

The Pleasure of a Christian: Trampling Satan

Pastor John Carmichael

[Mat 12:28 NASB95] 28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

- Tertullian (3rd century church father) – what greater pleasure there could be than to find yourself trampling underfoot the gods of the Gentiles, expelling demons, effecting cures, seeking revelations, living for God? These are the pleasures of Christians, holy, eternal and free. (Kydd, 21)
- We are in a dark world. Satan is running loose and powerful. [2Co 4:4 NASB95].
- Yet as Dr. David Thomas posted, "One of the biggest lies the devil will try to sell you is that he is more dangerous than Jesus." (FB, 10/27/2021)
- In Matt 12:28, we see Jesus healing a demonized man who was blind and mute (v.22). He was accused of casting demons out by the power of demons. His main response is found in v.28.
 - He identifies His purpose: cast out demons (manifested in blindness and muteness).
 - He identifies His source: Spirit of God.
 - He identifies His result: Kingdom of God coming to them.

How does this story have any relevance to us in this dark world?

In Matt 12:28, we see Jesus' activity, source, and purpose relating to victory over satan in our lives.

I. Jesus wants us to live in victory over demons

- [1Jo 3:8 NASB95]
- The purpose Jesus came is to destroy the works of the devil.
- [Col 2:14-15 NASB95]
- [Heb 2:14 NASB95]
- Jesus exercised power (authority and ability) over all the manifestations of evil. Everything rooted in the kingdom of evil was vanquished by the atonement (cross, empty tomb, ascension).

II. Jesus wants us to walk in the power of Spirit.

- [Luk 11:20 NASB95]
- Horton: In our emphasis today on the gentleness of the Spirit, it is easy to forget the Bible has much to say about the power of the Spirit.
- [Act 10:38 NASB95]

III. Jesus wants us to experience the Kingdom of God now as we wait for the not yet.

- Nature of the Kingdom – earthly, heavenly, or both?
- Arrival of the Kingdom – present, future, or both?
- Fire Bible – Both on earth presently, and in the future eternity.
- New Bible Commentary – the Kingdom of God was not only imminent but already present and visibly active.
- NET: has already overtaken you. "to come to you already."

IV. We walk in this pleasure by

- Submitting to God. [Jas 4:7 NASB95].
- Staying full of the power of the Holy Spirit. [Eph 5:18 NASB95]
- Invoking faith in the name of Jesus for the Kingdom of God in your life. [Mar 16:17 NASB95]
 - Origen – "It is not by incantations that Christians seem to prevail (over evil spirits), but by the name of Jesus." (Kydd, 26)

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- As we submit to God, stay full of Holy Spirit, invoke the name of Jesus we can live in the pleasure of walking in victory of Satan and experiencing the Kingdom of God.