

INTRODUCTION

Praise the Lord! He has not left us in the sad condition we had made for ourselves!

He saves sinners from the consequences they had earned.
He builds up the saved from our initial weakness as babes in Christ.

What is our part in that? Amazing---he saves sinners and builds up the church through our words, through what we say!

But just saying it is not always enough. People don't always listen like they should.

But God is so gracious, so merciful, that He provides even for that. He works in us, His people, so that by the example we set, we convince people that they should listen to what we have to say about the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

Already we have studied how the Bible says we strive to be an example in word, in conduct, and in love. Today, learn about being an example in spirit.

TEXT

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

G4151 *pneuma*

BODY

I. Why “In Spirit”

- A. For some of you, the phrase “in spirit” simply isn’t there
 1. if I were you, I would feel somewhat confused, as the pastor is having a whole sermon on something that is not even in your Bible
- B. This is in the version of the Greek New Testament that was used in the Reformation of the 1500s and 1600s
 1. 1522 Luther New Testament *im geist*
 2. 1534 Tyndale “in sprete”
 3. 1560 Geneva “in spirit”
 4. 1611 KJV “in spirit”
 5. 1637 Dutch Staten Vertaling *in den geest*
- C. This version of the New Testament in Greek came to be referred to as the “received text” or, in Latin, the *textus receptus*. If you are really cool as a Bible student, you say, the “T.R.” for *textus receptus*
- D. When the Puritan confessions were written, that was what those pastors and scholars accepted as the Bible. They had this to say about their *textus receptus* or “received text” Greek New Testament
 1. 1689.1.8 The Old Testament in Hebrew...and the New Testament in Greek...being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentic...
- E. In later centuries, specifically the 19th and 20th centuries, many Bible scholars accepted new theories asserting that the *textus receptus* was not the most authentic version of the Bible
 1. so, for about the past 100 years, several Bible translations have been made using a different Greek New Testament text
 2. that’s why, those in this congregation reading the Geneva Bible, the King James Version, or the New King James Version are seeing “in spirit” in 1 Timothy 4:12
 3. those using other versions are not seeing it
- F. I am not a scholar of the level to be able to evaluate the various Greek manuscripts
- G. I believe the position of the authors of our 1689 Confession on this, that the Bible they had at the time was, indeed, kept by God for us
- H. So whereas I look at the translations I know are used in the congregation, if there is a discrepancy like this, I follow the *textus receptus*

II. What Is Meant By “in Spirit”

- A. We might say
 - 1. attitude
 - 2. mindset
- B. It is more than that
 - 1. because it’s spiritual; something is going on in your spirit
- C. What’s going on inside that shows on the outside
 - 1. love could be described that same way
 - 2. this, of course, is not entirely different from love
- D. The condition of your spirit inside you, as seen in your attitudes or mindset, as manifested not just in what you say or what you do, but in how you say what you say, and how you do what you do

III. What It Is to Be an Example in Spirit

- A. To be meek in spirit
 - 1. what it is to be meek in spirit
 - a) when faced with the wicked people of the world, and the sin remaining in the flesh even of Christians
 - (1) not being fretful
 - (2) not being envious
 - (3) not being angry
 - b) delighting in the Lord
 - c) being quiet
 - (1) tranquil, calm
 - (2) silent
 - d) fearing God, not men
 - 2. in the matter of correcting
 - a) 1 Corinthians 4:21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of **gentleness [KJV meekness G4236 praotes]**?
 - b) Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness [KJV meekness G4236 praotes]**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
 - 3. in the matter of submission - 1 Peter 3:4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a **gentle [KJV meek G4239 praus]** and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.
- B. To be fervent in spirit
 - 1. Romans 12:10-12 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; (11) not lagging in diligence, **fervent in spirit**, serving the Lord; (12) rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;
 - a) G2204 *zeo* lit. to be hot; to be fervent
 - (1) zeal; zealous
 - (2) fervent; fervency
 - (3) ardor

- b) some things that people say these days, that get at the idea
 - (1) excited; enthusiastic; passionate
 - (2) but each of these words used to be used for something undesirable for the Christian, because they indicate that you are being moved or swayed by mere emotion or passion
 - (3) so I do not recommend that you try to be an example to the believers in excitement or enthusiasm or passion
 - (4) but I think when Christians today use those terms, most of what they are trying to say is really the biblical concept of zeal or fervency; of being zealous or fervent
 - c) and that's what kind of spirit the apostle commends to us - being fervent in spirit
 - d) you see in Rom 10:11 that being fervent in spirit is between to other phrases, which I think help us get the idea; in the matter of serving the Lord
 - (1) not slothful or lagging
 - (2) but instead fervent in spirit
 - e) so, then
 - (1) eagerness instead of reluctance
 - (2) willingness instead of resistance
 - 2. 2 Timothy 1:6-9 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (7) For God has not given us a **spirit** of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (8) Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, (9) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,
 - a) I am speaking of this passage under "fervent in spirit" because I think it is part of that
 - b) the temptation is to be fearful in spirit, to have a spirit of fear
 - c) but God has not given us that; that is not from God
 - d) from God is a spirit of power, love and a sound mind
 - e) therefore we are not to be fearful in spirit, but fervent in spirit, knowing that the Holy Spirit in us is not producing fear, but power and love and sound thinking
 - f) this helps us not to be ashamed
 - (1) of the testimony of our Lord
 - (2) of the apostles and others despised by the world
- C. Note the completeness of these two aspects of being an example in spirit, taken together
- 1. being meek in spirit - fearing God, not men, you calmly refrain from what God forbids
 - 2. being fervent in spirit - fearing God, not men, you zealously do what God commands

CONCLUSION

To be an example in spirit is to be meek in spirit, and to be fervent in spirit

Prelude

Trinity 720 "The Child of a King"

Trinity 227 "O Wherefore Do the Nations Rage?"

Trinity 192 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 34:1-3

Willie - Scripture Reading - Psalm 34:4-19

Jeremiah - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Psalm 34:21-22

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not afraid
not ashamed
power, love, sound mind

Calvin: to arouse themselves actively to deeds of valor; because God does not wish them to perform their office in a cold and lifeless manner, but to press forward powerfully, relying on the efficacy of the Spirit

Poole: A sound mind, in the ordinary notion of it, for a judgment sound in the faith, is requisite to it minister of the gospel. Sobriety is the gift of the Spirit: sobriety is a very general term, and signifies the moderation and government of our passions; that which seems to be here meant is such a government, and composure of spirit, that nothing shall deter us from the discharge of our duty; and the term sound mind, opposed to a weak and sickly mind, staggering at every danger, may well enough express the apostle's sense.

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in **spirit**, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

realizing your need for everything from the Lord

Romans 12:10-12 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; (11) not lagging in diligence, fervent in **spirit**, serving the Lord; (12) rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

fervent G2204 *zeo* lit. to be hot; to be fervent

1 Corinthians 4:21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of **gentleness [KJV meekness G4236 praotes]**?

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness [KJV meekness G4236 praotes]**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

1 Peter 3:4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a **gentle [KJV meek G4239 praus]** and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

meek and quiet spirit

Ephesians 1:15-19 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, (16) do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: (17) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, (18) the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (19) and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

Geneva: godly zeal or gifts of the Spirit