

## “Led in His Triumph”

Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

*“Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So, I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia (to look for him). But **thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession** and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.” 2 Corinthians 2:12-14 NIV*

**CORE: We are being led by Jesus in His “triumphal procession”—“moving forward with a close-knit company of people who have been so deeply transformed they boldly express their uninhibited gratitude everywhere.”**

NOTE: The phrase “Christ’s triumphal procession” involves several key components:

### 1. DEEP TRUST

- FAITH doesn’t deny the facts—rather, it’s the ability to see the facts in light of God’s faithfulness & power to fulfill what He promised!
  - There’s a huge difference between facts and conclusions
  - “Truth” is greater than “facts.” “Truth” is best defined as “REALITY”—the capacity to place facts in perspective—resulting in settle conclusions!
  - Our conclusions affect us more than the facts. (*i.e., 10 spies vs. Joshua/Caleb*)
  - MINDSETS ARE INTENTIONAL. When we fail to “*set our minds on things that are above*” (*Colossians 3:2*) we allow lesser things to captivate & de-rail our perceptions. [*NOTE: “Above” is “better quality”, not “in the sky”*]
- FAITH will be tested. Faith involves a FIGHT (*1 Timothy 6:12*).
  - If there’s no FIGHT in you—there’s no CAUSE in you!
  - In the “*good fight of faith*”—we wrestle with our fears. (*i.e., the 12 in the days between the Cross and the empty tomb; Paul in the context of 2 Cor. 2:14*)
- FAITH must result in ACTION. We only truly believe what we walk in!
  - “*Faith is the conviction of things not seen.*” (*Heb. 11:1*) Not things we have seen!
  - When Jesus returns, “*will (He) find faith on the earth?*” (*Luke 18:8*) Yes! He will find faith—and the ACTION to go with it!
  - Imagine what the world will look like when we not only have FAITH—but we **ACTIVATE** it!!!
- **“ALWAYS”**—settled confidence in the ultimate outcome!!!
  - God created our imagination for faith! We must stop allowing the enemy to use it for worry!

### 2. CLOSE CONNECTIONS

- **“Procession”** is a close-knit company (*i.e., parade, platoon, motorcade*)
- God is RELATIONSHIP (*i.e., Trinity*)—*“made in His image”* we were created for relationships. (*“Not good to be alone”* Genesis 2:18)
- The ultimate revelation of Father’s love—living as Father’s family
- Dr. Caroline Leaf- *“Three things shortening the lives of Americans: toxic thoughts, toxic food, and isolation.”* She also said, *“When someone is broken—and feels loved and listened to—they begin to heal.”* Plus, *“The Church plays a vital role in loving people to mental, emotional, and spiritual health.”*
  - Church history: *“Gradual decline from being a family to a philosophy to a religion to an enterprise.”*
  - HS is restoring *“faith operating through love”* (Galatians 5:6). FAITH moves mountains; LOVE heals valleys.
  - Powerful restoration of BOTH the gifts AND fruit of HS! [NOTE: Satan is afraid of God’s power cradled in God’s love.]

### 3. **BOLD EXPRESSIONS**

- *“Triumphal procession”* is anything but solemn and stifled. It speaks of *“noisy acclamations.”*
- Bold expression—makes a deep impression on our own souls (as well as on the lives of others)!
  - It’s no wonder we are called to *“shout unto God with a voice of triumph!”* and to *“clap our hands”* and *“make melody in our hearts”*
  - Bold expressions don’t defy our emotions (*“What if I don’t feel like being expressive in worship?”*)—instead, they align our emotions with what is true!
  - Living a life of worship—doesn’t limit expression to a “holy moment & a holy place”—but it means learning to face the rigors of life with a clear revelation of His presence!
- **Jeremy Riddle:** “I think it would be safe to say that worship isn’t worshipful if it isn’t pleasing to God. And since it is impossible to please God without responding in faith (Heb 10) Then faith is vitally important to the worshipper. So, what does it look like to respond to God in faith? For me it is relatively simple: **I want my whole created being (heart, soul, mind, body) to respond as if the truth I know and sing about God, is actually TRUE.** Because it is. **My response to God** isn’t determined by my level of personal or emotional connection to the moment, the song, the worship leader or the people I’m worshipping with, it **is determined by my FAITH.** Can I suggest that **nations won’t start bowing down before the church does?** It is OUR response of faith that leads THEIRS. If faith without demonstration is dead (James 2), let’s let our faith “come alive” as we worship Him! Every time we gather together to worship and honor the Lord, **we either demonstrate to an unbelieving world that Jesus IS or ISN’T who He says He is.** When we respond in FAITH, we release FAITH.”

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** Our wholehearted response—will impact the whole world.