

## 2. Walking in the Spirit

[www.victory.net.nz](http://www.victory.net.nz) 04.06.2023  
[www.youtube.com/c/VictoryChristianCentre](http://www.youtube.com/c/VictoryChristianCentre)

Subtitle: Living life in the spirit

In 1922, evangelist Smith Wigglesworth came to NZ and ministered in Wellington in a series of meetings. One of his sermons was entitled:

“Step out of your soul and (step) into your spirit”

Last Sunday we covered three main points:

1. Life in the Spirit
2. God’s Word discerns between our soul and our spirit
3. Examples from the Abraham family

**Romans 8:1 (AMP)** *Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for **those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.***

**Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)** *I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

**Galatians 5:25 (NKJV)** *If we **live in the Spirit**, let us also **walk in the Spirit.***

- Once we’ve received Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour, God commands us to start living according to the Spirit instead of the flesh
- The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is/should be God’s people who no longer live according to the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit
- The written Word of God has become our rule of conduct
- The leading & guidance of the Holy Spirit leads us in the way of peace

### 1. Apostle John is in the spirit on the Lord’s Day

**Revelation 1:9–13 (NKJV)** *I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. **10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day**, and **I heard** behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, **11** saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” **12** Then **I turned to see** the voice that spoke with me. And **having turned I saw** seven golden*

*lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.*

- Apostle John was banished to the island of Patmos to stop him from preaching the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- He was “in the spirit” on the Lord’s Day
- The “Lord’s Day” is Sunday - John was having church by himself
- While he was in the spirit:
  - He heard behind him the voice of Jesus Christ (vs. 10)
  - He turned to see (vs. 12)
  - He saw Jesus Christ (vs. 13)
- Furthermore, while he was in the spirit:
  - he received Jesus’ dictation of the 7 letters to the 7 churches
  - he also received the whole “Revelation”, which he also recorded in “the book of Revelation”

**Statement:** To receive revelation from God (to hear & see), I must be in the spirit

**Question:** When I am not in the spirit, where am I?

**Answer:** I am in the natural realm! (or worse, I could be in the flesh)

It would be fair to say, that, if John had not been in the spirit, he would not have “seen and heard”, and we would not have the Book of Revelation today.

**John 12:27–29 (NKJV)** *Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” 29 Therefore **the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered.** Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.”*

- Jesus was in the spirit and He heard the Father speak to Him
- Bystanders who were not in the spirit said: It thundered

## **2. Where is this place called “in the spirit”?**

- There are two co-existing realms or worlds, namely:
  - the realm of the spirit (the spirit world)
  - the natural realm (the natural world)
- God lives in the realm of the spirit (as do angels & demons)
- Human live in the natural realm

- **When apostle John was ‘in the spirit’, it means that he had become more aware of the realm of the spirit where God lives than of the natural realm where he lived**
- Physically, John was on the Isle of Patmos, but spiritually, he was connecting into the spiritual realm
- **We access the realm of the spirit with our spirit, through the help of the Holy Spirit**
- (Occultists access the realm of the spirit through the help of evil spirits)
- A strong relationship with, and being under the strong influence of the Holy Spirit opens up the realm of the spirit to us as believers
- Our soul is like a hinge between the natural realm & the realm of the spirit
- Through an act of our will, our soul direct us away from the natural realm towards the realm of the spirit
- But ultimately, only our born again spirit can connect to the realm of the spirit
- So therefore, to get into the spirit, we must give your born again spirit the upper hand, and not let our soul dominate us (ie. logic)

**John 4:23–24 (NKJV)** *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**”*

### **3. How to move from the natural realm into the (realm of) the spirit**

**Psalm 100:4 (NKJV)** *Enter into His gates with **thanksgiving**, and into His courts with **praise**. **Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.***

- Praying & singing in tongues & worshipping the Lord  
We start with our natural language & move on to our spiritual language
- Focussing on scriptural truths & spiritual things
- Cast your cares on the Lord
- Anointed music

**1 Corinthians 14:14 (NKJV)** *For if I pray in a tongue, **my spirit prays**, but my understanding (soul) is unfruitful.*

### **4. Discernment in the realm of the spirit**

- One key aspect & benefit of “being in the spirit” is spiritual discernment
- As believers, it is of utmost importance for us to know:

- What's right and what's wrong (good and evil)
- What's the truth and what's the lie
- What is of God, and what is not of God
- Sadly, a Christian's discernment doesn't work when they are "in the flesh"
- A Christian's ability to discern is limited while they are in the natural realm
- A Christian's ability to discern only works when they are truly in the spirit

**Philippians 1:9–10 (NKJV)** *And this I pray, that your love may **abound** still more and more in knowledge and **all discernment**, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent ...*

## **5. Example of apostle Paul's spiritual discernment**

**Acts 16:16–18 (NKJV)** *Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that **a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us**, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 **This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."** 18 **And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."** And he came out that very hour.*

- What the girl said about Paul & his companions was factually true & spiritually correct, yet Paul knew in his spirit, something wasn't right
- Truth was being spoken, but not by a spirit of truth, but by a demon spirit
- Vs. 18. ... *this she did for many days*
- Those who were not in the spirit would've said: How wonderful
- Yet Paul, once he clarified his apprehension in his spirit, he cast the spirit of divination out of the girl
- **There should be no room, allowance or tolerance for ongoing demonic manifestations in a gospel environment**

## **6. Kenneth Hagin addresses fleshly issues in his book called: Plans, Purposes & Pursuits**

- He addresses the issue of dancing in the spirit in church
- He says: When the charismatics dance in church, they are not dancing in the spirit
- They were dancing in the flesh, for their own entertainment instead of dancing to glorifying the Lord (Line dancing)
- Get the brass out of the church