

GOD'S TRUE REST AND REFRESHING

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This prophecy is for the New Testament church... Paul quotes from it in his letter to the Corinthian church.

ISA 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.* There has to be a level of maturity and intelligent, yet willing acceptance, before the knowledge of God can become clear and effective. No effective growth can come unless the basics are clear!

10 For precept (commandment) *must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:* Everything which the church builds upon must be steady and sure; within the framework of God's requirements, being compared diligently with scripture alone... step by step, step by step... tidying up as we go.

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. This verse is precise and clear and sets the message for the church to observe. There is a very solid emphasis on tongues as opposed to the natural language. Tongues, is a God given language as opposed to our natural thinking, which is not only susceptible to the carnal mind, but can equally be led of the Spirit. This makes it hard for prayer to remain pure, because many are unable to correctly discern between truth and error, nor do our priorities always mirror God's. However, tongues is a pure language, that cannot be corrupted by our own mistakes or misunderstandings. So we have a foolproof plan for those who wish to be led of the Spirit during their prayers; completely bypassing the problem of trying to work out if our requests are valid, or if they are in keeping with God's will, or the scriptures. Not only does tongues keep us safe from false words or irrelevant precepts during prayer, it produces results that no other practice can. The following verse summarizes the great benefit of praying in the Spirit

12 To whom he said, **This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear (perceive, understand, obey).** These verses are written to Spirit filled people. Verses twelve and thirteen start at the same central point, but go on to reveal the different results that come from peoples willingness to either accept or deny the value of speaking in tongues. This verse also reveals that most of God's people will not understand nor agree with this revelation in verse twelve. The 'rest' and 'peace' and 'refreshing' that people are searching for, is found in the simple practice of praying in tongues. But, people don't want to hear this... it doesn't appeal to the ego, it doesn't offer the satisfaction of verbal romance or religious posture, it has no ritual, nor requirement of religious clothing or symbols, in fact it is a very mechanical process, largely devoid of any human emotion or skill... something that many are not comfortable with... yet it is God's choice. It is the way that God has chosen to operate. It is all about God's wisdom and nothing about ours. It is firstly, an act of faith as opposed to an act of natural stimulation (with stimulation being the prime motivator of nearly all actions of the human race). In fact God tackles prayer from the opposite point of view. The best way to reverse poor emotions, is simply to bypass the emotional bandwagon altogether... **JAM 5:13** Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Spiritual prayer as opposed to natural prayer will deliver you from afflictions. Don't sing songs to make yourself happy, sing psalms because you are already happy. One of the simplest ways to build faith is through listening to the word of God. **ROM 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. The simple act of reading the bible reveals these truths and helps build faith... how? By exercising the clear bible instructions that are read, as opposed to religious concepts. In this particular case, the value of praying in tongues is beyond the comprehension of most people, yet becomes effective as soon as it is applied. When we face the challenge of religious understandings, verses physical motivation, verses scriptural direction; it becomes clear why most Spirit filled people overlook the value of tongues. Just as the scriptures prophesied they would... it has no emotional appeal.

This is the only scripture that actually defines what spiritual prayer is. **1COR 14:14** For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, Those who hold a love of the truth rejoice in such clarity, because it adds another precept to their learning. The scriptures are consistent in their value and need for praying in the spirit. Precept is built upon precept. **EPH 6:18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; There would be no need to have to repeatedly remind the church of a great benefit, if it was naturally pleasurable or emotionally moving. However, this is not the first time that a major blessing of God has been misunderstood or seen as a minor benefit. Consider the manna... it was too boring, they wanted more variety, but it did the job better than any other form of food, likewise tongues does the same job better than anything else. Once the natural stumbling blocks of praying in tongues (in the spirit), is addressed, then the rewards become clear. Natural prayer is also vital and valid, but is not included here in this revelation of the value of praying in tongues, because it addresses a completely different realm of needs

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them (those who do not understand the correct value and use of tongues) precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. By the act of confusing spiritual priorities and values, it becomes clear why people build faulty lives based of faulty spiritual precepts. God's Spirit is still bound by the accuracy of his word... we cannot add nor subtract from those things which the Lord has laid down. If we start letting small things slip by, or add little things that please us that are not in his word... then they can accumulate to the point where destruction is assured!! Safety margins are an act of wisdom when it comes to conforming to God's directions. By limiting natural appreciations, stimulations and actions, we make more room for the Spirit to move... thus we end up with more accurate results. This last verse warns us of such mistakes... the mistakes that are going to cost the larger number of God's saints, their salvation.