

The Spiritual Christian's Potential Harmonious-Glorious Life Style

Part Two

Directing Love & Joy When In Trials or Temptations

Introduction: The Christian is never without some aspect of divine enabling from the Triune God, 1 John 3:9; Heb. 135; John 14:16.

I. Some of the Resources Available to the Spiritual Christian

- A. Inner Traits of the Spiritual Christian – Eph. 5:18-21
1. *Giving Thanks*: an appreciation for God the Father's grace expressed by the spiritual Christian to the Triune God both in and out of trials and the various circumstances of the Christian life.
 2. *A Singing Heart*: an inner (mental) expression of worship and praise by the spiritual Christian to the Triune God that affects the mind and determinations, Eph. 5:18.
 3. *A Submissive Heart*: an inner (mental) determination to submit to other Christians to the Triune God's glory, Eph. 5:21.
- B. The One Fruit from the Spirit produced in the Spiritual Christian, Gal. 5:22-23.
1. *LOVE*: is the supernatural ability to possess an other centered mental attitude that desires, delights, and produces actions for the well being of the objected loved, even to the point of self sacrifice. Thus, it will focus on the maturity of other Christians, John 13:34, 15:13; 1 John 4:8, 16.
 2. *JOY*: is a supernatural mental ability to accept and be pleasantly satisfied with God's will for the Christian (past, present and future) without resentment or frustration, James 1:2. It is not to be confused with happiness.
 3. *PEACE*: is a supernatural unruffled mind that is able to confront circumstances or any eventuality to the Triune God's glory, John 14:27.
 4. *Longsuffering*: is a supernatural condition of the mind to be far from heat, whereby the spiritual Christian can hold the temper (heating up of the emotional mind to an outward explosive expression) towards those Christians being unreasonable or objectionable, 1 Pet. 3:20.
 5. *Kindness* (gentleness, KJV): Is a supernatural ability to have a sweetness of temperament that keeps from inflicting pain or offense towards another that puts others at ease, Rom. 2:4.
 6. *Goodness*: Is a supernatural ability to be mentally satisfied and have an inner pleasure over who and what the Christian is and does being God's child and son. It results in an outward expression of happiness, Mt. 19:16, 17.
 7. *Faith*: Is defined in Hebrews 11:1, the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, thus the supernatural mental ability to believe and act upon the promises from the Triune God given to the Christian.

8. *Meekness*: is a supernatural tameness of spirit (the rational part of the mind) that keeps the mind directed at the objective without distractions. Thus, an objectivity of mind that can restore other Christians while keeping yourself from being likewise tempted, Gal. 6:1.
9. *Self-control*: is the supernatural ability to control the physical appetites occupying the mind so that they do not hinder the spiritual Christians service for the Triune God and be disapproved, 1 Cor. 9:24-27.

II. The Challenge of Being In Trials and Temptations

1 Peter 4:12, 13; 1 Cor. 10:13; James 1:2-4

A. Trials:

1. Persecution (Pursued) – Rom. 8:35
2. Affliction or Tribulation (Pressured) – Rom. 8:35
3. Distress or Straits (Peril) – Rom. 8:35
4. Suffering (Pain) – 2 Tim. 3:12

B. Temptation:

1. The World System
2. The Flesh or Sin Nature
3. The Devil and Demons

III. Directing Love & Joy In Trials and Temptations

John 13:34; Phil. 2:17, 18; 1 Th. 2:19, 20, 1:6, 3:9

A. In Temptations:

1. Joy – James 1:2, lead the mind – How?
 - a. God's will for the Christian has righteous purpose, Heb. 12:2-4.
 - b. The Father measures the Christians ability, 1 Cor. 10:13.
 - c. Temptations can be for the Christian's benefit, James 1:2-12.
2. Love – James 1:12 – How?
 - a. The New Commandment of Christ – John 13:34.
 - b. Love me keep (guard) my commandments, John 14:15,21, 23.
 - c. Thus, love will focus the mind towards other Christians desiring and acting for their well being, rather than unrighteous selfish desires.

B. In Trials:

1. Love & Joy are matured when the Christian is being hated and persecuted, under trials, John 15:10, 11, 18-27, 16:33
2. God will righteously judge those attacking His children, 1 Pet. 2:21-23, 4:16-19; 2 Pet. 2:9; 2 Th. 1:6-9.
3. The Christian has a secure and better inheritance, Heb. 10:34-37.
4. The Christian learns obedience that comes from faith, 1 Pet. 5:10, 4:19, 3:17, Heb. 5:8, 9; Phil. 1:29.
5. The Christian suffers for godliness, 1 Th. 2:13, 14; 2 Tim. 3:12.
6. Thus, ***righteously directing love*** will focus the mind towards desiring, delighting, and acting for the well being of other Christians. While, ***righteously directing joy*** they will be pleasantly satisfied with God's will for their life without resentment or frustration.

Conclusion: The Christian is never without some aspect of divine enabling from the Triune God, 1 John 3:9; Heb. 135; John 14:16. However the Christian must respond to that enabling by utilizing it in righteousness. Christians are co-workers ***with*** God!