

Philippians 7 – Glow, Don't Grumble

Dr. John Carmichael

[Phi 2:14-16 NASB95] 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

- A single candle in a dark room changes the entire atmosphere. God has called us to be those candles in this world.
- Paul writes to believers surrounded by pagan culture, corruption, and persecution. Instead of blending in or becoming bitter, he calls them to shine.
- In a dark night, stars don't argue with the darkness. They simply shine. The Holy Spirit empowers us not merely to survive a wicked culture but to radiate Christ in it.
- Paul calls us to shine like stars; not flicker, not blend in, but shine.

How can Spirit-filled Christians glow for Christ in today's world?

Here are four things we can take from this passage about glowing for Christ.

I. We Glow by Having Right Spirit

- a. Philippians 2:14 - "Do all things without grumbling or disputing."
- b. Paul tackles the poison of a complaining spirit. Grumbling dims our light and damages our witness. The Spirit transforms our attitudes from bitter to better.
- c. Greek: "γογγυσμός" pronounced "goggusmos".
- d. The Holy Ghost doesn't only change our tongues in other tongues. He changes our tongues in everyday talk.
- e. [Eph 4:29 NASB95] 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such [a word] as is good for edification according to the need [of the moment,] so that it will give grace to those who hear.
- f. Israel's grumbling hindered their progress.
 - i. [Num 14:27 NASB95] 27 "How long [shall I bear] with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me.
 - ii. [1Co 10:10 NASB95] 10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
- g. [1Ti 2:8 NASB95] 8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.
- h. In school, God spoke to me, "You can't receive grace for what you complain about."
- i. Instead of complaining, pray. Speak gratitude daily (Thank you). Refuse gossip or divisive talk.

II. We Glow by Living Blameless and Pure

- a. Philippians 2:15 - "...so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach..."
- b. Literally 'unmixed'. (Lightfoot)
- c. The Spirit sanctifies us to stand out, not blend in. Holiness isn't legalism. It's the glow of the Spirit's presence in a believer's life.
- d. Being a child of God is not just a privilege; it is a responsibility.
- e. Holiness is not just what we separate from but who we're separated unto. Be better. Be the best version of you. Belong to Jesus Christ.

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- f. [1Pe 2:9 NASB95] 9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR [God's] OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- g. Your works shine the light to others. [Mat 5:16 NASB95] 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- h. Guard your eyes and ears from corrupt influences. Commit to integrity in finances, work, and relationships. Seek accountability with Spirit-filled believers.

III. We Glow to a Crooked Generation

- a. Philippians 2:15 – "...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world."
- b. The Greek expresses "as luminaries in the world," as the sun and moon, "the lights," or "great lights," in the material world or in the firmament from the Septuagint. (JFB)
- c. God placed us here and now to shine. The darker the night, the brighter the stars. We're not called to hide from culture but to pierce it with light.
- d. The Spirit empowers us to thrive in darkness, not be overcome by it. Do not be shocked when God calls you to dark places. That the saints are lights explains why the world hates the believers, for "every one that doeth evil hateth the light" (John 3:20). (Butler)
- e. [Isa 60:1-2 NASB95] 1 "Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you.
- f. [Jhn 1:5 NASB95] 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
- g. Share Christ boldly in conversations. Serve your community to display Christ's love. Keep a spirit of hope, refusing to give in to negativity or fear.

IV. We Glow by Holding Fast to the Word of Life

- a. Philippians 2:16 - "...holding fast the word of life."
- b. Shining believers are rooted in Scripture. The Word fuels our flame, anchors our hope, and guides our conduct.
- c. The Word and the Spirit always work together. Spirit-filled living is Word-filled living.
- d. [Psa 119:105 NASB95] 105 Nun. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
- e. [Jhn 6:63 NASB95] 63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
- f. The Word will separate you. You will live and think differently. The Word points us to God's light.
- g. Two meanings: 1. hold fast (cling to) and 2. hold forth (give out). (Butler)
- h. Read Scripture daily, even if just one verse. Speak the Word in prayer and confession. Memorize verses that keep your mind anchored in truth. Talk about God's Word. Impress God's Word upon your children (Deut. 6:7).

- **The Spirit-filled believer is called to live so purely and joyfully that they shine like stars, radiating hope and holiness in a dark world.**
- Holiness isn't misery. It's radiant joy. The world is looking for people who glow with hope and purity. Let the Spirit light your fire, so others can find Jesus through your shine.