

## Marching In The Spirit

Galatians 5:22-26

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

**In our past studies in this series of deliverance, we have looked at Satan, how he attacks, the Christian uniform of the day, and our need to pray.** I believe that Paul has another order for we as Christians, and that is to **"march in the Spirit."**

As God's soldiers, how do we "march in the Spirit"? How do we move as the body of Christ from one battle to the next, arriving prepared and ready to take on the enemy?

**First of all, we have to clear up some misconceptions.** The first misconception is many folks seem to think after you've been born again, all your problems should be solved. You just automatically march in the Spirit and you never have another trial.

**But that is not the way it is.** It's after you're born again, after you've come to Christ, repented of your sins, received His forgiveness and been filled with the Holy Spirit, that you learn to walk in victory. Problems and troubles won't disappear just because you've become a *Spirit-filled* Christian. You're still in this world.

**A second misconception about the Christian life is this: Walking in the victory of the Holy Spirit is only for an elite group of super spiritual people.** Not so!! Walking in victory, walking in the Spirit, marching as part of the body of Christ with a warrior mentality to take on the enemy, is for every believer.

**How do we begin?** Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." The Greek language simply says, "Don't live full of worry." In other words, as Christians, we must make a decision not to dwell on our problems!!

Of course, that doesn't mean we won't have any problems, as Jesus reminds us in John 16:33, "In this world you will have tribulation." The world is full of problems, and in today's high-pressure society especially, no one is exempt from stress. The first thing we must do, then, to walk victoriously in the Spirit is to make a conscious decision that we will not dwell on the problems around us.

But, Paul does not stop when he says that we are not to be anxious, but he also says, "but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known unto God." In short, instead of worrying, start praying!

**To me, "prayer" means having a conversation with God, while "supplication" means really getting down to business with God.** But all of this must be done by faith!! Why? Because the only kind of prayer that God hears is a prayer of faith!!

**Faith is knowing that God has already provided the solution before the problem ever arose!!** Faith is knowing that God is still in charge of every circumstance.

But Paul does not stop there, for he says that we are to let our requests be made known to God by "prayer and supplication with thanksgiving." This means that within the circumstances you are experiencing you must start praising and giving thanks to God for the victory you can see only through your eyes of faith!

**Praise is the language of faith!!** Praise is our way of saying, "I acknowledge You, God, as the victor in this circumstance. You are the

Lord. You are the King. You are my Provider. You are the Healer. You are my Savior and Deliverer. You are my Comforter and my Counselor."

**Praise is focusing on the outcome of the situation.** It is believing and saying with your faith that God wins.

**What does the Word of God promise will happen when you move into praise?** What will happen when you stop worrying, start praying and voice your thanksgiving to God? The answer is found in Philippians 4:7, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

**Deep, abiding peace is the hallmark of walking in the Spirit.** The psalmist expressed it this way in Psalm 23:2, "He leads me beside the still waters." Show me a man or woman who is walking through life's circumstances with great peace and I'll show you a person who is walking in the victory of the Holy Spirit. I am not talking about some kind of artificial confession, where on the outside everything looks calm and under control, but on the inside the pressure is building up and things are about to explode. **That is not peace.** That is a charade!

**I am talking about true, deep, abiding peace.** In John 14:27, Jesus told His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you." God wants us to have peace!

In Colossians 3:15 the Word of God tells us to "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts." How is it possible to "let" or "allow" "the peace of God to rule in your hearts"? The answer is: by faith!

**Now, listen carefully, as soon as you start trusting God and declaring the praises of God, God activates the solution to your problem, the supply for your lack, and the answer for your dilemma.** All of heaven gets to work on the problem the minute you start trusting and praising!!

**Let me give you a biblical example of what I am trying to say.** In 2 Chronicles 20 we read about a terrible mess Jehoshaphat found himself in. He was completely surrounded by the children of Ammon

and Moab and the inhabitants of Mount Seir. He was invaded from three sides by the combined forces of the enemy and there was no apparent way of escape.

The Bible says in 2 Chronicles 20:3 that Jehoshaphat "set himself to seek the Lord." He didn't set himself to worry. He had a real problem and he knew it. But he made up his mind that he would "seek the Lord."

Notice what Jehoshaphat said next to the Lord, "Lord, we don't know what to do." That is not a bad place to be before God. There is nothing wrong with coming to God with an attitude of *not knowing*.

Then Jehoshaphat added, "But... our eyes are upon You." He didn't have an answer and he knew it. He hadn't been to college to earn a degree in how to defeat these armies. He hadn't been in this position before so he couldn't rely on past experiences. *He did not know what to do!*

Nevertheless Jehoshaphat did know Someone who had the answer. He knew where to put his eyes. Therefore, 2 Chronicles 20: 13 tells us that "all Judah with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord." There was *unity* among the people as they waited on God!!

What happened next? Jehoshaphat got an answer about what to do! I have never seen it fail: *When a person begins to stand on the promises of God, an answer comes every time!!*

The answer God sent came through Jahaziel, who was the son of somebody, who was the son of somebody else - four generations of Jahaziel's family are mentioned. They knew who this Jahaziel was precisely. As Jahaziel stood, the Spirit of the Lord came in the midst of the congregation and said through him, in effect, "Listen, everybody. The Lord says to you, Don't be afraid or dismayed. The battle is not yours, but God's. Go down to where they are tomorrow. But you won't need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand your ground, and

see the salvation of the Lord. Don't be afraid, for the Lord will be with you."

**Jehoshaphat bowed his head to the ground and all the people fell before the Lord, worshipping Him.** They started their *praise service*! 2 Chronicles 20:19 says, "They stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with loud and high voices." They got happy before the Lord - even with those three great armies camped all about them.

The next morning Jehoshaphat gathered all the people together and said, "Listen, everybody. Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established. Believe His prophets and you will prosper."

Then he gathered the choir together and told them, "You will march on the enemy, but not with man-made weapons of warfare. You will lead the way with spiritual weapons of warfare. You will march declaring the high praises of God and singing praises to the Lord." Glory to God, every choir ought to be the "hot-bed" for *praise* in any worship service!!

The Bible says, "When they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir." **Notice that it doesn't say God began to act after they finished their song, but when they began to sing.** Folks, a sovereign *God knows the end before the beginning*. He already had the plan figured out. He was just waiting for them to push the "start" button with their *praises*.

**What happened next?** The enemy became so confused that they began killing one another. The soldiers of *Ammon* and *Moab* started fighting the inhabitants of *Mount Seir*. Then after they had slain them, they turned on one another until, according to 2 Chronicles 20:23, "they helped to destroy one another."

**It took Jehoshaphat and the people three days to gather up all the spoil.** They found an abundance of riches and precious jewels. In fact, it was more than they could carry away. **They had prospered in**

the face of an enemy assault. So Jehoshaphat renamed the valley "Berachah," which means "the valley of blessing."

He had decided that *instead of worrying, he would trust and praise the God of his salvation.* Then the Lord dropped *faith* and *direction* into the people's hearts and they stood to *praise God* with him. Finally, out of praise, a great victory came to pass.

God's plan and purpose has not changed!! Let me close with this question - *Why not choose to trust and praise God as you march in the victory of the Spirit??*

If you have never been saved, why not today?

**Please stand for prayer.**

Father,

Your Word is true. Today, by faith, I choose to stop worrying and start trusting You. I confess I am more than a conqueror through Christ Who loves me. In Jesus' name. Amen.