

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XXXVII NUMBER V Tongues III - The Path to Mysteries

MONDAY, MAY 1

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:1-2

1 Corinthians 14:1-2 says, *"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."* Scripture is very clear – there is a purpose and reason for praying in tongues. When we pray in tongues, we are praying in the Spirit and that means praying about unfolding the mysteries of God. We will not understand those mysteries unless we get the interpretation and Scripture implies that sometimes we will receive that interpretation. We are praying the mysteries of God for a divine purpose and understanding empowers us toward that purpose. The purpose of praying the mysteries is to open up our understanding so we can walk in it and opening up our understanding is the job of the Holy Spirit. When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit and receive our prayer language, we can 'prime the pump' toward understanding the mysteries of God. God said He would send us a **par-a-cleet**/helper, One called alongside to help. The Holy Spirit is that Helper because He knows what we need. Therefore, when we pray in the Spirit, we pray what we need to fulfill God's goal for us!

TUESDAY, MAY 2

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:14-15

Verses 14-15 state, *"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 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."* It is obvious Paul is saying a primary reason we pray in the Spirit is so we can also pray with our understanding and God can give us a revelation of the mystery. Tongues is a doorway into the mysteries of God. It is an invitation into understanding His purpose and any mystery as it relates to us and our gifting and calling. Tongues is one of the most valuable things that God has ever given us. It is a avenue into what we need to know in order to accomplish our calling in Christ. This is one door we can all walk through!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:1-2

The word for "mysteries" in verse 1 is **moos-tay-ree-on** and means, 'Hidden wisdom or the principles that govern a transcendent, alternate reality.' How do we bring wisdom out from hiding so that it connects with our understanding? We pray in tongues until the understanding comes. We pray it over and over and refuse to give up. We continue praying it – days, months, years, decades – until the understanding comes. The more we pray it, the greater the opportunity of the understanding. God made tongues very, very practical for all of us and it is time we said yes to its fullness. There are mysteries in Scripture held for the end-times and we need to be prepared and equipped to understand those mysteries in order to walk in our full destiny!

THURSDAY, MAY 4

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

1 Corinthians 2:6-10 says, *"However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom*

which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." Scripture is very, very clear. God has given us wisdom that is not a wisdom of this world, nor a wisdom of the rulers of this age who are coming to nothing. He has given us the wisdom of God in a mystery – hidden wisdom which He ordained before this season for our glory. None of the rulers of that age knew God's wisdom, or they never would have crucified the Lord Jesus, the Lord of Glory, *"But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'"* How do we unfold God's mysteries? It comes through praying in tongues. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2 and again in 1 Corinthians 13, the way we get the understanding of mystery is we pray it in the Spirit until the Holy Spirit gives us understanding. God reveals things to us by His Spirit, for His Spirit searches all things. When we are praying in tongues, that is what is happening! The Holy Spirit is searching all things, even the deep things of God and bringing them to our understanding by interpretation of what we are praying in the Spirit. Praying in tongues seems far less optional when we study it out in the Word enough to understand the benefit! The more we study the Word, God's intent behind the prayer language becomes more and more obvious!

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:11-12

1 Corinthians 2:11-12 says, *"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."* Verses 11-12 make it clear – we have been given the Holy Spirit for the purpose of revealing to us the fullness of what God has done for us. Context determines meaning and the context of 1 Corinthians 14 helps tell us how it works. How does God open up our understanding? When we pray in tongues, we pray the mysteries of the Kingdom into our understanding. The Holy Spirit reveals it to us in His time. It is simple, but may require perseverance and patience. Interpretation only comes in His time. God has graced us with the tools we need to receive revelation. We need to use what the Holy Spirit has given – we need to use our prayer language.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:13

Verse 13 says, *"These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual."* What are the words that the Holy Spirit teaches? What are the words that the Holy Spirit gives? Those words are tongues! 1 Corinthians 2:13 is telling us exactly how the Holy Spirit brings revelation to us. We choose to pray and God gives the words. We have to be obedient to pray, not understanding what we are praying. In humility, we have to utter words that we do not understand. The promise is that the understanding will come! We are asking Him to unfold mysteries of the Kingdom so we can operate in Kingdom truths. **Moos-tay-ree-on/mysteries** means, 'Hidden wisdom or the principles that govern a transcendent, alternate reality.' God ordained tongues to manifest that transcendent, spiritual reality so we could change things here in the natural by the principles of the Spirit. God said He would do it *if* we open our mouth and speak. If words do not seem to come, then utter words you do not understand *in faith*. If we do this, we are praying His mysteries and He will unfold them. He will cause us to understand. Tongues is an incredible weapon we have for Kingdom purposes, and it is no wonder there is such warfare over it. When something has incredible spiritual potential, the enemy increases his fight against it. And it is little wonder that the enemy has persuaded much of the church that tongues is just optional. And it is also not a surprise that for those of us who believe in and embrace this gift that the enemy tries to lull us into a lack of use. It is a key to God's wisdom that brings the Kingdom into manifestation. We need to choose to do it.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:14

Verse 14 says, *"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* When we pray in tongues, we have to choose the spiritual side of God to enter this realm. When we utter nonsensical words, it seems like foolishness to the natural man. That is the test of tongues. Uttering what *sounds like* nonsense seems like foolishness. But it is not! It is a key to the wisdom of God. For many

of us, it is a test because it seems and feels like foolishness. It is a battle we may have to fight every time we pray, but gaining a key to God's wisdom is worth the fight!

MONDAY, MAY 8

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:15

Verse 15 says, *"But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one."* How often have we been taught **not** to judge? Scripture teaches us to judge, but **not** like the hypocrites. If we can pass the spiritual test of God's Word, praying in tongues brings us into a place where we are not rightly judged by anyone else but we can judge all things including ourselves. Tongues is the doorway to the judicial. To walk with the judicial Christ, God asks us to pray in the Spirit. Tongues is a doorway to representing the judicial Christ. Praying in the Spirit is absolutely essential. If we want to enter into the fullness of what God has for us, one door is praying in the Spirit.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:16

Verse 16 says, *"For 'who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ."* Context determines meaning. The mind of Christ on any issue comes as a fruit of praying in tongues. Tongues is the door to the wisdom it takes to walk in the judicial. Isaiah 28 promises a plumbline and it is true! Verse 16 is a witness that promises the same thing. If we are going to walk in the judicial, tongues is an essential building block. It is a door to God's mysteries, including in our judicial prayers. Will we enter?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:3-4

1 Corinthians 14:3-4 says, *"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."* **Oy-kod-om-eh-o** is the Greek word for "edify" and means 'To repair, to rebuild, to inhabit a house.' Praying in tongues gives us the wisdom to build a spiritual house. That wisdom is a necessary part of building a spiritual house and one important way we can get it is praying in the Spirit. I trust we are understanding God's intentions and becoming determined to use this destiny-gift as we pursue our calling!

THURSDAY, MAY 11

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:14-16

Verse 16 says, *"Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say 'Amen' at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?"* Paul first tells us why he prays in tongues and prays for the understanding. But he finishes by declaring that we have to have the understanding, otherwise it does not edify or build us up. One purpose of tongues is to build us up, and one way that happens is the Spirit brings us into an understanding of the mysteries. Verses 14-16 state how God ordained this to work in building us up. When we pray in tongues, we are praying mysteries. We also must choose to pray in tongues until the Spirit unfolds those mysteries. The interpretation of that tongue is what brings the wisdom that repairs and rebuilds the house. God ordained this. But you and I are the ones who must choose to do it. Will we pray in the Spirit and continue doing it until we receive understanding? It is a major choice and one that is completely up to us. Choosing it daily is a wise choice. I trust we will, in Jesus' name!

FRIDAY, MAY 12

Scripture: Mark 4:10-11

Mark 4:10-11 says, *"But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. And He said to them, 'To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,...'"* Here we have an example of Jesus unfolding the mystery of the Kingdom and telling the disciples that everyone outside only receives parables. Jesus gave us a Helper and He has a purpose – to unfold the mysteries of the Kingdom. Are we using the gift of tongues? Are we walking it out every day? God intentionally gave us the gift of tongues. Why is there such division concerning tongues? The division is nothing but the enemy trying to rob us of God's wisdom and understanding. When that happens the building up of the Kingdom suffers – when we do not pray in the Spirit, we do not

receive the revelation we need to build the Kingdom. We have to understand that a major part of praying in tongues is obedience. The question is, will we humble ourselves and commit to do it?

SATURDAY, MAY 13

Scripture: Mark 4:1-8

Mark 4:1-8 says, *“And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: ‘Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.’”* Jesus began to teach something extremely important – He began to teach the mystery of the Kingdom. He said there are four different kinds of soil in every one of us. Wayside soil is soil that has not been plowed. Stony ground is soil where the rocks have not been removed. Thorny ground is soil where the thorns have not been removed. Good ground is soil that has been plowed, tilled, and the hindrances have been removed. There is major work and vigilance involved in developing good ground. Most of us have the four different kinds of soil within us. There are some truths we cannot hear because we have not plowed the ground. There are some truths we cannot hear because we have not removed the rocks. Jesus was teaching the mystery of the Kingdom. But are we applying it that way? Do we need to be praying in the Spirit as we are reading the Word? Do we need to be praying in the Spirit about understanding the Word? Absolutely yes! Plowing, tilling and removing hindrances to our spiritual soil are a lifetime process and one that requires attentiveness including praying in the Spirit. Will we do it?

SUNDAY, MAY 14

Scripture: Mark 4:9-12

Verses 9-12 say, *“And He said to them, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’ But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. And He said to them, ‘To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, so that “Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.”’”* If we have ears to hear, then we must do this. Jesus said we have been given the key to the mysteries of the Kingdom. Turning the key means praying in tongues until we receive understanding. And if we do not, the keys God intended to unfold the wisdom necessary to build His Kingdom never come into fruition. The enemy steals from us because we choose not to do the Word. In verse 12 Jesus says, *“...so that ‘Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand;...”* The key to understanding is praying in the Spirit! Are we doing it?

MONDAY, MAY 15

Scripture: Mark 4:13-20

Mark 4:13-20 says, *“And He said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.’”* Jesus explained the mystery of the Kingdom. There are four kinds of soil in every one of us. In order to convert wayside soil, we have to till it. We have to break up the hard ground, pick up the stones, and dig up the thistles. When we do, we end up with good ground. And only when ground is good does it bear fruit. But it takes work to prepare our ground. It takes work to discern the stones and it takes work to discern the thorns. It takes work to plow and till. Plowing and tilling physical ground is an immense amount of work – take it from a farmboy. But plowing physical ground is often far easier than plowing the ground of our spirits. Walking in the Word takes work that reaps endless Kingdom rewards.

TUESDAY, MAY 16

Scripture: Mark 4:21-25

Verses 21-25 says, *"Also He said to them, 'Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.' Then He said to them, 'Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.'"* The Kingdom works like a lamp: when we pray in the Spirit and gain understanding, it enlightens us and that light changes things, *"For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light..."* God's purpose is always to reveal His Word. We know that when we pray in the Spirit, God is ready to reveal His Word. That gives us great faith and expectation that as we pray in the Spirit, a revelation of His Word will come forth. Verses 24-25 deal with what we do with the revelation we receive. As we choose to use the revelation we receive, more light and revelation will be given. But if we do not use what we are given, we will not be given more and we may lose what we were given in the first place. Is it possible to refuse to pray in the Spirit and begin losing ground? Mark 4 tells us it is, so let's not risk losing ground in the Kingdom!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

Scripture: Mark 4:26

Mark 4:26 says, *"And He said, 'The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,...'"* The Word of God is seed and because the Word is seed, we have to plant it. We can pray in the Spirit until understanding comes and what we do with it determines whether or not it will bear fruit. If we accept the understanding and act on it, that is like planting the seed in the soil of our spirit. Are we acting on the Word?

THURSDAY, MAY 18

Scripture: Mark 4:27

Verse 27 says, *"...and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how."* We do not need to know how. All we need to know is our spirit is made to produce God's Word. God's Word is Spirit and it is life. God's Word is made for our spirit. Our spirit is the soil that grows the Word. First we need to understand this and then we need to act on it. Tilling the soil of our hearts is a lifelong process and one we ought to continue doing routinely throughout our days until we go to glory. I trust we will commit and begin to see the fruit!

FRIDAY, MAY 19

Scripture: Mark 4:28-29

Verse 28 says, *"For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head."* This points us to the process by which every farmer has to function and operate. First, you plow the soil. Second, you plant the seed. Third, you water it. Fourth, you weed it. Weeding soil means removing thorns, rocks and weeds. The fifth step is verse 29 which says, *"But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."* That is the five steps of crop formation and it works for us in the spiritual just as it works for farmers in the natural. We are supposed to pray in the Spirit until we get an understanding. Then we act on that understanding. When we act on it, we have planted our seed. But then we have to continue walking in it. We have to weed it and water it. Watering spiritual soil is the washing of the water of the Word. We have to be diligent to water our soil. And with great expectation we anticipate the fruit of God's promise to come. We act on the Word until we get the harvest! Growing in the Word is greatly enhanced by coupling it with praying in the Spirit!

SATURDAY, MAY 20

Scripture: Mark 4:30-32

Verses 30-32 say, *"Then He said, 'To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.'"* Here is the promise of God's Word in our lives. The promise is, the seed we plant will grow and become great. The

reason we should pray in the Spirit is to enrich the level of revelation and the depth of understanding of God's truth. That is the process of planting the seed. As we continue to tend our spiritual soil, it grows and transforms us. We grow into the fullness of Christ in that process! This is how God determined it. Are we going to move purposely forward with that process or do we want through passivity to inhibit it? This process aides us in fulfilling our gifting and calling and we should want it with everything that is in us.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30

Matthew 13:24-30 says, *"Another parable He put forth to them, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"* This is Matthew's version of the parable of the sower who sows the Word. But here we have the introduction of something we do not find in Mark. Here, an enemy sows tares and the tares grow up. The question is, do we take the tares out? We cannot, lest we uproot the wheat also. We have to let the tares and the wheat grow together until the right time. Just because we see a tare does not mean we uproot it. We have to wait until we get a full growth for the harvest. That means the church has to grow to the place where we are fully ready for the harvest. Is the church ready to deal with tares? Is the church ready to execute judgment on tares? It is not, but we have time to grow into that place. We need to take this time and start growing into that place. God allotted time and space to grow, so let's apply ourselves and purpose to grow!

MONDAY, MAY 22

Scripture: Matthew 13:36-41, Hebrews 1:14

In Matthew 13:36-41 we are told, *"Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.' He answered and said to them: 'He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,...'"* Jesus explained exactly what the parable of the tares meant. According to Hebrews 1:14, the angels execute the prayers of the saints. They are ministering spirits sent forth to bring to pass the prayers of the saints. And Matthew 13:36-41 tells us angels will reap the tares – which are sons of the wicked one destined to be burned in the fire. Angels are to both act upon the prayers of the saints *and* reap the tares that will be cast into the fire. The church has to get ready to walk with the Judge in the last days because walking with the Judge is what gets the church ready for the great harvest (Isaiah 26:9b). The tares will be dealt with, *"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,..."* God purifies the church before He brings the harvest into it. This will take much praying in tongues. Are we ready for it?

TUESDAY, MAY 23

Scripture: Colossians 1:24-29

Colossians 1:24-29 says, *"I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."* God has given us a stewardship and that stewardship requires the unfolding of the mystery in order to manifest it. Verse 27 makes it clear, *"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."* If we pray in the Spirit, various levels of Who Christ is in us

come into fruition. That is a seed that we have to plant and act on. As we act on it, we grow into a mighty oak tree that brings rest and refreshing and shelter to all including God's creation. God is involved in our growth and His growth for us comes by revelation by praying in the Spirit and by what comes as a result. Are we ready for the full measure?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:4-6

2 Corinthians 13:4-6 says, *"For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you. Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified."* Praying in tongues is what lets us know that we are following the One who is in us and know that we are not disqualified. Tongues is one of the most practical things that God has ever given us because through it He leads us into the fullness of Who He is! Christ in us is absolutely essential in this process.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:2-4

2 Peter 1:2-4 says, *"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* The Word is seed and that seed imparts the very nature of God as it is unfolded in understanding. As we plant it, it grows and becomes part of us and transforms us into the very image and likeness of Christ. What does this passage tell us? It tells us that character precedes charisma, that character is the foundation for true and consistent fruitfulness. If we are to make a true, genuine, ongoing difference in the Kingdom, we have to choose to develop the character of Christ because the character of Christ is essential for our true Christian maturity and it is maturity that sustains the power of Christ.

FRIDAY, MAY 26

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:5-8

Verses 5-8 tells us, *"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* God gives us growth steps we can follow so we can major on the things that are truly important. It starts with diligence and that means we consistently study the Word and spend time in it every day. Diligence in the Word causes our faith to grow. Virtue is a commitment to holiness. We commit to the Ten Commandments and commit to doing the Word. Adding our commitment to do the Word to virtue, we add knowledge. We pray in the Spirit! Praying in the Spirit brings an understanding of His Word. Planting the seeds of His Word contributes to self-control or **eng-krat-ia**. **Eng-krat-ia** means yielding dominion to God's Word in our choices. We allow the Holy Spirit and God's Word to be the dominion of our life. We yield to God's Word in our choices. When we do that and persevere, godliness grows. We choose to treat each other kindly, and brotherly kindness then manifests the love of God. When we choose to walk in this process, the promise is we will neither be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is ready, are we?

SATURDAY, MAY 27

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:9-11

Verse 9 says, *"For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins."* If we do not do these things it is like we are turning back to the world. Verses 10-11 say, *"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* In this passage, the Word tells us what makes the character of Christ abound in us so we can be fruitful in the Kingdom. The Lord said to be diligent to the growth process listed here and we will grow into the fullness of Christ!

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:12-14

2 Peter 1:12-14 says, *"For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me."* All the way to Peter's death he said he would teach character over charisma. When we choose character over charisma, everything God brings us into we can sustain because our character is aligned with the character of Christ. Isn't that where God wants us to go? It is precisely the journey He wants us to take. Will we go?

MONDAY, MAY 29

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:15

Verse 15 says, *"Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease."* Peter said he would not only teach while he was alive, but would make sure after he was gone, the teaching would continue. We have to develop the character of Christ so that we can handle the power of God's anointing. And if we do not develop the character first, the enemy can take us out or rob us of our destiny purposes. That nugget is worth knowing, worth remembering and worth paying attention to! Developing the character of Christ comes first and is foundational!

TUESDAY, MAY 30

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-18

Verses 16-18 say, *"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain."* Jesus walked in pure and holy character so that He could handle the fullness of His calling. And that is what the Holy Spirit will do for us and it is one key reason why praying in tongues is so important. It brings us into the revelation of the seed we have to plant that will sustain us and carry us through. Right here in 2 Peter, that seed is first and foremost the character of the King. As we emphasize the character of the King, we can handle everything God wants us to do. And we will only be prepared if we have the character of the King!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:19-21

Verses 19-21 state, *"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* Praying in tongues brings us into the revelation of God's Word. And God's Word, sown inside us, grows. First the grain, then the head, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear and we end up looking like Christ. If we look like Him we can handle His power in the last days. Whatever God prophesied for the end-times within the scope of our calling, we can do if we develop the character of Christ. That is the message and praying in tongues helps us get there and develop that character. Let's run so we may obtain a prize! Let's do it, in Jesus' name!

Mysteries and Christlikeness
Are worthy benefits,
And come as we unite to pray
In true obedience!

ITINERARY

5/6 - 5/7/17

Brownwood, TX

Howard Payne University, Mabee Center Sat. 10am – 6pm Sun 3pm
Where the Word & Spirit Come Together to Impact Regions
Speakers: Al Houghton, Steve Friskup, Dr. Alemu Beeftu, Samuel Brassfield

Pastor Max Evans
325-660-9265

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