

SPIRITUAL POISE  
OR THE  
QUIET SPIRIT



**D**iogenes said, “Bury me on my face.” When someone asked why, he said, “Because in a little while the world will be turned upside down.” In a sense that prophecy has come true. We are living in a topsy-turvy world. This is a century of great confusion. While world leaders talk “peace, peace” they are planning sudden destruction. Frustration, uncertainty and mistrust abound on all sides.

This restless spirit of the world has invaded the church. Many saints of God are in serious soul trouble. Satan has adroitly weighted them down with perplexities, problems, complexities, worries and many other pressures of life. The vast majority of these sick saints are not aware of it. But the Holy Spirit will be faithful to the honest, searching heart.

It is examination time. Are you willing to take inventory? Paul told the Corinthian saints to “*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...*” (II Corinthians 13:5).

Do you fret because of evil doers (whether it be a sinner or a saint doing the evil)? Don’t cheat. Face the test honestly. God’s command is “*Fret not thyself because of evil doers...*” (Psalm 37:1).

Do you worry? Be careful about this ap-

praisal. You cannot hide the slightest tinge of worry from the Lord. His message to the worrier is “*Be careful for nothing...*” (Philippians 4:6). The free translation would be “do not worry about anything.”

Does impatience creep up on you in unguarded moments? At such times the Holy Spirit is quenched and the unquiet spirit is in control. The spiritual panacea for this is expressed in James 1:3-4. “*Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*”

Do sarcastic barbs fly off the end of your tongue? This is an indication of internal disorder as stated in Matthew 15:18. “*But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.*” A tongue that “*...is set on fire of hell*” needs a new controller. When the Holy Spirit is in control of the “body” which is the temple of the Holy Ghost the saint will “*...shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom,*” (James 3:6, 13).

Are there hidden fears that you will not openly and honestly face? Such a cover-up can only produce increasing tensions and storms in the soul. It makes a vulnerable spot for the enemy to work. “*For God hath not*

*given us the spirit of fear...*” (I Timothy 1:7) therefore it must come from the enemy. Out with all of them! Take them to the Master of all fears for “*...the LORD shall give thee rest from thy fear...*” (Isaiah 14:3).

Do you have a hard, unbending attitude, ultra-dogmatic? Have you failed to reckon the big “I” as nailed to the cross? Have you allowed tyrannical self to rule and dominate your life and activity? If so, it will not be easy to submit to this diagnosis. Ask yourself, “Am I ‘*...gentle, and easy to be intreated...*’ (James 3:17)?” That kind of a spirit is heavenly and comes from God. The ungentle and hard to approach spirit is sensual and comes from the world.

Do you have clandestine love affairs with the world? A worldly spirit or a spirit of the world will never produce joy or satisfaction. It will produce disquietness and frustration. It is a Scriptural principle that “*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other...*” (Matthew 6:24). Clear orders from the man of God are, “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...*” (I John 2:15).

Do you get upset when you are misunderstood by others and when all your honest ef-

forts to straighten things out are rejected? There is some balm of Gilead for this distressing condition found in I Peter 2:20. “*For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.*”

Are there those who are harsh, hard and unforgiving toward you who have blatantly thwarted all your efforts of reconciliation? What is your reaction to this kind of treatment? Does your flesh say, retaliate, expose? This would be answering the spirit of the age with the spirit of the age. God forbid. The saint with the quiet spirit will not render “*...evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing...*” (I Peter 3:9).

These manifestations are some of the symptoms of the spirit of this world. Whether it is a gross sin or a slight deviation from the will of God, the result is the same—an unquiet spirit. Where do you stand?

Not everything was mentioned that could have been in this limited survey. We do not want to limit the Holy Spirit’s operation in your heart. For total victory there must be total honesty and heart-searching. Are you guilty of \_\_\_\_\_? Fill that space in with anything the Holy Spirit reveals to you

and deal with it as He directs. “But thou, O man of God, flee these things: and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness,” (1 Timothy 6:11). “*And that ye study to be quiet...*” (1 Thessalonians 4:11).

There is also another process by which the Holy Spirit leads the saints to a place of quiet rest. It is often interpreted as prayer but it is not prayer. It is, just as it is simply stated, waiting. “*Truly my soul waiteth upon God...*” (Psalm 62:1). “*The Lord is good unto them that wait for him...*” (Lamentations 3:25).

True waiting on God is not a blank, passive state of the soul. “*It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD*” (Lamentations 3:26). “*My soul, wait thou only upon God: for my expectation is from him*” (Psalm 62:5). Hope and expectation are in the heart of the soul that waits on the Lord. The Psalmist said, “*I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait...*” (Psalm 130:5). There is no activity described here, no lip communication, no bodily action but rather waiting with the whole soul before God.

“*Rest in the LORD...*” (Psalm 37:7) in the Hebrew means “be silent unto Him.” “*...in quietness and confidence shall be your strength...*” (Isaiah 30:15). “*And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect*

*of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever*” (Isaiah 32:17). Note first there is quietness, and then assurance.

This silence and quietness which accompanies waiting is the direct opposite to haste. “But God ought to act in this emergency now.” Wait, beloved, upon the Lord. “The judgment of God ought to fall on that person who wronged me,” Silence! “*...Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord*” (Romans 12:19). “Why doesn’t God reveal His will to me in detail right now?” You need to learn to wait on Him. Abraham went out “*not knowing whither he went.*” Are we any better than this friend of God? “Why didn’t you intervene, Lord, and avert this tragedy?” Martha had this complaining spirit to a degree when she gently but definitely rebuked the Lord by saying, “*...Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died*” (John 11:21). Remember this! God is always on time regardless of how the extenuating circumstances might appear. “*...though it (the vision) tarry, wait for it...Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith*” (Habakkuk 2:3-4).

Quiet submission to the Lord Jesus is a potent and important experience for the saint. “*But they that wait upon the LORD shall re-*

*new their strength; for they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”* (Isaiah 40:31).

Satan will oppose all efforts of any individual who seeks to have a quiet spirit. The enemy goes to work as described in Psalm 35:20. *“For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.”* We need to encourage our hearts as David did. *“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God...”* (Psalm 42:11).

When the disciples were sailing across a storm-tossed lake with the Lord Jesus on board, they were all right until the storm got into their hearts. Therefore we who are living in a troubled world need to be on guard that the troubled world does not live in us. The spirit of the world drives. The Lord Jesus leads. In the midst of tempests and turbulent waters, we can be rescued by the promise that He will lead us *“beside still waters.”*

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