



Light from the Word

Walking Cheerfully

“Christian, walk *cheerfully* thro’ the fierce storm,
Dark tho’ the sky with its threat of alarm.
Soon will the clouds and the tempest be o’er,
Then with the Saviour thou’lt rest ever more.¹”

The hymn writer’s words to the believer to walk cheerfully are timeless — and especially relevant in the world today with its wide array of storm clouds and new “threats” that appear almost every day. In this time where nothing seems certain, voices are always being raised, and morality is promoted by some as relative; the answer remains Jesus Christ. He alone is the One who never changes. He provides shelter in the time of storm and a place of refuge and peace. We are encouraged to be cheerful each day and to have the faith of Paul who knew God was with him and said, “*Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.*”² Our reason for a cheerful walk is not based on trust in self, but in a loving Father who knows our “*downsitting and uprising,*”³ who protects us in adversity,⁴ and promises us grace and peace⁵ in this life and eternal life in heaven. As believers who hear the voice of the good Shepherd, we have many reasons to walk cheerfully.

Our ability to walk cheerfully is not of ourselves or our own nature, but arises from what Jesus Christ has done for us. Matthew 9:2 teaches, “*and, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.*” Each of us were once in this lost condition; “*for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*”⁶ and were condemned eternally. But thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift:⁷ that Jesus shed His blood for the remission of our sins and for the whole world, that all who believe on Him shall not perish but have eternal life.⁸ We who were dead in trespasses and sins are now quickened and made alive in Christ.⁹ That should give us great cheer!

“Christian, walk *cheerfully* thro’ the fierce storm, Dark tho’ the sky with its threat of alarm,” is a good reminder to us that believers are to be cheerful in all situations, both in the actual storms of life, as well as times where we perceive that a threat exists. Proverbs 24:19 reminds us, “*Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked;*” Our human nature often becomes overly concerned with everything that is happening — but Paul reminds us that we should “*be careful (anxious) for nothing.*”¹⁰ How is this possible? Jesus told his disciples, “*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*”¹¹ 1 Cor. 1:13 gives us additional reasons to be cheerful, “*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*” What a wonderful Savior who has walked the way before us, won the victory, and now is willing to help us so that we also can overcome.

The believer is never alone. We see this in a number of accounts, including Mark 6:50, where Jesus told them, “*Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid.*” Jesus’ birth was foretold with the words, “*they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*”¹² We are reminded that He is one who “*shall neither slumber nor sleep,*”¹³ but that He knows our “*downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.*”¹⁴ What a beautiful promise to know that He knows all of our situations, but also as our high priest, “*He is able to succour them that are tempted.*”¹⁵ The only thing that gets in the way of all of the promises that He has for us is self and pride. We are reminded that God resists the proud, but in the light of His glory and grace, the things of this world grow strangely dim,¹⁶ and the sweet, still, small voice

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of the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth.

Others are watching as we face the battles of life. In Old Testament times, there were “watchers on the wall” waiting to hear of the battle. We read in 2 Sam. 18:27, “*the watchman said...the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings.*” How does our walk appear to the world? Are we a cheerful giver of our time and talents or do we keep these “possessions” for ourselves? Is our speech full of grace, seasoned with salt, or is it indistinguishable from the noises of the world? Do we look for opportunities to do

good for others or do we hold back because of fear? Do we have a godly contentment in all things, no matter the situation, whether we are “abased or abound?”¹⁷

Are we thankful in all things, knowing this is God’s will for us?

We have a profound choice to make every day as we interact, knowingly and unknowingly, with many different people — at home, at work, and on vacation. The world observes our lives, whether the focus is on ourselves or rather if we are dead to self and alive in Christ, showing the world Jesus, the only source of good cheer. May our cheerful walk be our testimony wherever we are, as Paul was encouraged, “*be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.*”¹⁸ May we cheerfully share with all people the promises of

hope and cheer that are found in Jesus Christ, our Savior, Redeemer and Lord!

(Footnotes)

¹ Hymns of Zion, #198

² Acts 27:25

³ Psalm 139:1

⁴ Luke 21:18

⁵ John 14:27

⁶ Rom. 3:23

⁷ 2 Cor. 9:15

⁸ John 3:16

⁹ Eph. 2:1

¹⁰ Phil. 4:6

¹¹ John 16:33

¹² Matt. 1:23

¹³ Psalm 121:4

¹⁴ Psalm 139:2.

¹⁵ Heb. 2:18

¹⁶ “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,”
Helen H. Lemmel

¹⁷ Phil. 4:12

¹⁸ Acts 23:11

Haggai 2:6-9

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.