



Living in the Spirit





Awesome Salutation

- **1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and [a]communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and [b]heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.



Continuing On

■ ⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who [c]is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins [d]by His blood— ⁶ and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to [e]His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.



And On ...

7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who [f]is to come, the Almighty.”



Things Are Good Here

- ⁹ I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and [g]perseverance *which are* in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ **I was [h]in the Spirit on the Lord's day**
- **And this is what I saw**



Here is the Real Headline

- The prophecies and images of the Revelation are definitely very cool and urgently important
- But the most important takeaway here – the headline - is that John received this while he was **IN THE SPIRIT** AND PROBABLY **BECAUSE** HE WAS IN THE SPIRIT
- Was it because it was the Lord's Day? Maybe
- Was it John's habit to be in the Spirit every day? So he could interact with God at **any time**? Most likely, the answer is **YES**.



What Does It Mean?

- What does it mean to be “In the Spirit?”
- What does it feel like, look like, what happens when you are in the Spirit?
- How do you know when you are “in the Spirit?” How often do you experience being “In the Spirit?”
- Is it important to you to personally desire being in the Spirit? Can you seek the experience, or does it just happen?
- In the Spirit vs in the Flesh - explain



Ephesians 2

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the **course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the **desires of the flesh and of the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.



Living in the Flesh ...

Isn't overtly evil and nasty and immoral and criminal, it is full of the most logical, reasonable, sensible, manageable, noble, rational and accessible ideas and actions that humans can achieve. All the right things for all the right reasons, But not rooted in absolute dependence on the life and mind and power of God, **but instead doing what the world says is normal; what we want in our own power and understanding because we want it.**



Flesh is Deceptive

And that is pride – i.e., not humbly living by faith in and dependence on Jesus for all things - and whatever is not of faith is sin and sin leads to death and **THAT IS WHY THE BIBLE SAYS WE WERE DEAD IN OUR SINS.** Not because we were serial adulterers or murderers, but because we were depending on our own mind and our own strength to achieve our own goals by our own efforts and abilities- **because that is what it made sense to us to do.**



Living in the Spirit

- John 15: 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, **for apart from Me you can do nothing.**
- Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.



Picture This

- John 17:20 “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, **that they also may be in Us**, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.



Cutting to the Chase

- We think we have to invoke the power of God, and we have to be worthy of the power of God, pray and fast until the power of God comes down, and that the manifestation of the power of God is rare and miraculous when it does come.
- Actually, living in the presence and power of God is like breathing, like floating in a swimming pool surrounded by his glory, like catching and surfing his wave that is always flowing.



We Are Immersed

- In short, we are surrounded by the presence and power of God and inundated by the presence and power of God at all times, and the only reason we don't see it and don't experience it and aren't buoyed up and empowered by it is because we aren't surrendered to it and aren't expecting it and think that we are supposed to operate in the flesh in order to earn these little Grace drops of his power when they serendipitously fall into our lives,



The Point Is

- But operating in the flesh – trying to control and make stuff happen based on our understanding and human effort - only and always brings death!!!
- We could be and should be flowing and growing in the presence and power of God 24 7 365, but it comes when we begin to understand that we are spiritual beings created and ordained to in and by the Spirit, where Christ the Holy Spirit lives in me and I live in Him and that is all there is to it!



Now I Get the Urgency

- Ephesians 3: 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom [a]every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,



We Need to Get It

- 18 may be able to comprehend with all the [b]saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.
- 20 Now to **Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us**, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations [c]forever and ever. Amen.



Picture This

- And now I understand the urgency of this prayer. **GOD PLEASE HELP THEM UNDERSTAND PLEASE REVEAL TO THEM THE FULL PICTURE OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND WHAT YOU WANT US TO HAVE AND HOW WE ARE GOING TO LIVE**
- JUST STOP AND PICTURE FOR A MOMENT WHAT LIFE MIGHT BE LIKE, IF WE WERE LIVING IN THE SPIRIT LIKE THIS
- I was in the Spirit on Tuesday afternoon...



Good News!, YOU Are

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY