



DEPEND UPON THE SPIRIT

Becky Combee

Over the years, I have heard many stories from people who have been rescued from dire circumstances because they heard from the Spirit of the Lord. The Holy Spirit is God who works in us, showing us things to come.¹ I am sure this means He reveals future events to us, events that precede Jesus' coming for the church in the last days. But I am also **absolutely certain that He speaks to us about our day-to-day decisions.** Many times, a successful day depends on our communication with heaven.

Many years ago, when my brother was in seminary, I had an overwhelming urgency to pray for him. As I prayed, I perceived that he was facing a situation that could take his life. I prayed for several days but was not released from this leading of the Spirit. On Monday, I called a praying friend, and we prayed at length for his protection. Tuesday morning, my mother called to tell me that he had been in an automobile accident. Although his car was totaled, he was not injured. God, the Holy Spirit, had intervened. We are so grateful that God revealed this potential disaster to us.

I recently heard the testimony of a man who had been very ill. As he and his wife prayed, they agreed that God would heal him without medical intervention. It wasn't just an arbitrary "this is how we want it" agreement. They sensed in the spirit that this was God's will, and he was healed as they stood in faith. Years later, he was, again, very sick. They were prepared to stand in faith as they had previously, but God directed them to go to the

ALL THINGS

Suzanne D. Williams

*I can do **all things** through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Php 4:13)*

We expect everything in our lives of faith to be dramatic. We're on a constant uphill struggle, an endless battle, slashing at the enemy on every side. We must cross rivers and climb mountains, our lives in constant peril.

There's some truth to that imagery, of course. But our days are full of much smaller moments, everyday decisions that require wisdom and understanding to perform. Look at Philippians 4:13 again—I can do ALL THINGS. That includes seemingly silly tasks as well.

*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost ... he shall teach you **all things**, and bring **all things** to your remembrance. (Jn 14:26)*

We're afraid to pray for those, but I can do all things because the Holy Spirit shall teach me all things.

That's profound. And comforting. When some new responsibility falls on my desk, even if I feel like I'm not smart enough, I know the One who is. This could be as simple as doing your taxes. Or maybe your teenage son needs help finding "x" on their algebra assignment. Maybe you promised to take a friend somewhere you aren't sure you can find, GPS or not.

Those are also "all things."

(Continued from "Depend Upon The Spirit")

hospital. At the hospital, He recovered.

I love the work of God's Spirit in our lives. We can never be successful without His help and intervention. We must bend our ear to His voice, and if we are listening, He will communicate with us. His words are very important, often lifesaving.

I heard a minister ask, "How would you like to be at the right place at the right time?"

I wanted to raise my hand and jump up and down. I want to be successful. I do not want to be a casual listener who fails to hear God's directive. The Scripture says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."² The Lord is our Commander-in-chief. He is Almighty God who loves us beyond measure. His leadership is vital to our lives. When we heed His words, we will be in the right place at the right time.

Every soldier listens carefully to his commander. He cannot "do his own thing" and expect to be applauded simply because he is in

uniform. He must hear the words of his commander and obey his directions. We too must obey our commander, God Himself. He knows all things and will never mislead us. When we yield to His Word and His voice, we will succeed.

Life will not be without difficulties, but like a small child, we hold the hand of our Master to walk with Him and talk with Him. His words will pave the road to victory. We will overcome life's battles and live victoriously if we surrender to His leadership.

This year 2020 let's be better listeners! Let's listen carefully to the Spirit and respond to God's directions. I know God will speak to us and meet our needs. But, let's go beyond our needs and help others. Let's pray for our neighbors and friends. Let's pray for our pastors and missionaries. Let's pray for governments and nations. They, too, must hear from the Spirit of the Lord.

Let's go to the world on our knees. From our living rooms, our recliners, and our kitchen sinks, we can do the work of the kingdom. Pray without ceasing! God will speak and It will change lives!

(Continued from "All Things")

*And God is able to make **all** grace abound toward you; that ye, always having **all** sufficiency in **all things**, may abound to **every** good work. (2Co 9:8)*

God cares about every part of our lives, no matter how trivial it seems. He wants us to "abound" when we bake a cake for our mom's birthday, when we call the cable company to straighten out our bill, when we need to choose the right auto repair shop.

Sometimes it's the small things that cripple us the most. We don our armor to fight giants but take it off when it's Uncle John asking for help to clear trees. Or to locate a baby gift for our cousin's wife, who we don't particularly get along with.

I want to be sufficient in those tasks, too.

I've found that my need to shift responsibility onto others never works out. Any time I think I can get someone else to take care of it, it'll fall even harder on my shoulders. Those moments are when I pray, "I can do this through Christ."

I need supernatural strength to walk the dog some days, especially when she's decided to play.

I can do all things and have patience. I can do all things and understand how to fill out this form. I can do all things and find a perfect vacation rental within my budget. I can do all things and select the right doctor, hair salon, or lawn company.

All things includes all things.

*And the Lord give thee understanding in **all things**. (2Ti 1:7)*

Does a God who knows our soul, who saw us when we were made in secret, a God of such infinite detail to create the smallest part of us, abandon us when we need to change a flat tire? He's only here for me when I'm slugging it out in some spiritual battle, but not when I've had an argument with my spouse?³

No, that's when I need understanding the most. I know God is for me. Always. For everything. Even if it's calling the electric company. God is with me for that, too.

*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us **all things**? (Rm 8:31-32)*

¹Jn 16:13 ²Ps 37:23 ³Ps 139:14-16