

A GUIDE ON PRAYER

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FROM THE VICTORY GROUND

RIVA "GORGEOUS" H. RAMASOLA

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SEEDE

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/sēd/ noun: Old English spelling of seed; an individual, full of potential, in the Kingdom of God; also pertains to the ever-living Word of God

/sēd/ verb: the act of sowing; the process of being nurtured for growth; the reaping of fruits as shown by good works

seede is a ministry that encourages and engages individuals to their full potential as people of God, through the sharing of God's Word. The ministry provides a means to sow and be sown, grow and be nurtured, and ultimately show the fruits of their calling in God's Kingdom -- initially here on earth, and for all eternity in heaven.

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PROLOGUE

The very moment we believe in Jesus to be The Son of God sent to atone for the sins of humanity, we were brought onto victory ground as new creatures, born again of the Spirit.

This victory ground has nothing to do with all our "good" works before **and** even after we were born again.

Nothing at all.

Zero.

Nada.

Zilch.

Rather, it has everything to do with the one perfect redemptive work of Jesus, The Lamb of God, who paid for it with the shedding of His blood.

You, my friend, who believe in Jesus, stand on blood-bought victory ground permanently. No one can move you out of that position, not even yourself. The Father Himself will not move you out of it because if there is someone who knows how to truly honor the work of Jesus at the cross, it is Him who sent Him.

Many christians today pray "begging" prayers, betraying their ignorance of the ground they stand on. This is, in part, because the enemy has managed to veil the gospel of Christ from His church and sadly, in part, because religious ministers of the word have propagated this veiled gospel.

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Come to think of it. Every decent parent out there, saved or unsaved, would do everything to give his child a good life.

No decent parents would ever want their child to go hungry or naked, much less go sick so why do we believe preachers who go around presenting us a heavenly Father who wants His children begging in their prayers?

This is the kind of hypocrisy from religious ministers of the word who themselves want the best life for their children and who themselves cannot bear to see their children cry. **Yet** they present a heavenly Father no better than them.

This is what we call a religious assassination of the character of our God. There is no other way to put it with the way these preachers preach God's word, even quoting Jesus yet stabbing Him face to face by assassinating His character to His children nonetheless.

If you are one who prays "begging" prayers, let us help you approach your prayer life from victory ground and not as if you are working your way towards victory ground.

You, child of God, are already standing on VICTORY GROUND.

This literature you are reading is a compilation of scripture alongside a prayer guide based on the aforementioned scripture. This is not exhaustive and should not replace your personal immersion in the Word of God itself -- the bible.

For clarity, the prayers provided are not meant to be mindlessly memorized and repeated as a mystical formula of words to move God. These are simply guides on how one can take scripture and personalize it in prayer.

We don't believe one's eloquence in prayer moves and changes God's heart. His heart is already for you. He Himself moved Himself to send His Son for you.

What we do believe is that prayers move our hearts. We believe that the degree to which prayers are aligned with the truth of scripture and the nature of our Father in heaven change us on the inside, making us better receivers of what He has already moved and released to bless us with.

Our part is to take Him for His Word and echo it in our prayers.

Let's begin.

NOTE: Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless stated otherwise. Where scripture quotes Jesus, His words are in **RED**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Riva H. Ramasola". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Riva "Gorgeous" H. Ramasola

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I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with
the understanding.

1 Corinthians 14:16

PRAYING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING

1.

ON HEALING

SURELY BY HIS STRIPES

Surely He has borne our sicknesses
And carried our pains;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The punishment for our well-being *was* upon Him,
And **by His stripes, we are healed.**

[Isaiah 53:4-5, MODIFIED, *emphasis mine*]

"HEALING IS **BY** JESUS' STRIPES."

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, because You bore my sicknesses (*cancer / tumor / blood disease / joint conditions, etc.*) and died with them. I reject them from my body and I declare my body restored, healed and healthy by Your stripes. Thank You, Jesus. Amen!

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
[2 Corinthians 5:21, *emphasis mine*]

**"YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS
BECAUSE YOU ARE IN JESUS."**

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, because of Your death, burial and resurrection, You made me the righteousness of God in You, Lord, and because You are my righteousness, Jesus, I come boldly to the throne of grace and mercy to receive lasting divine healing.

By faith, I receive total healing from You. By Your righteousness imputed on me, Jesus, I come into agreement with Your word that by Your stripes, I am healed. Thank You, Jesus. Amen!

LOOSED FROM INFIRMITY

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise *herself* up.

But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to Him and said to her, "**Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.**"

And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

[Luke 13:10-13, *emphasis mine*]

"JESUS HAS **LOOSED** YOU FROM INFIRMITY."

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, if You can do it to the woman in Luke's account, You can do it for me. Your word says that if I confess with my mouth and believe in You, then I will be healed. So Jesus, in Your name, I declare myself loosed from infirmity, made straight and whole in the name of Jesus. Thank You, Jesus. Amen!

AS HE IS

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world.**

[1 John 4:17, *emphasis mine*]

"JESUS IS YOUR IDENTITY."

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, as You are healthy, so am I in this world.

Jesus, as You are well, so am I in this world.

Jesus, as You are whole and eternally young, so am I in this world.

Jesus, as You are void of sicknesses and pains, so am I in this world.

Amen!

WILLING COMPASSION

Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."

Then **Jesus, moved with compassion**, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, "**I am willing; be cleansed.**"

As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left Him, and he was cleansed. [Mark 1:40-42, *emphasis mine*]

"JESUS **HAS** COMPASSION AND **IS** WILLING."

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, thank You that Your heart is for me and it is always full of compassion for me. I know and believe, Lord, that You are willing, even more than willing, for me to be cleansed, healed and made whole. I receive Your healing touch. I receive my total healing and cleansing from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet. Thank You, Jesus. Amen!

EVER-PRESENT PRESENCE

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, **"I will never leave you nor forsake you."**
[Hebrews 13:5, *emphasis mine*]

And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.
[Romans 8:28, *emphasis mine*]

**"YOU WILL NEVER EVER BE
ABANDONED BY GOD."**

PRAYER:

Abba Father, Thank You that despite my shortcomings or any sinful actions on my part, You never abandon me. Thank You that the only condition of Your ever-present presence in my life is the perfect finished redemptive work of Jesus at the cross in my behalf.

And because Your presence will never be taken away from me, all things will work together for my good. Amen!

UNTROUBLED HEART

PeaCe I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**"
[John 14:27, *emphasis mine*]

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil;**
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
[Psalm 23:4, *emphasis mine*]

"JESUS NEVER WANTS YOU TROUBLED NOR AFRAID."

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, though circumstance may look bleak, I acknowledge it as a fact but even more, I stand in the unchangeable truth of Your Word that says You are my Good Shepherd and because You are, I let not my heart be troubled neither afraid. I put my trust in You, Jesus. Amen!

YOU ARE CARED FOR

Casting all your care upon Him,
for He cares for you.
[1 Peter 5:7, *emphasis mine*]

"GOD CARES FOR YOU."

PRAYER:

Abba Father, I am concerned about *(tell Him your concerns and every bit of detail you care for. He doesn't get bored with your voice. No detail is insignificant for Him so tell it all to Him. He loves it when you unburden all to Him)*.

I know and believe that whatever concerns or worries me, You want to take care of it for me so, Father, I cast all of these into Your capable hands and I rest knowing You care for me more than I want You to care for me. Thank You, Father, that You love me. Amen!

9.

ON LIFE OVERALL

A BRIGHT TOMORROW

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, **thoughts of peace and not of evil**, to give you **a future and a hope**.
[Jeremiah 29:11, *emphasis mine*]

**"THE LORD HAS SOMETHING
AMAZING FOR YOU."**

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, oh how wonderful it is to be alive in You. I know and believe You have something amazing for me. Direct my steps, Lord, towards what You have already laid out for me to receive and enjoy. Thank You, Jesus, that You love me. Amen!

PURSUED BY BLESSINGS

Surely goodness and mercy shall pursue me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

[Psalm 23:6, MODIFIED, *emphasis mine*]

But seek first the kingdom of God and His
righteousness, and **all these things shall be added to
you.**"
[Matthew 6:33, *emphasis mine*]

"THE LORD MAKES YOU A BLESSING MAGNET."

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, thank You that as I continue to follow You and keep my eyes on You, You make all things added unto me. You make goodness, mercy and blessings come upon me as surely as rain falls to the ground. I receive it all, Lord. Thank You, Jesus. Amen!

FEARED BY THE ENEMY

A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.
[Psalm 91:7, *emphasis mine*]

Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and
that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
[1 Corinthians 3:16, *emphasis mine*]

You are of God, little children, and have overcome
them, because **He who is in you is greater than he
who is in the world.**
[1 John 4:4, *emphasis mine*]

**"THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU
SCARES THE ENEMY."**

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, thank You that You have entrusted me to the Holy Spirit who has made me His temple. I need not be afraid of the enemy because he is afraid of me. Amen!

NO WEAPON

No weapon formed against you shall prosper,
And every tongue *which* rises against you in
judgment you shall condemn.
This *is* the heritage of the servants of the Lord,
And **their righteousness is from Me,**" says the Lord.
[Isaiah 54:17, *emphasis mine*]

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,
having **put on the breastplate of righteousness,**
[Ephesians 6:14, *emphasis mine*]

**"THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF
JESUS PROTECTS YOU."**

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, thank You that You have clothed me with Your robe of righteousness that is now my breastplate of righteousness protecting me from the weapon of lies and deceptive accusations of the enemy. Thank You, Jesus, that I am the righteousness of God in You, Lord. Amen!

13.

ON SAFETY AND PROTECTION

FAMILY PROTECTOR

No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
[Psalm 91:10, *emphasis mine*]

So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.**"
[Acts 16:31, *emphasis mine*]

**"JESUS PROTECTS YOUR
FAMILY."**

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, thank You that You not only keep me safe and protected but my family and loved ones, too. Thank You, Lord, that not only do You protect us but our homes, too. Amen!

DIVINE SHIELD

After these things the **word of the Lord** came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram, **I am your shield**, your exceedingly great reward."
[Genesis 15:1, *emphasis mine*]

Above all, taking **the shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
[Ephesians 6:16, *emphasis mine*]

"JESUS IS YOUR SHIELD OF FAITH."

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, thank You that though my faith wavers, Your faith do not. Not my faithfulness but Your faithfulness, Lord, shields me from the evil schemes of the enemy. Thank You that because Your faith never wavers, I am always protected in You. Thank You, Jesus. Amen!

DOUBLY HELD ON TO

And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; **neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.** My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch *them* out of My**

Father's hand."

[John 10:28-29, *emphasis mine*]

**"THE FATHER'S HAND AND
THE SON'S HAND.
BOTH ARE HOLDING YOU."**

PRAYER:

Abba Father, thank You that You continue to hold on to me as no other loving Father does.

Lord Jesus, thank You that in Your hand and in the Father's hand, I am doubly divinely protected and no one can snatch me out. I am safe, secure and protected. Amen!

What is the conclusion then? I will
pray with the spirit, and I will
also pray with the understanding.

I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with
the understanding.

1 Corinthians 14:16

PRAYING WITH THE SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

If you're born again and you haven't received the gift of tongues, you're missing out on your prayer life. Please know this is a gift available to all born again children of God.

Now, listen.

Let's say you know someone who can pray perfect prayers **every. single. time** and who is more than willing to pray for you **every. single. time** you need prayers prayed for you. Would you not ask this person to pray for you all the time every time you take hold of him?

I certainly would, **IF** this person exists **BUT** this person does not exist.

No human being on his own can pray perfect prayers every single time. We all pray amiss. In fact, we cannot pray perfect prayers because we don't see all, hear all, know all.

But there is One. In every born again child of God, there is One abiding presence who:

sees all,

hears all,

knows all, and get this...

prays **perfect** prayers **every. single. time...**

and what's more...

He is **more than willing** to pray for you **every. single. time.**

If you let Him.

*D*o you not know that *you are the temple of God* and that *the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

1 Corinthians 3:16

TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit, The Spirit of the Risen King Jesus dwells in every born again child of God permanently.

Do you know that, unlike any of us who believe in Jesus, the great men and women in the Old Testament do not have the privilege of hosting the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in them?

None of them can host the Holy Spirit permanently because Jesus has not yet died and risen from the dead. Not even David of whom God says is a man after God's own heart. It was only through the death and resurrection of Jesus could the Holy Spirit be given to anyone who believes in Him.

***B**ut this He [Jesus] spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

John 7:39, emphasis mine

It was impossible for the Holy Spirit to feel at home in anyone before Jesus rose from the dead because it was only through the perfect atoning redemptive work of Jesus on the

cross that anyone could be saved and born again into righteousness by believing in Him.

This is why in Psalm 51:11, the man after God's own heart, David says, "*Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.*"

In the old testament, the Spirit of the Lord departs anyone rejected by God.

David knows what happens to a man when the Spirit of the Lord departs. He saw what the absence of the Spirit of the Lord did to his predecessor, Saul.

By the way, if you've been taught to pray Psalm 51:11 as David did, I am here to tell you that that verse do not apply to born again believers today. Why?

Because Jesus had been glorified. Hallelujah!

And in the glorification of Jesus through His death, burial and resurrection, the gift of righteousness was made available and given to those who believe in Him.

[Jesus] who was delivered up because of our offences; and was raised up because of our being declared righteous.

Romans 4:25, YLT, emphasis mine

Look, the reason why Jesus was raised from the dead was not because He is the Son of God. He always was, is and always will be.

Romans 4:25 tells us that the reason Jesus was raised from the dead is we have been declared righteous because He did a perfect work at the cross. His sacrifice was so perfect; it fulfilled everything that was required to be fulfilled (even more) to fully atone for our sins.

The moment you believe in Jesus, your old unrighteous spirit passed away and you were born again in the Spirit as a new creation, as a righteous spirit.

*T*herefore, if anyone is *in Christ, he is a new creation*; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

*F*or He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that *we might become the righteousness of God in Him*.

2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

So now that you have been born again as a righteous spirit, the Holy Spirit feels at home to indwell your body as His temple; to dwell with you in your body.

Permanently.
Eternally.

This is why Paul wrote this revelation in a query to the church in Corinth to let them know what they have been made to become, now that they are in Christ:

Do you not know that *you are the temple of God* and that *the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

1 Corinthians 3:16

This is also why John wrote in his first epistle:

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because *He who is in you* is greater than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

"He who is in you" referring to the Holy Spirit, of course.

James also testified of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us in his epistle:

*O*r do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "*The Spirit who dwells in us* yearns jealously?"

James 4:5

Isn't that amazing? The Holy Spirit is in you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You are the temple of The Holy Spirit.

Oh, Hallelujah!

SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Unlike David, we need not worry about the Holy Spirit leaving. Why?

Paul tells us why in his epistle to the Ephesians.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. *When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,*

Who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14, NIV

In other words, God Himself sealed you with a seal and this seal is no ordinary seal but the Holy Spirit Himself.

Hallelujah!

Friend, you are marked for life. Forget that.

You are marked for all eternity with the Holy Spirit.

Because, did you catch the next verse?

It says the Holy Spirit is a deposit which guarantees until the redemption of those who are God's possession.

Think of it this way.

When you shop online at the Walmart website (*free ad for Walmart, not that they need it*), you have the option of having your items delivered to your doorstep **or** of you picking up your items at your preferred store location.

Whichever delivery method you choose, (*doorstep delivery or store pick-up*), the items are officially yours because you already paid for them.

At the Walmart warehouse or store inventory, your items already have a tag on them that marks them as yours.

It's just a matter of time before the items are physically in your hands.

When Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross, you have been paid for. In fact, Jesus is an overpayment for you which means, if truth be told, you have been overpaid for.

However, unlike the items at Walmart, you have free will, which means, if you were a store item *(and we know you are not but let's just pretend you are as this is the best way I know how to explain all this)*, you can choose not to be labeled for delivery or pickup. You can choose to remain as an item for sale. You can choose to stay at the warehouse or store inventory until you expire.

This is how much God respects your free will and it is important to note this because our God -- The Father, The Son and The Spirit are One.

Now, remember your free will is a gift from God. It wasn't even yours to begin with. It was given to you. Are you seeing the graciousness of our God?

God so loves you and His love for you will not allow Him to violate your free will. He is a gentleman. Our God -- The Father, The Son and The Spirit are One. Our God is a gentleman.

What the Father respects, the Son respects and so does the Holy Spirit. God leaves the choice to you.

So, let's say, as a store item with free will, you chose to be bought. You chose to believe in Jesus to get out of the warehouse. Immediately, you get marked and sealed with the Holy Spirit while you are still at the warehouse.

You have now become what Ephesians 1:14 calls "God's possession".

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It is just a matter of time before you are "physically" with Him.

Now get this.

For the delivery method, God chose the option to pick you up Himself.

He doesn't leave you to any delivery man's hands who won't treasure you as much as He does. He is passionate about you and doesn't want you tampered with (*except that which you yourself cause yourself to be tampered with through a bad use of free will*)

He chooses to pick you up Himself.

Jesus said:

M *y Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?*

A *nd if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

John 14:2-3, NIV

The first coming of Jesus was to pay for you. He is coming back to take you to be "physically" with Him.

In the mean time, you have been marked and sealed to be His own forever and the seal is the Holy Spirit Himself who dwells in you.

The same seal that marks you to be God's very own dwells in you to carry out the will of God for you, in you and through you.

The same seal that marks you to be God's very own dwells in you to be with you wherever you go and to do what God wants to do for you as you give Him permission.

This is why God made a powerful promise in Hebrews.

*L*et your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. *For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Hebrews 13:5

Some christians are baffled by this "never leaving nor forsaking" business but this is exactly what we have just been

speaking about -- God entrusting us with His Holy Spirit until He comes back to receive us unto Him.

And because we have His Holy Spirit, we then can say boldly like what the Spirit-inspired human author of Hebrews wrote in the next verse:

So we may boldly say:
“*The Lord is my helper;*
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?”

Hebrews 13:6

And don't think our God is only concerned about certain specific things in life. Do you notice that the verse does not put specifics on what The Lord is our helper of?

The Holy Spirit left it unspecified because The Lord is our helper in everything, literally **every. single. thing** even what we should pray for when scripture escapes our mind, when words escape us and we have nothing but a groan.

*L*ikewise 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.

Romans 8:26

GIFT OF TONGUES

Remember what I said previously about no human being on his own being able to pray perfect prayers every single time?

It's absolutely true.

This is why The Lord Himself sent us what He says is another Helper.

*A*nd I will pray the Father, and He will give you *another Helper*, that He may *abide with you forever--*

*T*he Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for *He dwells with you and will be in you.*"

John 14:16-17

The word "another" where Jesus said "another Helper" is the Greek word "allos".

The Greek word ἄλλος ("allos") is tagged under Strong's concordance #243.

The word carries with it the idea of being another of the same kind. One which is similar and the same but differs in the manner of operating and ministering.

It's like Jesus is saying One besides Him but One just like Him. One who will do in His physical absence what He would do if He was physically present. One who, in His physical absence, will continue what He has begun when He physically walked the earth.

In short, the same exact as Jesus in a different form.
As The Lord is our Helper so is The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is The One of whom I spoke of previously.

The One abiding in every born again child of God who:

sees all,

hears all,

knows all,

prays **perfect** prayers **every. single. time...**

and

is **more than willing** to pray perfect prayers for you **every. single. time.**

IF you let Him...because remember He is a gentleman and He respects your free will.

So, friend, if you have not received the gift of tongues whereby you give The Holy Spirit permission to pray perfect prayers for you, can I invite you to receive it today?

There is One who abides in you who will never leave you nor forsake you who will help you in everything to the degree that you allow Him to, even in the what and the how of praying.

Jesus has been glorified. The Holy Spirit and the gifts that come with Him are just waiting to be received. He will not force them on you.

The Holy Spirit is a gentleman. He waits to be received. He waits for His gifts to be received. Will you receive it from Him?

If you are ready to receive the gift of tongues, you can pray the simple prayer below. After which, you just need to open your mouth and let whatever syllable or word rises from inside you to be spoken out.

Holy Spirit, because Jesus has been glorified and I have been made righteous by the sacrifice of the shedding of the blood and death of Jesus, I receive you, too. Baptize me. I receive the gift of tongues. Amen!

Now start speaking. Don't worry about not understanding the words you are speaking. Trust and believe that the Holy Spirit are giving you the utterance of perfect prayers.

ABOUT BENEFITS

I know some of you might think that the only benefit you get out of praying in tongues is being able to pray perfect prayers but that's not all there is to it.

As a matter of fact, I know for sure I cannot itemize every single benefit the children of God can get out of praying in tongues. I do not think anyone can ever do so but what I do know for sure is that it has health benefits.

I am serious.
Health benefits.

And in a second, I'll give you scriptures that teach so but first, I want to address the religious minds reading this and going "we shouldn't be doing things to benefit us."

Now, I have met ministers who have told believers to "check their hearts" and to "examine their motives" for going to church. They go as far as saying "if you are just going to church to find partners" or "if you are just going to church to ask God for blessings instead of worshipping God" then you better not go to church because that is not what church is.

Such self-righteous religious hypocrites!

I question whether they read their bibles and if they do, I question whether they understand.

Because the word of God Himself says never to forget all His benefits.

Bless, the Lord, O my soul,
And *forget not all His benefits.*

Psalm 103:2

In other words, as you bless the Lord, do not forget the benefits He has for blessing Him.

Also, The Lord Himself calls Himself as an exceedingly great reward.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. *I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.*"

Genesis 15:1

If we take a look at the original text for the word "reward", it is the Hebrew word "sakar".

The Hebrew word שָׂכַר ("sakar") is tagged under Strong's concordance #7939.

The word carries with it the idea of wages or payment or salary for hired work. In fact, in the 28 times it is mentioned in the bible, 6 times is it used as wages and 9 times is it used as hire.

If that's not enough scriptural evidence of the truth, another place in the word of God strongly suggests (even imposes) to believe God to be a rewarder.

B**ut without faith it is impossible to please Him, for **he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

In other words, when you come to God like when you are coming to church because you are diligently seeking Him, He wants you to believe that He is your rewarder.

By the way, for ministers who tell believers not to go to church if they are only going to find partners, where do you want them to find their future husbands or wives? In bars? In disco houses? Think about what you are suggesting for your

people to do. Your self-righteous religious hypocrisy is driving your people away from the house of God.

You preach the good news. You preach the gospel. You preach Christ crucified and resurrected and let God search the hearts of His people and transform them with the good news preached through you. Stop killing your people with your pharisaical notions.

And if you are a true follower of Jesus, even Jesus Himself is reward-oriented.

*L*ooking unto *Jesus*, the author and the finisher of our faith, *who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Hebrews 12:2

Jesus endured the cross because His reward was the joy of having you for all eternity.

It was never the nails that kept Him on that cross. What are nails compared to the hands of He who flung the entire universe in its place?

His love for you kept Him on that cross.

His joy of having you after enduring the cross kept Him on that cross.

The reward of having you made Him endure that cross in your behalf.

Now, I am not telling you to run for the rewards and the benefits instead of the exceeding great Reward Himself. I am simply pointing out that just as we cannot separate love from God because God is love, we cannot separate the rewards and the benefits from the Rewarder and the Benefactor Himself.

Let's not disqualify people from going to church simply because they want to receive from Him. God Himself wants to give to His children. Who are we to stop anyone from drawing near to God for their needs?

Let's let God sort out the motives of people and examine them on the inside.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;

Psalm 139:23

It says for God to search the heart, not men.

HEALTH BENEFITS OF PRAYING IN TONGUES

So, coming back to the health benefits of praying in tongues. Paul wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to the church in Corinth:

H

e who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

1 Corinthians 14:4

The word "edifies" is the Greek word "oikodomeō".

The Greek word οἰκοδομέω ("oikodomeō") is tagged under Strong's concordance #3618.

The word carries with it the idea of construction as in house-building.

When studying scripture especially when it comes to studying a specific "word" or "idea", there is a guideline called "the law of first mention".

The principle of "the law of first mention" is that the first time something is mentioned and used in the bible becomes the foundation for understanding and interpreting the definition of that word or idea in succeeding mentions and usage.

Let's take the Greek word οἰκοδομέω ("oikodomeō") which has been translated to the english word "edify".

Tracing this word to its first mention, we find it in the words of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew:

T

*herefore whoever hears these sayings of
Mine, and does them, I will liken him to
a wise man who built his house on the*

rock:

Matthew 7:24

The word "built" in the words of Jesus above is the same Greek word "oikodomeō".

Using the principle of "the law of first mention", we understand that the foundational definition of this word is the idea of construction as in house-building the way Jesus used it.

Keeping it in mind as we come back to what Paul wrote.

H

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

1 Corinthians 14:4

We now have an additional layer of understanding of what Paul is trying to tell us. Paul is saying that when we speak in tongues, we are building ourselves up. Now this begs the question of which part is being built up.

We know that we already have a righteous spirit, a perfect spirit because it is a product of the perfect redemptive work of Jesus on the cross.

Now, that which is perfect because of the work of Jesus, we can do nothing to add to its perfection. You cannot make your spirit more perfect than it already is because it was never a product of your own efforts anyway.

So we come back to the idea of what the Greek word οἰκοδομέω ("oikodomeō") carries, which is construction as in house-building like how Jesus used it when it was first mentioned and used in the gospel of Matthew.

Now, which part of you is your house? Paul gives us an idea in his second epistle to the church in Corinth.

*F*or we know that if our *earthly house*, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, *a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

2 Corinthians 5:1

Several verses down, Paul made it very plain. He wrote:

*S*o we are always confident, knowing that *while we are at home in the body* we are absent from the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:6

Our body is our house while we are here on earth.

Our body, therefore, is that which is being built up when we speak in tongues. Hallelujah!

If we talk in construction terms, when a house is being built up, it means:

Its foundations are fortified.

It is made strong and sturdy.

It is made to withstand the elements of nature (rains, winds, storms, heat, etc)

Aged beams are replaced.

Broken windows are replaced.

Cracked floors are fixed.

Doors squeaking in its hinges are fixed.

Old leaking roofs are replaced.

It is painted new and so on.

In other words, a run-down house becomes fresh and new again.

Now.

Translate that to your body being built up when you speak in tongues, it means:

Bones are made strong.

Veins and arteries are made strong and pliable.

Blood is cleansed and disease-free.

Joints and cartilages are restored.

Failing organs become healthy and functioning again.

Senses come alive as in your days of youth.

Strength and vitality are restored in you and so on.

In other words, you glow brimming with health.

That's what Paul meant when he wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit that:

H

e who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

1 Corinthians 14:4

Hallelujah! Speak your way to a healthy body.

Now, we know the bible can stand on its own and it doesn't need the help of any other books or branches of knowledge to prove itself to be true **YET** everything in this world testifies to the truth of the word of God.

So I'm just going to share a bit of trivia that might interest you which you can search on your own on the internet because these came from published medical journals anyway.

Studies have been conducted to see what happens when a person prays or speaks in tongues for a period of time.

These are the common results that medical science have discovered:

- There is a part in the brain that gets activated, which is otherwise inactive outside of the activity of speaking in tongues.

- The part of the brain that gets activated secretes 2 chemical secretions that are directed to the immune system giving it a 35% to 40% boost.

- The activity of speaking in tongues lowers stress hormones.

- The activity of speaking in tongues lowers blood pressure.

I don't know about you but this sure looks like medical science is more than a thousand years too late in making a discovery of a truth that had been right under our noses all this time written in the word of God.

So, friend, can I encourage you to pray in tongues wherever and whenever you can? You don't need to be in a certain position or place to do so. You can do it under your breath with eyes wide open while cooking or driving or doing errands.

The word of God Himself says it edifies; it builds you up. Why wait for your house to get run-down when you can prevent it from being so?

ABOUT THIS COMPILATION

This compilation initially started with four carefully picked scripture passages and very specific prayer guides for my dear mother.

As a matter of fact, I had them handwritten so I can slip it in her prayer booklet.

Hebrews 4:12 says:

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The word of God can precisely divide what is God's and what is not God's. Sharper than any sword, it can slice off the unnecessary and leave that which is born of the Spirit who gives life.

I pray that this compilation got you seeing scripture in a fresh perspective and in a different light, a glorious light. I pray that the glory of the truth of the Word of God will eternally echo in your prayers on this side of heaven.

All glory to our Lord Jesus Christ!

