

'BY MY SPIRIT SAITH THE LORD'
A Message of encouragement

SCRIPTURE READING: Zechariah 4:1-14

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit Saith the LORD of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

The Holy Spirit will sometimes bring a passage of Scripture to mind to encourage and minister to us; Some times He will also bring the words of a Hymn to our minds which He will use to encourage us.

Recently Several Passages of Scripture, including Zachariah Chapter 4, have been coming to mind, along with the words of a beautiful Hymn entitled ‘By My Spirit’. We found the Hymn in an old ‘Melodies of Praise’ Hymn book, and as we sang this song, the words ministered encouragement to us, for they are based on Scripture. Some of our readers may well remember this powerful Hymn which we used to sing. Here are the words of this Hymn, written many years ago by Alameda Herrick.

BY MY SPIRIT

“Is there a mountain in your way? Do doubts and fears abound?

Press on, oh hear the Spirit say, This mountain shall come down.

Chorus

Not by might; not by power; by my Spirit saith the LORD of hosts;

Not by might; not by power. By my Spirit saith the LORD.

This mountain shall be removed;

This Mountain shall be removed;

This Mountain shall be removed;

By my Spirit saith the LORD.

Is there a river in your path, A river deep and wide?

Step in, the waters will roll back, you’ll reach the other side.

Is there a fiery furnace trial far more than you can bear?

Behold the blessed Son of God, is walking with you there.

Then trust alone in mighty God, He speaks the winds obey.

Take courage, then oh fainting heart for you he’ll make a way.

Chorus

In both Old and New Testaments we read of God’s people often facing impossible situations; But as they put their trust in Almighty God, and not in their own abilities or resources, the Lord brought them through victoriously.

The Lord brought his people Israel through the red sea by a miracle! Exodus 14-15. He led them and provided for them miraculously in the desert. Exodus 16-17 When they reached the waters of the Jordan River, and stepped out in faith at the Lord’s command, He opened the waters before them! Joshua 3. The walls of Jericho fell down as they marched forward in faith, following the LORDS instructions! Joshua 6. They possessed the land of promise through His power and His Name. This is why the Psalmist said; “For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, nor did their own arm save them; But it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your countenance, because you favored them.” Then the Psalmist goes on to say, “through you we will push down our enemies; through your Name we will trample those who rise up against us. For I will not trust in my bow, nor shall my sword save me. But you have saved us from our enemies”. Psalm 44:3-7. When Caleb said to Joshua, “Give me this mountain” [Joshua 14:12] His trust was in God to give him the victory. God did give him the victory over the giants and walled cities and that mountain became his inheritance.

Hebrews Chapter 11 teaches us that the Old Testament Heroes of Faith pleased God, and obtained a good report, through 'persevering faith' in God and His Promises. However many of them also went through times of fiery trials. But the Lord was with them and brought them through.

As we come into the New Testament we see the Lord Jesus Christ purposely directing His disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side. They encountered a great storm as they sailed across the lake. Fear filled the hearts of the disciples. The Lord Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves and there was a great calm and they came through to the other side. We also encounter many storms of adversity in this life; but Jesus the master will bring us through.

Read Luke Ch.8

Jesus said to His disciples in Luke Chapter 12:32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom".

After Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, when He redeemed us with His Precious Blood, and then rose again triumphantly and ascended to the right hand of the Father, the disciples of Jesus faced a hostile world as well as the opposition of the devil and all his demons. But the Lord Jesus Christ had promised them that they would not be alone. He would send them another Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to be with them and give them wisdom and understanding and also empower them to be His effective witnesses in the entire world. John 14:16-21 and 16:5-15; Acts 1:4, 5, 8. On the Day of Pentecost, the Lord Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit to empower and equip His disciples, as He had promised, so that they could go forth in His name and in His power with the message of the Gospel to a lost needy world. In the face of severe persecution and great opposition they continued to press forward with the message of the Gospel until they reached their entire known world for Jesus Christ.

Today, in many parts of the world, Christians are facing increased opposition and persecution because of the Name of Christ. Even in the western world resistance to the message of the Gospel is increasing. Jesus said, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for my Names Sake because they do not know Him who sent Me. John 15:18-20. Jesus told His disciples in Luke 14:26-27 compare Matthew 16:24-25 that "If any one desires to follow Him they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Him". However, "through Jesus Christ we are still more than conquers in the midst of opposition - persecution -suffering and even death: Nothing can separate us from His love". Romans 8: 37-39. He will empower us by His Grace and by His Spirit and will be with us always as He promised in His Word. Matt 28:20, Isaiah 41:10; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 & 12:9-10

Dear child of God; are you going through a fiery trail or facing a situation which appears to be like an uncrossable river? Are you facing a mountain of problems or opposition? Are you facing a great need, or other situation which is causing your heart to be filled with fear? The Word of the Lord is still true: "Not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts. Who are you great mountain? ... You shall become a plain". Zechariah 4:6-10.

The LORD of Hosts, who gave Zerubbabel and the people of God victory over all their opposition and helped them complete the rebuilding of the Temple (Compare Zechariah 4), will also bring you through the difficulties you face and will cause the mountains of seeming impossibilities to come down. Compare also Mark 11:22-26. So take courage then O weary pilgrim and press on, 'looking to Jesus the author and finisher of your faith' (Hebrews 12:1-3). He will make a way before you. "Not by might; nor by power, but by my Spirit Saith the LORD of Hosts"!

God Bless.

'Word in Season' - by Lloyd Schuetz.