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How You Can Be Led by the

Spirit of God



LEGACY EDITION

Expanded With New Material

First Characteristic: A Song in Your Heart

One characteristic of the Spirit-filled life is that *you'll have a song in your heart*. Let's look again at a verse from Ephesians chapter 5.

EPHESIANS 5:19

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

If you are filled with the Spirit, it will be recognizable. People will know it. You'll know it, too, because if you are full of the Holy Ghost, you will have a song in your heart. What does it mean to have a song in your heart? It means you've got joy!

The Bible says, *"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and JOY in the Holy Ghost"* (Rom. 14:17). If you are full of joy, it will show on your face. You may even dance, sing, or laugh. Sometimes when you're full of joy, you just can't keep from laughing, even when you're by yourself!

So you see, being filled with the Spirit means you'll have joy and a song in your heart. Now, I don't mean some song that you get out of a songbook. The songs we sing in church are fine. We ought to sing

them. But they didn't have any songbooks back in the Apostle Paul's day. They didn't have printing presses back then.

Paul is talking about "*psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*." He is describing something that the Holy Ghost gives you. These songs come from your heart, on the spur of the moment. They are given to us by the Spirit to help us.

I've noticed that in the hard places of my life, I find myself speaking in psalms and spiritual songs. In the most severe places, I've spoken nearly all night long in psalms. One night, I actually did speak in psalms all night long. I never slept a wink that night!

During the tough times, the Holy Spirit inspires me. He gives me psalms to help me. Do you remember that Jesus said to His disciples, "I'll not leave you comfortless"? (See John 14:18.) He asked the Father to send "another Comforter," the Holy Spirit. *The Amplified Bible* translates the word *Comforter* as "Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby" (John 14:16). The Holy Ghost is our Standby. He's standing by to help us in the hard places in life. And those psalms He gave me helped me. They were a comfort to me.

Now, read what Paul wrote to the church at Colosse.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

In Ephesians 5:19, Paul wrote that you ought to be "speaking to yourselves. . . ." In that verse, he's talking about something you do in your own private prayer life. But here in Colossians, Paul says we can be "*teaching and admonishing one another*," or, in other words, speaking to one another. That means we can speak in psalms, hymns, and

spiritual songs at all times. We can do it when we're praying alone. We can speak these songs to another individual. Or we can do it in a public assembly.

But notice the criteria God expects us to meet before we speak! The Word of Christ is to *first of all* dwell in you "richly in all wisdom." Sometimes the Word of Christ dwells in people, but not in wisdom. Paul admonishes you to make sure it dwells in you in wisdom.

Let me give you an example. A number of years ago, way back in 1939, I knew two young men. One of them was 16, and the other one was 17. They got born again and later on were filled with the Holy Ghost.

One day, these two teenage boys went out hunting rabbits. They had a .22-caliber rifle with them. As they headed back home, they walked down a railroad track until they ran into a young boy. Then they stopped, because they wanted to witness to him.

They said to him, "Are you ready to die?"

Well, when this young boy heard what they said and saw that they had a .22 rifle, he took off running!

Later on, these teenage boys said to me, "We weren't going to kill him. We were going to talk to him about Jesus. We wanted to know if he was ready to go to Heaven."

These boys had the Word of God in them. But they weren't using wisdom, so their plan failed. That's why the Word of God needs to dwell in us richly in all wisdom.

The Purpose of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Notice that Colossians chapter 3, verse 16, goes on to say, ". . . teaching and admonishing one another." How do we teach and

admonish others? The rest of the verse tells us we do it *"in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*

Paul means that those psalms would teach and encourage believers. If the Christians in Colosse were facing a test or trial, those psalms they received from the Holy Ghost would teach them or encourage them in what they were going through.

This benefit isn't something that belonged *just* to them. This belongs to every believer! Paul was not writing to just one or two people in those two churches. He was writing to the whole church at Ephesus and Colosse. He was writing to the whole group. And if he was writing to them, then he was writing to us. This benefit belongs to every single one of us!

Now in the Old Testament, no one had the Holy Spirit except the prophet, the priest, and the king. Each of those individuals was anointed by the Holy Ghost to stand in his or her particular office. David was both a king and a prophet. And many of the psalms he wrote were given to him by the Holy Ghost to help him pass a test or trial successfully. In David's hard times, the Holy Ghost gave him a psalm to encourage and teach him.

Speaking Psalms by Faith

We must have faith to step over into the area of speaking psalms from the Holy Ghost. It takes faith to possess anything that belongs to us, and certainly this blessing belongs to us. Speaking in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is a means of keeping filled with the Spirit and being blessed.

Psalms come by the Holy Ghost, just like the interpretation comes for an utterance in tongues. When somebody speaks with other tongues, if you're going to interpret, the Holy Ghost anoints you

to interpret. But you don't get the whole message before you start interpreting. Usually you will just get the first word or two. The rest of the interpretation comes as you speak out what you already know to say. But you have to start out by faith, trusting the Holy Ghost to give you the rest of the interpretation.

The same is true with psalms. Sometimes I just get a single word. Sometimes I'll get two. Sometimes maybe one line. Then I just start speaking that out by faith.

Here is a psalm that the Lord gave me entitled "Victory."

VICTORY

Victory is not in places.

Victory is not in things.

Victory is in Him, the Eternal One.

For there came One out from the Father long ago—

A Champion into this world,

Given by the Father's love,

Who met the enemy in awful combat.

And He arose victorious over death, hell, and the grave.

And He put the enemy to flight.

So the victory is yours tonight!

These psalms just come out of my spirit. Here is another psalm that the Lord gave me.

WALKING

Walking in the light is walking in the Word.

For the entrance of His Words giveth light.

I'm not in the darkness, but I'm in the light.

HOW YOU CAN BE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Those in the world are in darkness.

Darkness envelops them.

Darkness directs them.

And the enemy of darkness obsesses them.

But I'm in the Light.

And the Light of God shines upon my pathway. Ha, ha, ha, ha.

And I'm full of praise.

And I'm full of joy!

For the Lord is my Light.

Yea, He is my salvation.

He has put the enemy to flight.

The battle is not yours.

The battle is not mine.

But the victory belongs to both of us.

You can see how these psalms would encourage a person in hard times, can't you? Glory to God! That's why we speak in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.