

Freedom in the Spirit

By Les Dueck

“Now the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit is, there is liberty.” II Cor. 3:17

Let me share an experience I had and continue to have by walking in my true identity rather than in my soul identity. For years I have read and studied on the subject of the ‘peace of God’. I knew where the major scripture verses on this subject were and I had memorized many of them. Jesus promised that we could have this peace, so like most Christians I asked God for this peace to come to me. Of course I was expecting a change in my ‘feelings’ and the turmoil in my mind to suddenly quit. It never happened! It was then that I discovered that the theology of peace and the experience of peace were on opposite sides of the door. The theology brings us to the door but it doesn’t bring us to the experience. I have often felt that prayer or asking for peace should open the door but it never did. Then revelation came that ‘peace’ was part of the inheritance I have as a believer, I shouldn’t have to ask for it but just claim it, but still peace eluded me. Finally in doing a study on my new identity in Christ, revelation came again; peace was not from Jesus but rather it was in Jesus. This is wonderful because I am already in Christ, but peace did not come just because of my position in Him; I had to learn to ‘step into Christ’. Stepping into Christ is not a biblical term but walking in the Spirit is! I use the term, stepping into Christ because I am visual and this helps me see what I need to do. Once I learned how to ‘step into Christ’ or ‘walk in the Spirit’, I can step into peace in less than a minute. Theology of peace brought me to the door but stepping into Christ with my spirit brought me the experience of peace.

The ‘born again’ experience has joined our spirit to the Holy Spirit or to the Spirit of the Lord. I Cor. 6:17. God’s life is in the Spirit and this life flows through His Spirit into our spirit and then out to others we minister to. Gal. 5:25, Rom. 8:2 Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty; we have to believe that God’s Spirit is in us! It is through our spirit that we can access the things of God; our soul can’t do it, yet many times we allow the soul to be in charge and we fall short of what God wants to give us or do through us. It takes faith to walk in the Spirit but faith is always rewarding. Heb. 11:6

Under the old covenants in the Bible, man’s identity was their soul and so their soul was in charge. Before we were born again our soul was in charge but the moment we invited Jesus to become our Lord He made our spirit to be in charge. Our soul does not want to give up its former position and so there is a great battle in us between soul and Spirit(spirit)¹ as described in Gal 5 and Rom. 7. Our soul needs to be in submission to our spirit and then it needs to be

trained or transformed to operate in the mind of Christ. Remember, God works from the inner man, the new creation, to the outer man, our soul and body.

In Mark 4 there is a clear picture of the disciples of Jesus caught in the middle of a big storm on the sea of Galilee, trying to deal with their problem through their soul. Asleep in the same boat in the same storm was Jesus. He dealt with the same problem through the Spirit, knowing Who He was! When the soul is in charge there is no faith. The disciples were fearful and they began to accuse Jesus of not caring. When our soul can't handle something it begins to accuse other people! Adam accused Eve; Eve accused the serpent. The soul is the breeding ground for bitterness, envy, hatred – well you can finish the list from Gal. 5. When we allow our soul to be in charge we should expect to be offended and hurt. All this ugliness comes to the surface when we allow our soul to be in charge.

When we walk in the Spirit(spirit) we overcome the works of the flesh and of the soul. The person who constantly walks in the spirit will be without offense and hurt; they will be free from condemnation, shame and guilt. They will walk confidently because they know who they are in Christ Jesus. They will believe that there is nothing impossible with God and that through Jesus they can do all things.

They will battle the enemy not with their soul, but with the Spirit. They know how to use their spirit to bring into submission every thought that is contrary to who they are in Christ. They are not afraid to use their cross to crucify everything in their soul that is ungodly. Faith will rise above reason, love will destroy fear, joy will be found in discomfort, we step into liberty, the liberty that Christ Jesus has won for us.

This is good theology, it will bring you to the door of experience; now get into your spirit, 'step into Christ' and experience it firsthand. It's your inheritance, it belongs to you; you will find it in Christ, go and get it!

¹When I walk in the Spirit, the I is referring to my spirit which is in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

II Cor. 13:14 – communion – koinonia - partnership