

Philippians 4: Dancing Before the Chains Drop

Dr. John Carmichael

[Phi 1:19-20 NASB95] 19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but [that] with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

- Like a child on Christmas Eve already rejoicing because they know what's coming, Paul is rejoicing in advance because faith sees the package before it's unwrapped.
- Paul is in prison. The outcome is uncertain. But instead of despair, he declares confidence in his deliverance. He celebrates the breakthrough before it happens not because of evidence, but because of prayer, the Holy Spirit, and bold expectations.

What can we learn about what God wants us to do while in a battle?

Here are three vital truths to incorporate right now.

I. Deliverance Comes Through United Prayer

- a. Philippians 1:19 - "...through your prayers..."
- b. Paul wasn't alone. He was being lifted by the prayers of the saints.
- c. When the church prays in unity, strongholds break.
- d. The church prayed, and Peter's chains fell off. [Act 12:5-7 NASB95] 5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. 6 On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. 7 And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands.
- e. The prayer of agreement is powerful. [Mat 18:19 NASB95] 19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.
- f. The fervent prayer of the righteous has great power. [Jas 5:16 NASB95] 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.
- g. Actually, pray about what you are going through. Get people who will pray with you.

II. Deliverance Comes Through the Provision of the Spirit

- a. Philippians 1:19 - "...and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ..."
- b. God doesn't just send help; He sends the Holy Spirit as your helper.
- c. The Spirit brings supernatural supply: peace, direction, boldness, and power.
- d. [Zec 4:6 NASB95] 6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.
- e. The Spirit abides with you and in you forever. [Jhn 14:16-17 NASB95] 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 [that is] the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, [but] you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.
- f. Learn to tap into the Holy Spirit. As you pray in the Spirit (tongues), you will develop a lived experience with the Holy Spirit.

III. Deliverance Is Activated by Expectation

- a. Philippians 1:20 - "...according to my earnest expectation and hope..."

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- b. Paul's confident anticipation aligned with the prayers and Spirit, creating the atmosphere for breakthrough.
 - c. NOTE: Do not cancel your prayers and the Spirit by faulty expectations. If you are struggling, make a decision to work on it and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.
 - d. The atmosphere of expectation is the breeding ground for miracles!!!
 - e. [Mar 11:24 NASB95] 24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be [granted] you.
 - f. The lame man expected to receive something, and walked. [Act 3:5-8 NASB95] 5 And he [began] to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene walk!" 7 And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. 8 With a leap he stood upright and [began] to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.
 - g. Adjust your expectation based on Who God is and what God says. Choose to expect that God is Who He says He is. Choose to expect that God will do what He says He will do.
- **Deliverance doesn't begin with manifestation; it begins with expectation fueled by corporate prayer and the provision of the Spirit.**
 - **Paul didn't wait until the chains fell to rejoice. He knew prayer was being made, the Spirit was at work, and expectation would carry him through.**
 - **You may still be in the jailhouse, but victory has already been scheduled.**
 - **Celebrate now. Praise now. Rejoice in advance!**