

## Praying in the Spirit: God Working for Our Good

Praying in the spirit is one way we can help keep ourselves built up in faith (Jude 20), so we can walk by faith and not by sight. The more we pray in the spirit, the easier it will be for us to walk in the spirit, which will help keep us from getting in the flesh. When we're in the flesh, things don't work out for our good. It's when we get over into the spirit of prayer that God can turn the situation around for our good with divine favor.

I remember one time, when I put a deposit down to purchase a car. That was on Friday, and by the time the weekend rolled around, I realized I'd missed God. I spent the whole weekend praying in the spirit, and reading Romans 8:26-28, because I needed God to get me out of the messy situation. I had done something that I had no business doing; I did something of the flesh and not of the spirit, and I *knew* it.

The business knew I was a minister and the salesman wasn't saved. It wasn't going to look good for me to try to get out of this deal. The thoughts the devil kept bringing *to* my mind made it almost unbearable. The thought kept coming to me, "*The salesman is unsaved. How is this going to look?*" But I had promised God I would always do what He told me to do if I *knew* what He told me to do, and this was just a test of my commitment.

So, I just kept praying in tongues. I didn't know what else I could do. I promised the Lord that I would go to the dealership and tell the salesman I wasn't going to purchase the car first thing Monday morning. All I could think about was, "*How this is going to look?*" I kept telling the Lord how important it was that a Christian keep their word; and that integrity was so important in the ministry and this salesman wasn't saved and how was this going to appear him?

But I still knew in my heart that I had to go face the salesman and tell him I couldn't buy the car, regardless of how it may appear. **But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**(1 Corinthians 2:14)

Virtually all my waking time, I just kept praying in tongues. I hardly even slept that weekend. The devil worked on me the whole time. He kept telling my mind to go ahead and buy the car anyway. Finally, I fell asleep early Monday morning, and when I did, I had a dream. In that dream, the Lord showed me that the salesman had lied to me and my contract wasn't valid. In addition to the salesman lying to me, he had overcharged me \$1,400.

I had no idea all this was going on! He seemed like the nicest man, and so friendly. I didn't know he was being deceitful. The dream showed in detail how I could prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the salesman had been lying to me all along.

So I got up and drove to the dealership. As I walked in early that morning, the salesman was at his desk. He was so happy and all smiles as I walked in. He let me know the car was almost ready, with just a few more details to take care of. All the other salesmen were standing around. I was the only customer and I thought, *"Lord, here goes!"* I said, *"Mr. So and So, I've come to tell you that I will not be purchasing the car."*

He went into a mad rage! I had never seen anything like that happen. He cursed me, swore I'd be sued, cursed me for being a minister, and threw things off his desk and across the showroom. Little did he realize he'd gone too far, because the dealership owner was watching him, along with his co-workers.

In a very calm voice, I said, *"Mr. So-and-So, you can do what you feel you must do to me. I am sorry"*. As I turned back to look at him, he realized he'd been caught and I knew about the contract and the overcharge. He had worked for that company for several years and had boasted to his co-workers that a minister was always an easy sell. He said they knew nothing and he could always fool them. I would have just been another statistic. For, like the other ministers, I believed him. The only difference is I realized I'd missed God and spent the whole weekend long praying in the spirit.

**Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.** Romans 8:26 - 28

Of course, I'd asked the Lord to forgive me for not checking with Him first. The Lord gave me divine favor with that dealership and protected the ministry and stopped that man from working at that dealership anymore and messing up other ministers. Though I didn't have to say a word to him about what I knew, he became like a little puppy, as though he just got caught chewing up the newspaper. I didn't have to say anything, because the presence of the Lord was there, and the Lord did it all.

That man exposed himself in front of all those people. I remember leaving and feeling sorry for him, but he'd been dishonest from the beginning, not only with me, but apparently with others as well, and his dishonesty nullified the agreement. The car he was supposed to be selling me wasn't really the car he represented to me. I never had to defend myself; God took care of me.

Favor is a miracle blessing we all need, whether we did right, or whether we did wrong, regardless of the situation that we're in. We all need God to get us out of messy situations. And, all He needs us to do is to do what He tells us to do and keep praying in the spirit so He can work things out for our good. He just needs our prayer and our faith, along with our obedience. God will do the rest. It'll be greater than we even thought God would do when He comes through for us, for He said in Ephesians 3:20, **Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,**

Whenever you need divine favor, I want you to pray the following prayer and watch God come through with your miracle! You won't be disappointed when you put the time in meditating on God's Word and praying in the spirit, for you'll receive many benefits and blessings, and divine favor is just one of them.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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