

How to Be Led by the Spirit

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God” (Rom. 8:14).

One of the greatest benefits of our redemption is the privilege of being led by the Spirit of God. Children of God can be expected to be led by the Spirit of God. One of the greatest needs is to have the wisdom of God to make the right decisions. This comes through being led by the Spirit of God.

Do you think that your life would be much better if you made decisions based on the leading and guidance of the Spirit of God? Proverbs 4:11-12 says, “I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble.”

Wisdom is making decisions today based on knowing what will happen tomorrow. Wisdom will bring many wonderful fruits into your life. It will promote you and bring you honor and advance you in rank, dignity and position. Wisdom will keep you safe from harm or injury. It will help bring desired changes. It will bring the flow of God’s blessings in your life, and it will cause you to see the power of God in your life through the gifts of the Spirit.

All these fruits are borne in your life through wisdom. Wisdom enables you to make decisions based on hindsight rather than foresight. How is this possible? It’s possible because the Spirit of God knows the future, and He wants to let you know the future course you are headed on.

“But when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own authority. But He will speak whatever He hears, and He will tell you things that are to come” (John 16:13).

The Holy Spirit will **guide you ... and He will tell you what is yet to come.** Isn't that great?

You don't have to be in the dark concerning your future. The Holy Spirit will guide you based on what is yet to come.

The Holy Spirit uses your spirit.

Let us look once again at Romans 8:14:

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God."

How does the Spirit of God lead us? It is one thing to say that the Spirit leads us, it is another thing to know **how** the Spirit leads us. The following verses tell us how.

"For you have not received the spirit of slavery again to fear. But you have received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirits that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8 15-16).

Notice that the **Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit.** The Holy Spirit speaks to our spirit. Our spirit then echoes the voice of the Spirit. In other words, the Holy Spirit uses our own spirit to lead and guide us. Proverbs 20:27 confirms this:

"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the heart."

The word **candle** means lamp. Back in Bible days, a lamp was the instrument used to guide someone along a dark path. The Bible is saying that God uses our spirits to guide us in our lives. Another Scripture backs this up.

"But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding" (Job 32:8).

It is not the mind, which gives man understanding. It is the spirit in a man. You see, Job's friends used their minds to try to enlighten them regarding Job's sufferings. They were dead wrong. In this passage Elihu explains the reason they were wrong. He says, "But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding." Not your mind, but your spirit. This is why Solomon wrote, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov. 3:5).

Your own understanding comes from your mind, not your heart. He says to **trust in the LORD with all your heart**. Your heart is your spirit. Your spirit is the safe guide, not your mind. Your mind can get confused. Your spirit rarely can.

So being led by the Spirit involves two objects or personalities: the Holy Spirit and your own human spirit. It would do well for you to study both the Holy Spirit and your own spirit.

The Holy Spirit

First, let us briefly mention some aspects of the Holy Spirit—how He works, what He likes, what are His concerns. By getting to know Him better helps you understand what He is going to lead you to do.

For example, the Holy Spirit is "holy." He is not going to lead you to do something unholy. Forget about the Holy Spirit leading you to take someone else's husband. He won't do that!

Also, the Holy Spirit agrees with the Word. Not only is your spirit the lamp of the Lord, but the "Word is a lamp unto my feet." The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures, so He won't guide you in direct opposition to the Word. If you are in doubt, stay with the Word.

The Holy Spirit is also gentle like a dove. He does not push.

If you feel pressured to do something you feel is the guidance of the Spirit, then you know to back off, because the Spirit does not push; He gently guides.

The Human Spirit

Since the Holy Spirit is going to use your own human spirit to enlighten you, you need to understand the function, operation and purpose of the human spirit. To understand the human spirit, you must understand the three-fold nature of man. Genesis 1:26 clearly says that mankind is made in God's image. Jesus said, "God is Spirit" (John 4:24). So if mankind is in God's image and God is Spirit, mankind essentially must be a spirit as well.

God is also a trinity. There are three personalities to God: the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Mankind is a trinity.

"May the very God of peace sanctify you completely. And I pray to God that your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:23)

May your whole SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY be kept blameless. Man is a three part being like God. There are three parts to man. It is important we do not confuse our spirits with our souls. The soul is the mind. The word for soul in the Greek is the word *psuche*, which we derive our word psychology from. Psychology is the study of the soul or the mind. Can you see how the soul has been the predominate feature of man? It is understandable that the soul is the main force of man; after all, man is an eternal soul. That is who you are. Your personality is comprised of your soul. After God breathed into man, **"man became a living being"** (Gen. 2:7).

The spirit part, which God breathed into man, is the part of man that is godlike. The god-side to man is his spirit. Tell me, which is more likely to be trusted, the soul or the

spirit? Obviously the spirit is more trustworthy. The only people who can be led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God, because only they have reborn spirits. The only trustworthy part of the reborn man is his spirit. The soul is not completely reliable, because the soul needs salvation.

James writes to believers, "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and remaining wickedness and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). The soul still needs saving or else James would not need to write to believers to **save your souls**. Sometimes we hear people say that X amount souls were saved, but really, the soul is in the process of salvation. The soul is the mind and personality. Can anyone of us really say that our minds and personalities are completely saved? Not really.

However, when we were born again, our spirits were saved. Our spirits is the part of us that has been saved. So becoming a child of God enables the Holy Spirit to **testify with our spirit** that we are God's children. The Spirit does not testify to our minds. Our minds may not receive this testimony, but our spirits can.

Now you understand how vital your spirit is to hearing from God.

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