

Lesson 57 – Don't Let the Spirit Evaporate Away

Recently, on 08/13/2011 the Lord said, "Don't let the spirit evaporate away." I was thinking about this and I decided this would be a good subject to study. How many times do we let the cares of this world affect our spiritual walk with the Lord? How many times do we put the Lord second in our lives? How many times do we allow the enemy to rob us of our joy in the Lord? You know what I'm talking about; you are in the middle of an awesome experience with the Lord, your spirit is soaring and then boom, something happens that brings you down. What is it that causes such disruption?

Worries

Some of us are distracted by the cares and worries of this world. Maybe it's a bill that is coming in that we don't have the money for; or maybe your new boss doesn't like you or you had a fight with your spouse. It could be any number of things but what it amounts to is that you are distracted from the Lord. Whatever it is, it worries you and it becomes a distraction because you did not turn it over to the Lord. Instead you held onto it and let it fester within you. But the Lord tells us in:

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The Lord said, don't worry hand it over to me. So you think well that sounds fine for these messes I get myself into; but what about these things that worry me that are out of my control. Things like this drought we are in right now or other natural calamities (earthquakes, tsunamis etc). It seems like the world is falling apart. Well, the Lord tells us in:

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though its mountains shake with its swelling.

It says that God is our refuge and strength! Hold on to this and don't let it go. Remember the Lord's in control.

Psalm 91:15

He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

The Bible assures us that He is there. Turn it over to Him. He will deliver you. He is your ever-present help. He has taught us about His protections on the THH website <http://www.takehisheart.com/givingtithesbiblething.htm#book>; however, your worries are persisting.

If this is the case you must ask yourself do I fully trust the Lord? **The depth of your worries is a barometer for how much trust and faith you have in the Lord.** If you are unduly burdened with worries you may want to check your trust in the Lord because burdens can cause your spirit to evaporate away. But the Lord says,

Psalm 55:22

Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

John 14:26 *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you; Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

John 16:13 *...when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

Open yourself up to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Sit quietly and listen for His voice. He will teach you. With this you will begin to experience a deeper, more personal relationship with the Lord; your trust and faith will grow as a result and your worries will be less of a distraction.

Second Place

What else could make the spirit evaporate away? I think the spirit will evaporate away if we are not putting the Lord first in our lives. **When we allow our focus to be shifted from the Lord we are in effect putting a distance between the Lord and us.**

Matthew 6:19-21,24

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

This was an interesting verse for a couple of reasons. First it talks about your treasures. **If your earthly treasures are becoming foremost in your mind then they are taking precedence from the Lord thus they are evaporating your spirit because you are placing more thought on treasures than the Lord.**

The second reason this verse is interesting is because it points out that you cannot serve two masters. You remember the old saying a house divided cannot stand. You will not be filled with the spirit and the joy of the Lord if you are focusing on earthly treasures. I think this goes back to **self and being carnally minded.**

Romans 8:5-8

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it

is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

On October 13, 2004 the Lord spoke to the Take His Heart Ministry and said, "**You cannot walk hand-in-hand with me as My bride and have "Self."** The THH website goes on to explain this statement as follows: *It is important that we understand this statement because it is an absolute truth. It is not about the Lord not making exceptions for anyone; it is just a fact. Walking means moving with the Lord. One can move with the Lord, but walking hand-in-hand is moving perfectly with Him. "Self" will keep you from moving perfectly with Him!* This can be found at the following web address: <http://www.takehisheart.com/selfobediencetogod.htm>. A person who is filled with self cannot be moving perfectly with the Lord. How can the spirit of the Lord fill us if we are already full of self? It goes back to not being able to serve two masters. The Lord said, *You shall have no other gods before Me.* **Exodus 20:3.**

The Lord explains through Hosea what happens when we are not putting the Lord first; but instead "walk" in our own ways.

Hosea 5:4-7

They do not direct their deeds toward turning to their God, for the spirit of harlotry is in their midst, and they do not know the Lord. The pride of Israel testifies to his face; therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them. With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the Lord, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn Himself from them. They have dealt treacherously with the Lord, for they have begotten pagan children. Now a New Moon shall devour them and their heritage.

Hosea said that they did not direct their deeds or actions towards the Lord because a spirit of harlotry was in them. We can find a greater understanding of harlotry on the THH website at <http://www.takehisheart.com/harlotharlotrybride.htm> where it offers this. To understand "Harlotry" one must realize that it is an act. **A woman is called a harlot because of her acts, not because of her nationality or who she is.** People are called liars because they lie, not because of skin color or nationality. So we see, who a woman is has nothing to do with whether she is a harlot or a Bride. **It comes from her acts!**

Israel stumbled in her iniquity, in her pride (The pride of Israel testifies). Israel, by her acts, was in trouble with the Lord when she played the harlot. Therefore, God did not move miraculously on her behalf. When we allow self in, we allow distractions in, we will have inappropriate acts and just like Israel we will stumble. Hosea described the result of this when he said, **and they do not know the Lord.** If we allow self to take over, the spirit will evaporate away because *the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God.* Keep God in first place.

Theft

I know you are probably thinking, what does theft have to do with our spirit evaporating; well, let me ask you another question. **Are you allowing the enemy to rob you of your joy in the Lord?**

1 Peter 5:6-11 *..Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your*

brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Do you ever feel you are under spiritual attack? It can happen. We know that the Bible is full of examples, of situations, which arise in life that we have to deal with. This shouldn't surprise you, take Jesus for example; even He was "tempted" by the devil. **Matthew 4:3** *Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."* The devil or his demons will mess with you just like he messed with Jesus. This happens because the devil hates for us to have a close personal relationship with the Lord.

Remember the poor guy spoken of in **Matthew 9:32** *As they went out, behold, they brought Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.* Let's look up the definition of the word possess. The definition of the word Possess is to have and hold as property, own; to have as an attribute, knowledge or skill; to seize and take control of, to take possession of; to enter into and control firmly, dominate; to bring or cause to fall under the influence, domination, or control of some emotional or intellectual response or reaction. That sounds pretty scary when you think of it in regards to the devil or his demons.

How do you suppose this man came to be demon-possessed? I think some hints can be found in the definition. For instance it said, to fall under the influence, to enter into, to have knowledge or skill. I maybe making a jump here but it sounds to me like **it is something that you have allowed to happen because you opened a door to it.** You can't fall under the influence of something if you aren't looking at it. (We open the door to the enemy through lawlessness.) Once the door is opened you are allowing entry; the devil or his demons can then legally gain knowledge or control of you.

Ephesians 4:25-27

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and do not sin"; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

Paul is basically saying, quit breaking the law (quit lying, don't sin). **Lawlessness gives a place to the devil.** When we open the door he will enter in; it's just like being full of self, you can't be full of the spirit of the Lord and have the devil there too. The spirit of the Lord will not reside with the enemy; therefore, don't open that door. **"Don't let the spirit evaporate away."**

The definition of possess also said, to control firmly and dominate, to me these words indicate **weakness or lack of preparation** if you are looking at them from the standpoint of the devil possessing you. If he is controlling me firmly, if he is dominating me then I have not prepared myself. **He has gained control over me through my weakness.** I don't want the enemy to own or influence me but that's his goal. Therefore we must prepare ourselves just as the Lord has been instructing us to do. See these words we have received from the Lord just this year.

03/ 14/2011: **Precautions. Rely on me, that's your precaution. I will direct your path. I will let you know how and when to prepare. Don't listen to all the naysayers as they will rob you of your joy.**

03/27/2011: **It is important that you draw close to Me everyday, every hour. Walk hand in hand with Me. Read My word.**

05/01/2011: Study, prepare- your heart, your mind, your soul and your spirit; in other words my temple.

You can see how the Lord has been directing us. And in the verses above from 1 Peter we were told to resist the devil, stand strong in our faith understanding that we are not alone in this battle. Peter warns us to humble ourselves before the Lord turning it all over to Him. Thus when we keep the Lord first in our heart, when we turn our cares and worries over to Him, and when we tell the devil to go packing; it is then that we will hold onto the spirit. This entire process is made easier through our study and preparation as the Lord instructed us.

I want to close with these verses from the Lord that I think pretty much sums it all up.

John 15:9-11

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

May the Lord Bless and Keep You and May His Light Shine Upon You!

Cindy

<http://www.takehisheart.com>