

Scripture testimony of the apostle of Christ to the Christians and church of Christ, how and what they were to pray by, and in; and that the apostles did not make them prayers, and give them books and other things to pray by.

By George Fox

The apostle writes to the church of Christ, the Ephesians, (Eph 6:18-19) and exhorts them, and said, 'Praying always with all prayer and supplications **in the spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints, and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.' Mark, their prayers, and supplications, and watchings, were to be **in the spirit**, both for themselves, and the saints, and for the apostles.

And the apostle does not give them a book to pray by, and say, pray by the book, but by the spirit, yes, the apostle said, 'they were always to pray **in the spirit**.'

And the apostle said to the church of Christ, the Corinthians, 1 Cor 14:15, 'I will pray with the spirit, and will pray with understanding also. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with understanding also.' And again the apostle said to the Colossians, 'that he prayed always for them.'

So you may see the apostle does not say that he prayed by the book; but he prayed by the spirit, and the people cannot have always the book to pray by, but the spirit they may have in them, by which they may pray always.

And the apostle said to the Romans of the church of Christ, 'The spirit helps our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the spirit itself makes intercession for us with groans that cannot be uttered; and he that searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.' Rom 8:26-27.

Now here you may see the apostle does not say it was outward forms, or prayer books, that did help their infirmities, nor turn them to the prayer books to help their infirmities, or make intercession for them; but he plainly tells them the spirit did help their infirmities, and makes intercession for them according to the will of God, who knows the mind of the spirit; for the spirit which he pours upon them, people have always with them, but the book they may not always have with them, but the spirit they have always with them by sea and land, and night and day, to help their infirmities, and make intercession for them, if they do not err from it, and rebel against it.

And the apostle Jude in his General Epistle to the church of Christ, exhorts them, saying, 'But you beloved, build up yourselves in the most holy faith, praying in the holy ghost.' Jude 1:20.

Now here you may see what the church of Christ were to build themselves up in, and what to pray in. Namely, in the holy faith, and to pray in the holy ghost. He does not say they were to pray in books, neither do we read that he made books for them to pray by or in; but the apostle told the church of Christ, in the last time 'there should be mockers who should walk after their ungodly lusts;' and these were they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the spirit, who were wandered and erred from it: then such were not like to pray in the spirit, and in the holy ghost, as the true christians were and are. Christ said, 'Watch you therefore, and pray always.' Luke 21:36.

And in Luke 18:1, it is said, 'that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;' and this must needs be by the spirit that makes intercession.

And the apostle said, 'But care for nothing [don't worry about anything], but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.' Phil 4:6. 'And I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting, and that prayers, supplications, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.' Is not this in the holy spirit, with lifting up holy hands. 1 Tim 2:1,8.

And the angels offered up the prayers of the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne of God, and the prayers of the saints ascended up before God out of the angels' hand. Rev 8:3-4.

And do you think that these prayers of all the saints were outward prayer books that were made for them, or were they prayers by and in the spirit, which they offered up to God?

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