

Get In The Spirit! By Melanie Imel

When you study the first chapter of the book of Revelation, you will see that the Apostle John is in a hard place. Actually, he has been sent to an island called Patmos. The Greek word for Patmos literally means a 'place of death'.

We are living in a season of time that requires us to approach life and its challenges with strong faith. The apostle Paul spoke of a fight of faith; a spiritual place where you know that God's promises are true, but you are being pressured on every side. John was truly in a fight of faith. It's during this fight of faith that you must not give voice to your soul.

John could have easily felt sorry for himself and given up. But I want you to notice verse 10 of chapter 1. It says that John was "in the Spirit" on the Lord's day. There is a spiritual place that is available to us that will withstand any storm or testing we endure. Right now, you may be struggling and you may have thoughts of doubt telling you "this time, there is no hope!" but, I want to encourage you to rise up in your faith and GET IN THE SPIRIT!.

When you get in the Spirit, you are going to find your answers. When you get IN THE SPIRIT, you are going to hear from God and have a peace that passes all understanding. You may have turmoil all around you, but like the apostle John, if you can get in the Spirit, you will come out with power.

What exactly does the bible mean to be "IN THE SPIRIT"? In the Greek it means to be wrapped in God's power and presence. Literally your spirit man tuned with God. Being in the spirit is walking and living according to the Spirit of God within you.

The 91st psalm talks about a secret place in God. A secret place, where you can remain and dwell in. A place of stability. A stable and fixed place, under the shadow of the almighty. Verse 8 says "Only a spectator shall you be [yourself inaccessible in the secret place of the Most High". I have heard many thoughts on what that secret place is, but I would like to suggest to you that that secret place in God, that place that you are inaccessible, is "in the Spirit".

I think that Enoch entered that secret place with God. Genesis 5:24 says that "Enoch walked with God and he was not; for God took him." Enoch walked in such a close, intimate relationship with God that *he was not*. Enoch was no longer controlled by his own will and desires. He was taken into a higher place, *in the Spirit*; to the point of literally passing from this life to a heavenly life. My body may not get literally translated up into heaven like Enoch's did, but I want to be spiritually translated, or lifted into that higher place and walk with God. May we experience God and walk with Him. Have we not been guilty of crying out to God to walk with us or to come down to us? May we understand that we are to be lifted up into a spiritual place in Him.

Now we understand Galatians 2:20 even better, "for it is no longer I who lives but Christ Who lives within me, and the life I now live, I live BY FAITH in the Son of God." Yes, you see the negative circumstances challenging you, but you choose to believe God and His faithfulness to you. You may have to go through some things, but when you get in the Spirit, you will receive the strength and ability of God working in you. It is during difficult times that we are made aware of our total dependency on God. Our circumstances can cause us to push in closer to God, to reach higher into that secret place of the Most High. Remember, God is faithful; He met John right in the middle of a place of death and God will meet you right where you are!