

Saved To Serve- An Excellent Spirit

Isaiah 59:8 The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

This scripture refers to those who are lost and not following God. The sign of those who do not follow God is the lack of peace. For the world, life is a struggle. For those who do not know the way of righteousness, they are constantly striving and fighting to make it their way. The way of God is not through arguing with each other or criticising and manipulate others. The way of God is peace, faith and love. We have to discern the way of God from the way of the world and that of the flesh. Too many Christians forget that they are saved and they live like the rest of the world. It's important that we get saved, stay saved and live like a saved Christian. We have the way of peace.

Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. So when you find your mind attacked, devoid of peace, know right away that the devil is attacking you. **The weapons of our warfare are not carnal.** But the devil is like a puppeteer which tries to turn us against each other. I am a child of God. I am a saint. This is our position as Christians. The Bible says that **having done all else, stand and stand therefore.** Stand strong in your position of holiness, righteousness and love. Stand strong in the love of God.

What is the victory of the cross? LOVE! But when you catch yourself in an argument, it is hard to believe that love never fails, whereas Christianity is about the love of God. The victory of the cross is the victory of the love of God over the devil. You can never find a solution in negative emotions. Negative thoughts and emotions can destroy you. Solutions are only found in love, peace and faith. You need to believe God enough to humble yourself to His love, instead of cursing your enemy. Believe that God is the One to vindicate and promote us. In a strife among Christians, God alone is right. If we are both fighting and arguing, we are both wrong. **Stop a quarrel before it begins.** We do not toy with negative emotions, which are very destructive. Stand strong in who you are- you are a CHILD OF GOD. We have self-control. We are temperate in all things.

Confess the Word of God over yourselves. Stir up the power of faith and the love of God in you. We are saved- don't live like we are victims to negative emotions. Stir up the river of living water in you. Who is the gift who has been given to us? The Holy Spirit. We are joined to the Lord and we are one spirit with Him. Don't ignore the

Holy Spirit. Stir up the gift within. Talk to the Holy Spirit within.

Judge yourself so you will not be judged. God wants us to live by grace, and not by the law. Don't try to insist your right. We are not called to be perfectionists. We are called to be humble. It's okay to make a mistake. His grace covers all our mistakes. I would rather exalt the mercy of God than to come under the judgment of the law. A legalistic spirit is harsh and mean, and is a violent spirit. Who crucified Jesus? The Pharisees. So whenever you perceive that there is a legalistic spirit working through you, bind him. Demons are very real. There are many intellectual Christians who do not believe in spirits. But Christianity is about our spirits. You must get to know your spirit. God is a triune being- God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are the same- spirit, soul and body. The world has the order reversed- body first, soul next and the spirit last. Soul is consisted of emotions, thoughts and will. Emotions are very powerful. Emotions can drive a person to hysteria. The devil majors in attacking our emotions. So you must be sharp to detect the emotional condition you are in. What spirit is influencing you? God has given us emotions so we may discern angelic from demonic activities. Emotions are signposts. Sometimes the devil attacks in your mind that you are not even aware of it. Before you know it, you found yourself not interested in the Bible but in the world. Then he builds a stronghold of carnality and worldliness in the mind.

Another way the devil works is that he drives you. He drives us to extremes. It's important for the Christians to be temperate. There is a mental illness called Bipolar disorder. One minute the person is manic but the next, depressed. God needs your cooperation. If you want to be in the blessings of God, rise up to be tough and strong.

Psalm 8:5-6 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.

Animals live by instincts but humans live by choice.

Psalm 82:6-7 I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.

God told the Israelites that they are spiritual beings, sons and daughters of the Most High. Yet they shall perish like men. Why? Because they would not order their lives according to God's statutes and commandments, even though they were ordained to be like God. TV and movies portray people living by their instincts and impulses. Jesus has come to rescue us from that beastly status. We need to remember this and

live like this. Don't allow yourselves to live like victims to circumstances and situations, without spiritual insight and knowledge and understanding.

Anger can drive a person. When you detect anger, do not justify it. Rebuke that spirit. Reinforce your spiritual status as a godly being.

The basic difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is that our spirits are alive. Our spirits are born again to be in communion with God. Some Christians act like a mere man. Our spirits are born again, and open to the ministry of the Truth. Our spirits are open to the ministry of righteousness. Our spirits are charged with all the power of the Holy Spirit. So when we have a problem, we must speak to the Holy Spirit. That is why you should come to church, to worship and to commune with God. We are not hyped up. We are not into Pentecostal fanaticism. Once you are born again, your spirit is in tune with the Holy Spirit. Your spirit has the fruit of the spirit in it, so you must constantly stir them up to work in you. Christians must therefore be fervent and on fire. **If you are lukewarm, I will spit you up out of my mouth,** declared Jesus. We cannot afford to miss the ministry of the Holy Spirit. That is also why that in the tabernacle, the fire must never be put out. Understand that we have an enemy which is a spirit. He will do his best to destroy the power that is in your spirit. The devil will try his best to influence your spirit so that you are not walking in the power of it, but being led astray into deception- this becomes fanaticism.

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

You are a spirit, you have a soul, and you live in a body. I am a spirit and that is why I can never die. So don't take this life too seriously. Don't be so intense with this life. Live a simple life! Don't be so engrossed in this earth that you lose the spiritual sensitivity. **My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

Therefore on Sunday we gather to exalt the Lord. We may not feel like being spiritual. Yet you ARE a spirit. You can stir it up with a song. You can stir it up with the Word of God. You can stir up the spiritual part of you. When you have been stirred up, your spirit will strengthen you in the Word of God and leads your soul. Hence, morning devotions are vital. Men, you should pray for your wife and children, because you carry the spiritual authority to cover your family. You are the head of the home. This is your spiritual duty. Divorce is a very violent spirit. Both spouses are driven by devils. The household becomes a warzone, whereas the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the ministry of reconciliation. Humble yourself to apologise to each other. Let God justify and vindicate you. There is power in humility. As soon as you humble yourself, peace

comes in. Pride is destructive, because **God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble**. As soon as you are humble, you release the grace of God to work in your life.

Luke 9:54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

The disciples were operating in the spirit of murder, a very violent spirit.

V55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

The disciples were offended and angered, the devils drove them in the spirit of murder. In the Old Testament, Ahab sent an army to arrest Elijah who called down fire from heaven and burned up all of them. The disciples were fully aware of the power of God upon Jesus, and they wanted vengeance on those that did not receive them. Our spirits can be influenced. There are devils around us to influence our spirits. Demons want to push us to insist on evil and still justify ourselves. There are many “wacky” Christians who can never settle down in a church; you don’t see fruit in their lives, they just display their “spirituality” and “superiority” everywhere they go.

A pastor must be able to handle and manage his/her family, with children in honour and respect as well as the spouse in agreement. Your life will bear you fruit. If you continue to yield yourself to the spirit of hatred, antagonism, murder, anger and strife, the same spirit will pass down to the next generation. “Like father, like son.” Demons visit from one generation to the next. We therefore need to discern and be aware of the spiritual condition we are in and take full responsibility for our attitude. Righteousness and holiness is our protection. The sceptre of the Kingdom is the sceptre of righteousness, which is God’s way of being and doing right. When you submit to righteousness, you shall walk in authority. You don’t need to argue your way through, God make a way for you to walk through.

Commit yourself to be trained. John was nicknamed “the son of thunder”. Yet in the epistles, he was recognised as the apostle of love. There might be times when you suddenly have thoughts of antagonism against someone. The Lord has allowed me to experience that and taught me that as soon as it happens, very soon there will be a manifestation- abuse, ugly emotions... If you are sensitive in your spirit, you can sense demonic activities before they come. You can pick up the spiritual condition in

each other. You can tell what spirit you are operating in.

There are levels of destruction. For example, the couple might initially just have small arguments. The next minute, their strives become more and more uncontrollable, ruining their children. Then your offspring turn against you and get into all sorts of trouble. So don't play with the devil- there is nothing good in him.

Genesis 4:5-7 But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect. And Cain was very wroth and his countenance fell. And the Lord said unto Cain, why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Here sin is portrayed as a person. Sin is "crookedness". Sin is a spirit, the devil himself. The devil was provoking Cain to be angry to the point that he lost his self-control. Then God spoke to him and indicated that Cain did have a choice. The devil desired Cain. The devil wanted to control Cain and possess him. God told Cain that he shall RULE OVER sin. But if he did not, it would rule over him. **If you want to spoil the house, first bind the strong man, then you'll spoil his house.** Whoever stronger will win. Don't look back and justify your anger and despair. No! Wrestle him to defeat him. Don't tolerate ugly thoughts and don't allow them to manifest through you, because they will ultimately deceive and control you. But did Cain hearken to God to stop the devil? No. He committed murder, lost his family and grandchildren to the devil, until Jesus came .

Peter also fell into the same temptation. He denied Jesus three times. Paul also knew what it was like to be driven by devils- he persecuted the church. By the Word of God, God has opened a spiritual window to us. We can perceive things through the Truth to conduct ourselves wisely. Whenever you feel a strong anger towards someone, or the pressure is so heavy that it drives you to sin and to backbite, pause, call upon the Lord. Fornication is also a demonic pressure. That is why it is important that you do not go by extremes. Be temperate in all things. Your emotions also need to be temperate. Conduct yourself peacefully.

Judge yourself and the condition of your spirit. Understand that demons are destructive and negative, and they drive you to be obsessive and compulsive. When he is driving you, you feel that you are so busy, lonely, dejected, misunderstood; and you become irritable, snappy, argumentative , intolerant and ugly!

These are some examples of negative emotions: anger, hatred, prejudice, antagonism, racism, suspicion, fury, strife... Negative emotions can make a man mad, completely losing his mind.

James 3:17-8 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in them that make peace.

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of love, power and a sound mind. A sound mind is vital to peaceful living. Cultivate our temperament to be peace-loving. Pray through any situation that is not right or just. Let your tongue speak peace. Don't allow your tongue to speak strife and division. Be a peace-lover. Humble yourself and repent before God when you make a mistake. In and of ourselves we are weak. We need the strength of God to empower us. We need to open our eyes to our own spiritual condition for Him to strengthen us. **Ask and it shall be given unto you.**

John 2:24-25 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man; for he knew what was in man. Accept men's fallibility. Don't be harsh and intolerant of others. One night when I was asleep, suddenly I heard many people scolding and criticising me. It was like darts of poison shooting at me. Then I woke up and didn't know what to do. Then the Holy Spirit instructed me to rebuke the devils. I did and went back to sleep peacefully. The devil wants to compel you to attack others. The devils attack through and against you. Don't reason when you are in that kind of situation. Rebuke them! It is not of God. Jesus said that if you are not for me, you are against me. If you are not with God, you are against Him. We need to judge ourselves, so we do not become vulnerable to demonic attacks. The more quickly we mature, the more powerful we shall be in our services to God. I've decided to follow Jesus, no turning back! **Even though I fall, I shall arise.** This is the tenacity to get up again and again that will put you at the top.

Jesus does not need us to tell Him how wrong your family, your congregation or your pastor are. Be kind and merciful. Be an intercessor. The Holy Spirit will **shed abroad the love of God in your heart as you pray in tongues.** Let God's love flow through me. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and He shall exalt you. Christianity is about worshipping God in spirit and in truth, the wisdom of God is full of mercy and good fruits.

1 Corinthians 14:32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets.

You are always in control of your spirit. The sign of a powerful Christian is SELF-CONTROL. Jesus is very strong in self-control. He never ran wild. He was always in command, anointed, led, not driven. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to mature us in godliness, let us be willing to be trained.