**The Spirit of Jesus Christ**

*Philippians 1:19-20*

**Introduction**

1. We are told to take up our cross and follow Jesus. The faith which would lead one to such a decision will be tested to be found genuine.
2. God has not exempted His children from trial and tribulation but has rather equipped them to handle it by His grace.
3. One of the greatest resources is the gospel revelation of the example of Christ.
4. If we possess the spirit which Jesus Christ possessed, then we will be able to endure whatever may come.
5. The Text in Context
6. Paul’s Focus
	1. Paul’s focus was always the cause of Christ – ***“For me, to live is Christ” (v. 21)***
	2. He saw this in everything – **Philippians 2:20-21** – seeking the things of Christ Jesus (Timothy is like-minded).
		1. Why he could rejoice always – **Philippians 4:4** – ***“in the Lord”*** – i.e. in the sphere of the Lord – **Philippians 4:13** – ***“in him that strengtheneth me.” (ASV)***
		2. Joy despite chains – **Philippians 1:18**
			1. **(vv. 12-14)** – turned out for gospel furtherance, chains in Christ, others bold to speak.
			2. Even when others sought to trouble him – **(vv. 15-18)** – regardless, Christ preached, caused him joy.
	3. The text **(vv. 19-20)** – in consideration of his chains, whether his trial ends in death or life he seeks the cause of Christ:
		1. ***“deliverance”*** – not of necessity his personal salvation, nor his release from prison.
			1. Corresponds to **(v. 20)** – that he would **not be ashamed** (**cf. Romans 1:16)**, **but would be bold**, and **Christ would be magnified** by life or death.
			2. **How could he mean so if his confidence in deliverance concerned his release?**
				1. He would state such confidence later – **(v. 24-25)**
				2. However, it doesn’t seem so here.
		2. ***“deliverance”* concerning his continued faithfulness in stand for truth, in contrast to him becoming *“ashamed”* and failing in *“boldness.”***
			1. To Timothy – **2 Timothy 1:8**
			2. Contrast – **2 Timothy 4:16** – ashamed, not bold, forsook.
		3. Possible reference to Job – **Job 13:13-19** – Job on trial of sorts, being falsely accused by friends, but resolute to hold fast to his integrity.
			1. **(v. 16)** – ***“This also shall be my salvation, That a godless man shall not come before him.” (ASV)***
			2. But Job is godly. Though he die, Job is confident of deliverance from the guilt of hypocrisy – he maintains his innocence.
			3. Paul is confident that he will withstand in faithfulness as well.
			4. “They are saved from what would be far worse for them. In the case of Job this is the thought that God would find him to be a…hypocrite in this trial induced by the accusation of his false comforters. In the case of Paul it is the idea that during the rest of his trial before the imperial court he disgrace Christ and the gospel. Nor are these two men diverse. If in his defense at court Paul should think only of himself he would be inwardly false, the type of a man that Job says dare not stand before God.” (Lenski's Commentary on the New Testament)
	4. **(v. 20)** – Christ will be magnified whether Paul lives or dies, for he will not fold under the pressure of the court, or world, but will still stand in ***“the defense and confirmation of the gospel” (v. 7)***, as he is ***“appointed for the defense of the gospel” (v. 17).***
7. The Spirit of Jesus Christ
	1. The means by which he will be able to stand even in what may be his greatest test as an apostle of Christ – **(v. 19)** – the Philippians prayer, namely, for the ***“supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.”***
	2. Not the ***“Spirit of Christ”*** – **cf. Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:10-12**
	3. ***“the Spirit of Jesus Christ”*** – only here.
		1. **Jesus** – especially emphasizing the Man – humanity (**cf. 1 Timothy 2:5)**.
			1. **Jesus Christ** – the man, Jesus, is the Christ of the OT who is Divine.
			2. **Christ Jesus** – the Christ of the OT who is Divine is the man who lived, Jesus.
		2. **Spirit** – disposition – context continues on to chapter 2 – **Philippians 2:5** – concerning His mind, or disposition of humble service of others, and especially God.
	4. Confidence through their prayer for him to have the disposition which Jesus Christ had in similar situations – suffering for good, imprisonment, facing death – faithfully – **cf. 1 Peter 2:21-23** – called to the same.
		1. **Hebrews 2:14, 17-18** – shared in the same flesh and blood to aid us.
		2. **Hebrews 4:15** – can sympathize with us because He truly lived as a man.
8. The Spirit of Jesus Christ Within Us
9. A Spirit of Trust and Surrender
	1. **A spirit of full trust in God as Father:**
		1. **Romans 8:14-15 (Galatians 4:6-7)** – our service to God is not in the fear of being before God as under the dominion of sin, but as those forgiven, led by the Spirit, and in intimate relation to God as children.
		2. We trust in the provision of Jesus’ sacrifice, and can appeal to God always – **Hebrews 10:19; 1 Peter 5:6-7**
	2. **A spirit of full surrender to God even in the greatest trial:**
		1. **Mark 14:34-36** (prayed 3x) – His request reflects the agony in His humanity, but the caveat shows His continued obedience.
		2. **Hebrews 5:7-8** – He learned obedience.
		3. **Philippians 2:5, 8, 12** – the mind of Christ included not just humility in service to others, but going to the greatest extreme in submission to God.
		4. Trials test our faith, and we must have this spirit of Jesus Christ – **1 Peter 1:6-7**
10. A Spirit of Power, Love, and a Sound Mind
	1. **2 Timothy 1:6-7** – Paul is reminding Timothy as his own life nears its end to fulfill his ministry despite adversity which lay ahead.
		1. Not a disposition of fear.
		2. A disposition of power, love, and a sound mind – which would lead Timothy to share in the suffering for the gospel’s sake **(v. 8).**
	2. **Power** – *dynamis* – not miraculous, but the power which comes from the conviction in the gospel, and the possession of it in ministry.
		1. **Romans 1:16** – the gospel is power.
		2. **2 Timothy 1:8 –** Timothy’s ability to share in the suffering is by that power.
		3. Emboldened by truth, and the authority behind the gospel to withstand any threat or opposition for the gospel’s sake – **2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Titus 2:15**
		4. **NOTE: Requires knowledge, conviction, fidelity to the truth.**
	3. **Love** – *agapē* – no greater motivator – love for God and men will push us through any situation to stand for truth and spread the gospel.
		1. **1 John 4:17-19** – love casts out fear – mature love for God, as well as brethren, will withstand anything.
		2. “Nothing will do more to inspire courage, to make a man fearless of danger, or ready to endure privation and persecution, than ‘love.’ The love of country, and wife, and children, and home, makes the most timid bold when they are assailed; and the love of Christ and of a dying world nerves the soul to great enterprises, and sustains it in the deepest sorrows.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible; 2 Timothy 1:7)
	4. **Sound Mind** (1x) – *sōphronismos*; from 4994; discipline, i.e. self-control (STRONG)
		1. “from *sophron*, lit., ‘saving the mind,’” (VINE)
		2. Not merely self-control, but a certain type – it is the state of mind which would lead to self-control in any circumstance.
		3. Speaks of one who has been educated to the proper perspective of reality and is therefore given to self-control in circumstances which may prove challenging and intimidating.
			1. “It has been defined as ‘the sanity of saintliness’. In his book on The Pastorals, Sir Robert Falconer defines it as ‘control of oneself in face of panic or of passion’. It is Christ alone who can give us that command of self which will keep us both from being swept away and from running away.” (Barclay)
			2. “[the mind] in which it sees things in their just proportions and relations” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
		4. **Philippians 1:21** – the reason Paul could say this.
		5. **Acts 20:22-24** – it was a “sound mind” which led Paul to these words, and actions – He was right with God, and set on fulfilling his duty.

**Conclusion**

1. We too, like Paul, will be faced with difficult situations as we walk by faith.
2. We must look to Jesus and imitate Him.
3. He lived as a man to be able to aid us in all our struggles we face in life as we seek to live for God.
4. We should pray for each other to have the ***“spirit of Jesus Christ,”*** and for ourselves.