



How is HE doing?

2 Tim 4:22 (NKJV) ²²*The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.*

Words of Ministry

"How are you doing?" We hear that asked a lot. We ask it to others and others ask it of us. And many times we tell only part of the truth because if we really told people how we are doing it might turn into a three hour counselling session! The truth is we change a lot from one day to the next, one situation to the next and one condition to the next. We need an anchor. We need something else to hold our life steady other than our up and down condition based on circumstances.

Paul was trying to provide an anchor to Timothy when at the end of His letter to him he said, "***The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you.***" The Bible teaches us that we are organically united to the Lord Jesus in our spirit. The phrase, "*The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit*" is not just a quaint closing remark in Paul's letter to Timothy. It is expressing a fundamental and precious truth. It is a stable anchor for every believer. The Lord Jesus is joined to our spirit in such a way that we are one spirit with Him (1 Cor 6:17) and we are now participating in the grace of all He is to us.

Have you come to experience this inner union with the Lord in your life? Is it real to you? Do you not see that He is as much apart of your inner life as you are part of it? The Lord is literally "***with your spirit***". This makes your life anything but normal or average. The Lord of the entire universe is joined to you in a deep and profound way and simply calls you to rest in this relationship and become a vessel to express the full potential of it.

This union with the Lord is the most precious thing in your spiritual life. It is the means to everything you need. You are already joined to the answer you seek. The essence of this powerful union is revealed in John 15, where you are declared to be a branch connected to the vine, sharing the life of the vine. This means that the righteousness of the vine becomes your righteousness!

Everything that the vine is, is for you as a branch to participate in (2 Pet 1:4). That is why your righteousness is not a matter of prayer, Bible reading, or what you do or do not do. Your righteousness is a matter of the vine and of your being a branch supplied by participating in all the riches of the vine.

Your union with the Lord is something you need to daily draw upon and work with. His condition needs to become yours in actual experience. The state and condition of the vine should be the state and condition of the branches. The question we need to be asking is not, "How am I doing?" but, "How is **HE** doing?" In this organic condition between a vine and its branches what you look to see is the condition and health of the vine. In other words, how is the vine doing? That is the question. It is not about how the branch is doing, because the state of the branch is bound up with the state of the stem. If the vine is good, the branches will be healthy; if the vine is not good, no amount of work on behalf of the branch can fix its condition. So you ask me, "How are you doing today?" My answer is, "How is HE doing today?" That is the real issue. My life is joined to Christ the true Vine. My life is a life of participation in His Person. This is the sense and meaning of something organic.

In any given day, you and I face many challenges and choices. Many things come into our life and affect our inner condition. We are frustrated, confused, tired, discouraged, etc. When these "fruits" start showing up in the branches, it tells us that there is a wrong and unhealthy source feeding the branches. Some other spirit is causing this fruit, not the Spirit of the Lord. If we are joined to the Lord and He is our source, then we should be manifesting the things that are in Him: love, joy, peace, patience, etc.

Beloved, it is time for you to recognise the source you have with your spirit: "*The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit*" And it is time to believe the condition of that source with you: "*Grace be with you.*" By grace the Lord Jesus is with your spirit as the vine-life is with the branch. If you will just focus on **His condition** and place your faith there, things will get better with you on your side. You are connected with Him. You are joined to Him. Nothing can lessen His victorious condition or remove Him from His victorious position.

The next time someone asks you how you are doing when you are going through a difficult time, tell them how Jesus is doing! And then tell them that if HE is doing well, then you also will be doing well too! Remind yourself that the Lord is with your spirit and that His grace is with you at all times