

Being Led By His Spirit

This is perhaps one of the most important teachings a person could receive concerning the leadership of the Spirit. So many people who seem to be so sincere are continually being "led" from one situation to another, but each time they end up confused over the outcome, wondering why God would speak to them to do such a thing if it was going to turn out the way it did.

If you have ever been a victim, you know that nothing can be more confusing than to believe something is God then to have all the evidence say that it is not.

It has taken me seventeen years of teaching, preaching, and praying in the Holy Ghost to see a pattern emerge from watching people stumble and fall, only to get up and make the same mistakes again. You could take two individuals from two different parts of the country and watch them make the same mistakes.

I could see that the devil was going to a Lot of trouble to use the same tactics over and over again on all the different saints in all the different places.

What is it about our potential to be led by the Spirit that scares the devil so bad? Whatever it is, the devil has gone to a lot of trouble to keep us confused and to make sure it never happens and he will use every deception to-make sure-he keeps us walking down the wrong road.

So, how does the devil do this? First of all, the devil is not so stupid as to tell you that you cannot be led by the Spirit. He knows that you know better. So the only chance he has of neutralizing you is by indoctrinating you into a program where you look to emotions or outward circumstances as a basis for God's leadership and direction for your life instead of an inner witness.

He sends a bunch of low-level, second-rate, expendable devils to confuse us by parading a bunch of believers across our path who claim to be led by the Holy Spirit in everything they do.

A person becomes confused watching these believers because, while they are claiming to be led, they go through one situation after another, suffering defeat. The bottom falls out of everything they do as they make one bad decision after another.

In much the same way the devil has succeeded in confusing the issue of healing by making sure we hear about every believer who has ever believed God for healing and failed to receive, he attempts to discredit the possibility or even the very thought of us ever being led by the Spirit.

Just the fact that the devil is so avid in his opposition to even the possibility of us being led by the Spirit through an inner witness ought to tell you how powerful and dangerous this leadership can be.

So, in reality, when it comes to the leadership of the Spirit, you can divide believers into three categories:

The first category is those believers who have come to understand the leadership of the Spirit and

have testimonies and lives that cause many to be saved.

The second category is those believers who have been indoctrinated by the devil into an emotional realm and who have never learned how to operate out of their spirit. Consequently they operate out of an emotional realm where a person not only experiences the wonderful emotional highs that we all feel when things are going right but, unfortunately the same emotional realm will also accommodate the emotional lows of torments and fears and the insecurities that can be brought on by the pressures of this life.

Friend, it is this emotional realm that most Christians fall prey to because feelings are such a vital part of a person's make-up.

The difference between being led by the inner witness and the devil's counterfeit is determined by how susceptible you are to pressure and the enticement of lust because one is out of the spirit and the other is Satan's attempt to lead you through your emotions and at the same time make you think it is God.

But, before we get into this too far, let's talk about *the third category* that Christians fall into and that is, NO LEADERSHIP AT ALL.

They do not believe you can be led by the Spirit at all. In fact, they do not believe you can have any kind of intimate relationship with God.

As far as they are concerned, God exists all right and they believe that they are going to Heaven but it is almost as though He has abandoned them on planet earth and they are supposed to do as good as they can while they are here and, when their lives are over, they will finally see Jesus.

But, we know this is not the case at all. The willingness of our Heavenly Father to fellowship with us and to lead us by His Spirit was demonstrated when He not only saved us but filled us with the Holy Ghost.

So, let's take a look at what is God and what is not and how the Holy Spirit can manifest Himself to us in an inner witness.

Romans 8:13-16 says: "*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, ABBA, FATHER. The Spirit itself BEARETH WITNESS with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*"

Friend, most of us want to be led by the Spirit. To be able to receive direction from the Holy Spirit makes the counsel and wisdom of God available in everything we do.

I am not just talking about things that are associated with ministries and the things that they do, I am talking about your jobs and businesses and the leadership and counsel we need to raise our families.

But, in order to understand how the inner witness really works, we must first understand what the inner witness was designed to accomplish in our lives and how to yield to it.

So, let's begin by identifying what it is like when the Holy Spirit is bearing witness with our human spirit and when it is our emotions, by helping you differentiate between the emotional realm of the soul which can fluctuate from excitement when everything is going right to depression when it is not and the steadfast, stabilizing quality of the human spirit.

Friend, have you ever tried to give up on God but something down on the inside just would not let you? No matter how hard you tried or how bad things became, something on the inside would not leave you alone. No matter how bad the pressure became, something inside kept crying "ABBA, FATHER" or "DADDY, GOD".

Now, it is not as though a person walks around hearing the words "ABBA, FATHER" going off on the inside of his spirit. But, something way down on the inside simply refuses to give in. It does not matter if the flesh is exerting fifteen tons of pure emotional pressure in the form of bondage and fear, screaming at you to give up.

Here is how you can tell the difference between the two. The part of you that refused to give in was your spirit. The part that reacted to the pressure was the soul realm.

Look at what Romans 8:16 says: *"The Spirit itself BEARETH WITNESS with OUR SPIRIT, that we are the children of God."*

What this is saying is that the part of you that the Holy Spirit strengthens when things get so bad that you feel like giving up is your spirit and, when you feel that strength, your spirit responds by acknowledging its salvation and this is what it means when the fifteenth verse says, "we cry, ABBA, FATHER".

The flesh, devil, and world may heap condemnation upon you and pressure and badger you to give up but the Holy Spirit will combat all of that by continually bearing witness on the inside of your spirit that you are a child of God! Not only does He bear witness to your salvation but He also bears witness to whether or not you are thinking right or wrong, making right or wrong decisions, or have right or wrong doctrine.

And the quicker you can identify between the emotional realms of the soul and the stabilizing quality of the human spirit, the quicker you are going to be led by the inner witness.

After many years of watching people, ministers, and businessmen, I noticed a pattern emerge. And, in this pattern, those, who were really led by the Spirit and understood the inner witness, seemed to be qualified by a certain set of principles.

This qualification comes in two distinct phases. It does not matter how long you have been saved because, until you adhere to the principles in the first phase, you will not go on to the next.

So, let's take a look at phase one:

Romans 8:13-14 says: *"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

Notice this verse says, "If ye live after the FLESH, ye shall die." The word "FLESH" is not only pertaining to the influence of the carnal appetites on the soul in the areas of lusts but is also pertaining to the soul's susceptibility to the emotional forces of torment, worry, and fear.

When Paul said, "It is through the Spirit that ye MORTIFY the deeds of the body", he meant that there is a large variety of deeds that this body is capable of from the lust of the flesh to torments and fear - all the way to strife, hatred, and unforgiveness and these are what are being put to death.

So, in phase one, the first order of business for those who will accept the leadership of the Spirit is to be led out from underneath the control of the flesh into that calm peaceful operation of the inner man whose mentor is the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 20:27 says: *"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly."*

He compared your spirit with a candle because your spirit is the part of you God illuminates or communicates with and leads you by and the most dominant force present within your spirit to accomplish this leadership is the inner witness.

The first area of deception most people fall into is when they are tricked into being led around by their emotions. Because they mistake emotions for the leadership of the Spirit, they believe God is leading them from one place to another; from one situation to another; from one kind of involvement to another when in reality, the only kind of leadership that is really taking place within their lives is not external, BUT INTERNAL.

Because, until God can lay the foundation that is necessary in phase one, which is internal leadership, you will not have the necessary qualification for the leadership that is available in phase two which is EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP.

In phase one, the Holy Spirit will bring you from the born again experience to a place in character development where the still, quiet voice of the inner man is louder than the turmoil of pressure and stronger than the temptations of sin.

At this point, I would hate to think of the disadvantage that a person would have who has NOT been convinced of the significance of praying in tongues.

For it is in that still, quiet place where tongues originate that the Holy Spirit lives and quietly waits for you to either close the door to the most incredible life-changing forces of the Holy Spirit or throw it wide open and put a foundation under your character so strong that it would not matter what had you bound or how loud the voice of pressure and turmoil had become, God could lead you out from

underneath the whole thing.

Because praying with tongues strengthens the part of you that you derive strength from to resist sin and sharpens your discernment to differentiate between the emotional realms of the soul and the peaceful operation of the inner witness.

When a man is lost at sea, the chances of finding him are pretty slim. But when it does happen, the helicopter will come over the horizon and spot a tiny little dot in a vast sea of water and throw him a life line.

Sometimes the cares of this life can make a person feel as though they are drowning in an ocean. But, when you pray in tongues, it is the same as someone throwing you a life line.

When I was first born-again, I was excited about the prospect of being led by the Spirit and, like most people in phase one, I esteemed the real leadership of the Spirit to be something that led me from place to place or maybe from poverty to wealth only to find out as so many have before me, it is almost impossible for the Holy Spirit to lead a person in this manner as long as the devil can get in with a good case of emotions and OVERPOWER the inner witness.

Yet, there are thousands of Christians on emotional merry-go-rounds. They are running from place to place and claiming God sent them and causing confusion because they are confused themselves, prophesying direction over other people's lives when their own lives are messed up, not understanding that it would do God no good to send them anywhere as long as the devil kept overpowering them after they got there because they could not stand up under the pressure or temptations of sin. or for God to continually deliver a person's finances only to have fears and uncertainties recreate the same situation over and over again.

So, in phase one, God's main concern is to lead you on a journey from the born-again experience to a place in character development where your decisions, direction, and outlook on every situation is only affected by the Word and the peaceful operation of the inner man.

There is no other road to victory except through something that is more powerful than emotions themselves and that is the operation of the inner man, which brings us to the operation of spirit, soul, and body and to a study of where emotions come from.

When God created His first man, Adam, He fashioned him a body from the dust of the earth. In fact, He created his body out of something that already existed. But, when it came time for the creation of his spirit man, God reached down on the inside of His being and literally brought Adam's spirit into existence. And, when he placed it into Adam's body, it activated his vital signs and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7 says: *"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."*

When God created Adam's body, it was the most incredible thing. It was a physical suit of clothing

that flowed in absolute harmony with the natural laws of physics that govern our entire universe and gave the real man, Adam, who is a spiritual being, the ability to co-exist on two levels of creation - God's natural and spiritual Kingdom - much like an astronaut's suit which allows a person to operate both on earth and in space.

There was nothing like it in the whole universe. It was designed to house Adam's spirit in every aspect. Not only did his spiritual hand fit into his natural hand finger for finger, and his spiritual eyes fit into his natural eyes, and his ears into natural ears, but God made this natural body to so perfectly encompass the operation of the inner man that, if you were to stand them up next to each other, they would look almost identical.

Now, Friend, when I say that God created our natural body to house our spiritual body, we do not have any trouble understanding this principle. What most of us fail to understand is that, when God created the spirit of man, He placed within our spirit certain spiritual forces like love, peace, and joy that make up the nature of our inner man.

Then, in exactly the same way that God created our physical hands and feet to be receptacles for our spiritual hands and feet, He created a physical soul that acts as a receptacle for the spiritual forces of love, joy, and peace. So, when God placed Adam's spirit into his body, the spiritual hand fit into its counterpart, the physical hand, like a glove. The spiritual foot fit into the physical foot and the spiritual soul fit into the physical soul.

When an animal dies, especially a household pet like a dog or a cat, a person can really miss them. They can be so warm and friendly that the emotions of their physical soul can almost parallel the operation of a spiritual soul. Yet, when they die, their physical soul perishes with them.

When we die, the inner man is disconnected from the outer man and he simply steps out of his body. The spiritual soul which consists of the forces of love, joy, and peace is simply disconnected from the physical soul which consist of the emotions of love, joy, and peace. The difference between the spiritual soul and the physical soul is this:

1. The spiritual soul has the FORCE OF LOVE.
2. The physical soul has the EMOTION OF LOVE.

The same way your physical hand is designed to serve your spiritual hand, the physical emotions of the soul are designed to serve the spiritual forces of the inner man.

Through a unique operation of spirit, soul, and body, the spiritual forces of love, joy, and peace were designed by God to be able to operate throughout the entire being of Adam through the emotional realms of the soul.

But, when Adam fell from the grace of God and died spiritually, he received the nature of sin into his spirit. Now, not only was his spirit capable of such things as hatred, murder, and lies but this sin nature also was received into the chromosomes of the physical man which broke the cycle of a

self-renewing perpetual physical body and it laid down and died some nine hundred thirty years later.

Then Jesus came and the new nature was once again available to us through the rebirth and, when we are born-again, a new nature was received into our human spirit. Now, because of this new nature, our inner man no longer has the capacity to fluctuate between love and hate, truth and lies, peace and murder, but once again remains constant in the spiritual forces of love, peace, and joy.

There is just one problem, the spiritual soul with its forces of love, peace, and joy must now operate through the physical soul which still has the capacity to fluctuate between the emotion of love and the emotion of hate because it still has death working in it that it inherited from the first Adam and will continue to have that capacity until it is glorified.

So, when cares of this life start entering in and torments of fear take hold and begin to control your emotions, they will fluctuate back and forth. But the spirit man will remain constant almost as if to say, "You can fluctuate back and forth between hatred and love if you want to but I am not going with you."

It is within the operation of the emotional realms of the soul that the devil builds strongholds. When you come to the place where your actions are not controlled by the emotional highs and lows of the soul, but rather by the constant, stabilizing forces of the spirit ... then it is a whole new life.

Here is the major key ... how would you like to reach past the emotional highs and lows of the soul and open a channel directly to the spirit man?

I Corinthians 14:14 says, "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, MY SPIRIT PRAYETH ..."

Even though the origin of tongues is the Holy Spirit, it is your human spirit doing the praying. The Holy Spirit is actually creating the language of tongues within your human spirit as you speak them forth. The prayer that you are praying is in no way being influenced by the emotional highs and lows of the soul you may be in at the time.

At first, when a person's foundation is changing from operating in an emotional realm to operating in a spiritual realm, the emotions can scream so loud that they can bowl over the quiet place the spirit operates out of. In fact, in comparison, the operation of the inner man can seem rather weak next to the soul when it is raging with emotions.

But, when a man throws a life line to the inner man by praying in tongues, you edify yourself by cultivating the forces resident within the new nature of your spirit, love, peace, and joy.

When the Holy Spirit is allowed to cultivate the forces of love, peace, and joy, then eventually, they will grow to a place where you can tell the difference between the force of love or the emotion of love, the force of peace or the circumstantial emotion of well-being, the force of joy or the circumstantial emotion of happiness.

Your emotions can come to a place where they serve you instead of you being a servant to them.

Then your life can be rich and full and God can lead you to victory. The giants in Canaan land will not control you through fear.

Dave Roberson