

Central Pentecostal Ministries

From the Pulpit...

Guard Your Spirit

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“Then spake Haggai the LORD’S messenger in the LORD’S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD. And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,”

Haggai 1: 13-14

The truth in our text clearly states that without the stirring of man’s spirit, forward spiritual motion is in jeopardy. The enemy is very knowledgeable about the spirit world, and knows that the environment sometimes is secondary to the “spirit” of something. Satan takes the *spirit* of this world and destroys much. The *spirit* of the world is an enemy to the *spirit* of God. Satan knows if he can take the spirit of the world and agitate men and women towards evil or wrong doing, it doesn’t matter what is possessed in the natural, if man’s *spirit* can be aroused in the wrong direction. Thoughts, truth, right and wrong are not *always* the governing elements of our lives. Rich people commit murder. Talented people take heroin. The intellects of today are bound by the spirit of the world, not their earthly talents or possessions. You see, it doesn’t matter *what* you have; if your spirit is not right, all is tainted! You can do the *right* thing, with the *wrong* spirit. I have seen many good people, successful people, that didn’t guard their spirit. God chose and chooses to work with and through the **spirit!**

Early radio and television had to rely heavily on the antenna, called rabbit ears. I remember as a little boy trying to adjust the rabbit ears for better reception. Someone offered advice to put aluminum foil on the antenna to get a better signal. I was willing to do whatever I needed to do because there was something in the air I was trying to pick up!

Most of us know about the miracle of Jesus Christ feeding the five thousand. However, what we must also consider is **what preceded this miracle**. Before this great miracle, something horrendous happened to someone Jesus loved, respected, and spoke so highly of. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, died. John baptized Christ, and was the one to preach and proclaim, 'Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!' Yes, we know that John said, "I must decrease so He can increase." However, the next time we see him he is in prison, held captive by King Herod. There a woman is able to entice the King, and he offers anything to her. Little did he know what he would have to offer would be John the Baptist's head on a charger. And one of the greatest friends of Christ was killed, beheaded, with his head paraded on a plate in front of those who laughed and mocked. This was the forerunner of Christ, the one who saw a dove land on Jesus, the one who gave his life to preach the coming of the King.

After the disciples took the body of John the Baptist and buried him, they went to Jesus to tell Him the news. 'Lord, John the Baptist is dead. King Herod had him beheaded, and his head placed on a plate and paraded around the court to be mocked.' Jesus was grieved and saddened that the one who announced His arrival as Savior was dead! What is he going to do? '**He departed thence by ship into a desert place apart.**' (Matthew 14:13) Nothing mattered now, but to deal with His spirit.

**WHAT MATTERED NOW TO
CHRIST WAS TO GUARD HIS
SPIRIT!**

'John has been humiliated, disrespectfully assaulted and killed! I have to get by myself!' **Now right here is where many made a grave mistake!** Sometimes things come that are challenging and touch our spirit, the very fiber of what and who we are. Something happens, things are said and transpired! It may be a death, calamity, or it may be something at the home, office or at church. **We hardly ever follow the example of Christ here!** The Bible says, "He departed...into a place APART." It didn't matter if He was in a desert place or a mountain side, **He had to deal with His spirit because in a few hours he was going to be required to perform a miracle.** You can't do much with a heavy, distracted spirit. You can't obey God with a grieved spirit! Christ knew that, and He went away to pray and ask the Father to touch His Spirit. For Jesus it was not about the environment, it was about His sad and grieving spirit. Because He knew in a little while He was going to have to carry on with the Will of God.

The eyes of God truly rest upon one's spirit. I appreciate all the accomplishments we gather through life, but God is always monitoring the condition of our spirit. Stirring the spirit of carnal men seems to be all too easy. I wish it was as easy to stir the spirit of good men. Have you ever noticed how easy it is to stir the spirit of evil men to do evil things? This is what we say about some people, 'they just flew off of the handle!' Stirring their spirit can be as easy as getting a bad dog to bite. It's amazing how hard it is for God to arouse our spirit to do good things. It often seems that we have to have three revivals, four evangelists



and a quart of oil for our spirit to get an arousal to do something good. While at the same time you can make the same person mad in a heartbeat. I am glad God doesn't leave us to ourselves, and that He bothers to stir us to right things! Our text is talking about Zerubbabel, Joshua and the remnant of Israel, but it's clear He needs to stir their spirits! Have you guarded it to such degree that it is wholesome and available to God? Or has something happened that warped, stained, scarred and wounded your spirit?

You can't carry on with the Will of God if you don't guard your Spirit!

Which is greater? The spirit world or the intellectual world? I've seen things that looked rather prosperous. I've seen things that looked good and very attractive. To the natural and intellectual world, they looked prosperous. However, the Spirit of God prompted and revealed its temporalness and its corruption. If we let the intellectual and natural world override the gloriousness of the spiritual world, we will never see or know what we ought. In my walk with God, at times things seemed impossible. I thought with great depth that there is just no way it can work. I looked at the pros and cons, the timing, the financial and material side, and came to the understanding that it's an impossibility, it cannot work! That river cannot be crossed! Then the Spirit of God comes and says, 'but wait a minute there is a higher life to live.' You are looking at it through the intellectual, carnal and natural. Some things that look impossible are only impossible to the flesh, **but NOT the spirit!** The spirit always prompts faith, and a miracle is often seen. I've looked at a thousand things in my lifetime that looked one way through the flesh, and another way through the spirit.

Guard your spirit. It's your antenna. You lose it, and you become like everyone else living by sight only. Guard your spirit! Hell hates for you to have a pure spirit before God and men! He will war against your spirit! "Renew a right spirit within me." (Ps 51:10) Why would he say something like that? He knew that if his spirit wasn't right, there wasn't much going to happen between him and God. If his spirit wasn't right, if His antenna wasn't up He could not pick up what God wanted him to pick up! Guard your Spirit. It is a worthy task! I could tell you a hundred things that I do to guard mine and the Holy Spirit can tell you too! I can tell you what Jesus did to guard His in a time of grief and sadness. He got away from everybody. When your spirit is messed up, get away from everything that messed your spirit up! When smoke starts filling the room, we know there is a fire, and we need to get out of the house! Why don't we know this in the spirit? We often don't recognize this until someone dies. We are coughing, struggling to breathe and wonder what is wrong. There is a time when you have to



guard your spirit! Protect that which provides spiritual life. *“The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord.”* (Proverbs 20:27) Our spirit is the antenna to our spiritual life! We could have saved ourselves a lot of trouble if we trusted our spirit half as much as we trust our eyes. If we had trusted our spirit half as much as we trusted our ears, we wouldn't have gotten in the trouble we did. **When the greater life can't function, the lesser life prevails.** There are people who fill church pews who are going nowhere with God. We cry out, “God talk to me!” and God says, ‘I would like to, but I can't because something has happened to your spirit.’ We are living in a world of brokenness, and if there is ever a time to guard our spirit, it's now. Guard your spirit!

The true work of God is always
preceded by a stirred spirit!

Central Pentecostal Ministries

Worshipping God in the Spirit of Pentecost

The purpose of this publication is to benefit those truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would be encouraged and strengthened by receiving these Full-Gospel messages, please contact us at:

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