

Keeping Your Spirit Man Strong and Resisting the Devil

Ecclesiastes 7:14: **In the day of prosperity be joyful...**

Living by faith is always an act (James 2:17,20). You always want to act like you're prosperous, and that you're full of joy. Never yield to a spirit of depression, doubt or fear. Stay built up in the Word and in prayer, and keep your spirit man strong so you can face the devil every day and what he's going to try to do to you and your loved ones.

Satan is a thief. Jesus told us that Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy (Jo. 10:10). If we just stand by and do nothing, Satan will take our prosperity, peace, joy, and even our faith. Doubt is a faith destroyer. You can't allow yourself to doubt. You can't permit yourself to be double-minded, believing God's promises one moment and doubting them the next.

Be a Doer of the Word

James 1:22 : **But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

You're not going to have joy, peace and prosperity by just reading the Bible. You've got to put the Bible into action. The Bible doesn't work because you *read* it. It only works for those who **do** it (Matthew 7:24-27; Eph. 6:10-18; Luke 10:19; Matthew 11:12; Matthew 12:29; Matthew 16:19; Matthew 18:18; 1 Peter 5:8,9; James 4:7; Ephesians 4:27; Mark 16:16-18). You can't live in church or in Christian meetings. You've got to face the real, hard, demon-infested world (2 Cor. 4:3,4) the same way Jesus did.

Count it All Joy

An indication that a believer is not in faith is that they're not in joy. They make confessions of faith, but you can tell by the way they're saying them that they really don't believe what they're saying. Joy and

peace leave you when you think on the wrong things. What you're thinking about may be true, but it's not a good report. You want to make yourself think on things that are good.

James 1:2 says, **...count it all joy...**

Nehemiah 8:10: **...for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**

Psalm 35:27: **Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.**

Philippians 4:4-8: **Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.**

For instance, you may be thinking about some Christian who died sick without being healed. If you keep thinking of that, it's going to open up the door for a spirit of grief, sorrow, depression and anger to come in, because what you're thinking about isn't good, and it isn't glorifying God. It's the devil bringing those thoughts to your mind, and we're told to cast down those thoughts.

2 Corinthians 10:4,5: **(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

Jesus Bore Our Sorrows so We Don't Have to Bear Them

1 Thessalonians 4:13: **But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

Isaiah 53:4: **Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**

Satan wants us to feel sorrow and live our whole lives in grief, but Jesus bore our griefs and sorrows. We must think on God's Word and rebuke the grief and sorrow, in Jesus' Name.

You've got to guard your mind 24/7. Make your mouth speak words of joy and victory. Resist that spirit of depression, doubt and fear, because the devil is not going to leave you alone. You've got to **make** him leave you alone. You want to act the same way Jesus acted. When the devil came to Jesus in Matthew, ch. 4, Jesus just kept quoting scripture to the devil and the devil left. You going to have to do the same thing if you want the same kind of results.

Learn to Resist the Devil On Your Own

Jesus was alone when this great trial and test came to Him. He couldn't rely on someone else to do this for Him; He had to face the devil on His own. No matter how many friends you've got, or how great you think your church is, if you're going to pass this test, trial or temptation, you're going to have to do it with you standing on God's Word, and using it as the sword of the spirit the same way Jesus did.

Your faith will never become strong as long as you're depending on others to pray you through your problem. You want to build your life on God's Word, and not on other people's prayers. Most Christians who seek other people to pray for them are trying to get out of their responsibility of doing the Word for

themselves. Sooner or later, you're going to be by yourself when Satan comes with whatever he's bringing, and what you've disciplined yourself to do will determine the outcome of your trial.

When I was a teenager in the hospital, people would come to visit me to try to cheer me up and to show their consideration, but at night, I'd be by myself. Looking back at it, it seemed as though the demons of hell came in my room at night. The pain was more severe, and often horrendous. There was terrible loneliness, fear, and sometimes, I couldn't sleep.

Years later, I went to visit a lady in the hospital during evening visiting hours. Her friends were around her bed. The visiting hours were almost over, and as I was about to leave, I said to her, *"I've got this cassette tape I want to leave with you, so if you wake up in the middle of the night, I want you to play it to yourself."* It was a tape of Br. Kenneth E. Hagin teaching about healing and standing against the devil.

Her friends said, *"She won't need it."* But in my spirit, I knew she *would* need it. I knew in my spirit that the devil was coming, and these other people didn't know what I was talking about, nor did they know what they were talking about. They knew nothing about Satan and how he operates (2 Corinthians 2:11).

Anyway, a period of time after that, I stopped to visit her again, and she was so thankful I'd left that cassette and tape player with her. She told me, *"I woke up that night and had to fight for my life, and that tape taught me what to do. It helped me fight off Satan and the spirit of death."*

You've got to fight Satan every day and night, and don't let him take your joy, peace, prosperity, health, or faith. Just keep saying to yourself, *"I've got the joy of the Lord, and I'm full of joy and victory. Satan, I resist you in Jesus' Name. I refuse depression! I refuse sickness! I refuse poverty, in Jesus' Name!"*

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

Pastor Jesse Rich

**Jesse Rich Ministries
P.O. Box 237170
New York, NY 10023**

PHONE: (212) 501-7999

Email: www.JesseRichMinistries.com/contact.htm

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