*."

- It does not say you will always know what to pray for.
- There are times you don't know what you ought to pray for.
- There are many times when your mind can't figure out what to do or the answer to your dilemma.
- You don't have enough information, or the enemy has confused you.
- But Holy Spirit is NEVER confused!

"He helps our infirmities" – Infirmities is not just sickness, it's also our human weakness, limitations, when you come to the end of yourself – our humanness!

When we are weak, feel dry, and don't know what to say, that's not proof prayer won't work, that's the very moment this scripture was written for.

1Cor 14:4 Paul is teaching us about prayer in tongues, the Spirit language:

“He who speaks in a tongue **edifies** himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”

“**Edifies**” = means “to build up, to charge up.”

To build up something, you add little by little; to build up your spirit – you build it up prayer by prayer.

**Praying in tongues is not a take it or leave it issue,
its God way of strengthening your inner man!**

It does not say that he that speaks in an unknown tongue feels edified, it says he edifies himself.

Whether one feels it or not, something is happening in your spirit because the Word says so.

If we take God at His Word, we'll quit looking for feelings as proof and will start believing the Bible as proof.

Jude v. 20 - “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit...”

- This is God's Word telling us how to get built up on faith.
- Faith doesn't just fall on you from nowhere, you build yourself up by praying in the Holy Spirit.

When you put these scriptures together, here's what we get:

- The Spirit helps you when you're weak,
- Praying in tongues builds you up,
- This kind of prayer strengthens your faith.

If you start out praying feeling nothing, that's ok, because you're not basing it on feelings.

The Word says the Spirit helps, the Word says tongues edifies, you are building yourself up in the Holy Spirit.

The devil can't stop a believer who knows what belongs to him in Christ.

We can't be moved by our feelings because God has already made provision for the times we don't want to pray – for the times we don't feel strong – for the times we feel dry.

We're not helpless because the Spirit is sent to help us, we're not waiting on some outside sign, we have the Greater One on the inside.

As you listen to the Word instead of your flesh, you will learn how to pray into victory.

Rom 8:26 If you get this truth, it will change the way you pray.

“Likewise, the Spirit **helps** our infirmities.”

Helps this does not mean the Holy Spirit does everything while we’re passive – The Spirit of God doesn’t take your place; He takes His place alongside with you - **partnership**.

Helps [Greek] means = “To hold together with you against.”

The Holy Spirit doesn’t do the praying without you and doesn’t grab hold by Himself while you do nothing.

He takes hold **together** with you against whatever is resisting you!

This is why when you understand this, you won’t fall apart when you feel weak.

You come to the end of yourself, but you know you’re not alone – The Greater One is living in you.

1John 4:4 “Greater is HE that is in you than he that is in the world.”

Being weak is not the end of prayer – it’s the doorway into the Spirits help!

When you don’t have the whole picture, or your body is tired, your mind is confused, you can pray in the Spirit because the Spirit has access to God.

The Spirit of God who knows the mind of God lives in you.

“Spirit makes intercession with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

- The Spirit is not groaning while you sit quietly, it means HE moves through you in a way your natural language cannot express.
- It can come out as a deep burden in your spirit or other times as praying in tongues-prayer language.

The Spirit helps our infirmities; but not our laziness or unbelief – HE helps our weakness. There’s a difference:

- **Infirmity** is when you’ve done what you know to do and come to the end of yourself.
- You’ve prayed all you know to pray, you’ve stood on the Word as best you can; and you still don’t know what to do next.
- That’s when this scripture kicks in – if you will yield to Him, He’ll carry you into the perfect will of God.

v. 27 – “He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

- When you pray in the Spirit, you are not praying empty, selfish, foolish, misled prayers.
- You are praying in the middle of God’s will and plans though your mind doesn’t know it.

- Praying in tongues is a divine advantage because your mind may say: Nothing is happening, your feelings may say: this is dry, your body may say quit.:
- But don't because the Holy Spirit is helping you pray through to the will of God.

So, don't judge prayer by your senses – you judge prayer by the Word.

The Word says the Holy Spirit takes hold **together with you against**.

- The moment you open your mouth in faith, especially in tongues, you are no longer working alone – heaven is cooperating with you – the Helper is engaged – the Spirit of God is pushing against what you could not push against by yourself.

There's a battle every time you start to pray & it's not God resisting you, it's your flesh which is the natural part of you that doesn't want to be quiet, doesn't want to be disciplined or led by the Spirit.

It's called the carnal mind not being subject to the will of God – Rom. 8:7 “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”

- Your flesh doesn't cooperate with spiritual things.
- Don't be surprised when you start to pray and your mind runs off to the grocery list, your cars maintenance, the bills need to be paid, or what someone said to you yesterday – or a multitude of distractions.
- Your body suddenly feels tired and your eyes get heavy, or your thoughts get scattered.
- That's not a sign you're failing, it's evidence you've stepped into spiritual territory, and the flesh is protesting because it wants to stay in control.

The mistake made here is in thinking that you're just not spiritual today, there's no anointing, you don't feel anything – so you quit!

The anointing is not a feeling, the Spirit of God is not a feeling, the Holy Spirit is a person who lives in you.

You feel dry because your flesh is trying to resist the flow of the Spirit.

When you pray in the Holy Spirit, you let your spirit take the lead, not your flesh.

The enemy will attack you with thoughts such as:

- This isn't doing any good.
- Nothing is changing.
- You're wasting your time.

Those are lies from the enemy!

You answer those lies the same way Jesus answered him: With the Word of God.

Jesus said: It is written,

You must say: It is written: the Spirit helps my infirmities.

It is written: He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself.

It is written: Building up yourselves, praying in the Holy Spirit.

Faith stands – it doesn't run when it feels nothing,
faith stands because God said something!

Luke 11:13- “If you then, being evil-natural, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”