

Being Led by the Spirit of God

August 2014

Dear Friend and Partner,

Matthew 4:1: **Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.**

Luke 4:1: **And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,**

1 Thessalonians 5:23: **And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

The scriptures teach us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit, and we, as believers, are to be led the same way. Jesus never did anything unless He knew His Father God wanted Him to do it. **Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.** John 5:19 See also John 5:30, John 8:28, John 9:4, John 12:49, John 14:10 and Mark 2:8.

Wanting to be led by the Holy Spirit is not only a noble desire that each of us should have, it's also a way God protects us. It doesn't have anything to do with being more spiritual than anyone else; we're just always listening to our heart, *our spirit man*. For example, if we know in our heart that we're supposed to give someone ten dollars, we need to obey that prompting.

We don't follow voices; we listen to an inward witness. It's one way God leads us and guides us. The first way He leads us is by His written Word. We don't question God's Word; we just do it, whether we understand it or not. Children should listen to their parents, whether they understand what they're told or not. As children grow up, they learn why their parents didn't allow them to go somewhere, or do something. It was because their parents were trying to protect them.

Acts 10:19-20: **While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.** The only reason Peter went and joined himself to those men is that the spirit of God led him to go. This is something we all need to learn. We don't just go somewhere because we want to, or because people want us to, *even if it's something we want to do.*

Acts 5:29: **Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.**

Galatians 1:10: **For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**

We all want to please our Father God, which is much more important than pleasing others. Just because we are in the position to do something, it doesn't mean we should do it. It feels good to please people and make them happy, but before going down that road, we should take these matters to the Lord in prayer. This is an area we all need to grow and develop in. Neither our flesh nor our mind is born again, so they both work together against our spirit man (Romans 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14). Flesh doesn't want to do anything it doesn't want to do; that's why we're not led by our head.

1 Corinthians 9:27: **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

Proverbs 3:5,6: **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

- We're not led by opportunity; ***we're led by an inward witness.***
- We're not money led; ***we're led by an inward witness.***
- We're not led by visions and dreams; ***we're led by an inward witness.***
- We're not led the way the world is led; they are led by their heads and what they call common sense. ***But, we're led by an inward witness.***

What do you have in your spirit? Some people ask, "Should I have the surgery?" ***You should be led in your spirit whether you should have it or not!*** That's how people can get in trouble, and then they want to blame the doctor! People want to blame everyone else for their dilemma. If Jesus is your Lord, you'll want to do what Jesus wants you to do, and He's going to want you to be led by the Holy Ghost, just as He was. If you are born again, you have the same Holy Spirit that Jesus had.

We don't buy something just because it was on sale, or because you can get two for the price of one. Buying for those reasons could mean we're led by greed or fear. We should ask ourselves if we have the witness to buy it. You wouldn't have to return anything if you're led by the spirit. Too many Christians quit their job, quit their church, or quit their marriage, all because of the way they were treated. We're not led by how we are treated. No one was treated worse than Jesus, though He never based any decision on how He was treated. A believer's life will never get any better until they find out what God wants them to do; in fact, their life will only get worse!

Follow God's plan for your life. You will make some mistakes, but make the corrections, learn from your mistakes, and just

have a habit of praying about everything that comes up. **But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.** Matthew 6:6

One of the most important things is your own personal prayer life. Thank God for prayer meetings; God knows we need them. But we can't live off of prayer meetings, as important as they are. We must have our own private, secret prayer time with the Lord every day (Matthew 6:6). We draw nigh unto Him and He draws nigh unto us (James 4:8). If we show God that there is nothing more important than drawing nigh unto Him, He will reward us openly. Jesus said He would.

Most of the body of Christ isn't going to understand what you are trying to do. We're not led by sight; **we're led by an inward witness.** We're not led by our feelings or emotions; Jane and Joe sinner do that. Our example is Jesus, and He didn't do anything or say anything except what His Father wanted Him to do or say. Everybody talks way too much (Psalm 46:10, James 1:19). It can hinder you from hearing from God. Jesus said My sheep know My voice (John 10:27).

1 John 5:9,10 says, **If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.** There's the witness of men, and they are going to give you their advice; they are going to tell you what they think you should do. But there is the witness of God, which is greater; that's the one we go by.

One time I was in a huge financial storm. My accountant told me to file for bankruptcy. He said, "*You aren't going to get these bills paid. It's just not going to happen; it's impossible.*" He mentioned someone I happened to know who was born again, and had filed for bankruptcy. The accountant felt I needed to do the same thing they did. That was his advice...it was the witness of man.

Then I had to go to the lawyer, and in some aspects, he sided in with the accountant. He seemed to feel sorry for me. And after leaving both of their offices, *I felt sorry for me!* I was tempted to do what they said, but I just didn't have the witness to follow their advice. I didn't tell the lawyer or the accountant what I was going to do. I didn't tell them what I had in my heart. All I had in my heart was, **'Don't do what they are telling you to do.'** So, I paid, and paid, and paid, and paid, and paid what little bit I had on those bills. It seemed like I was just spitting in the wind. The bills only seemed to mount up and get worse, and worse, and worse, and worse... But if you are going to stay in faith and please God, you have to obey Him. I don't know how God ever did it, but He got the bills all paid off! He got me out of trouble. It had nothing to do with my performance, but it all had to do with God's grace and mercy!

I never told the accountant what I ended up doing, but he saw the book work. And one day, he said, "*Jesse, I've never seen anything like this. I'm glad you didn't do what I told you to do. I was wrong.*" I said, "*Mr. So and So, You weren't wrong; you were doing your job by trying to protect me with the knowledge you had.*" Thank God for knowledge; thank God for the lawyer, thank God for the accountant, thank God for the doctor, and thank God for the preacher! They're just trying to help us out, but the bottom line is for you to always ask yourself, **"What do I have in my heart?"** If you don't know, wait on God until you do know. Don't join yourself to other people or their opinions. Listen to the Lord, and find out if He sent them or not. Walk softly before the Lord and keep a tender heart. You'll get your answer. It may not be the one you wanted, **but it will be the right one!**

Don't be fearful if you don't know what to do. All you have to do is seek God; He looks on our heart and knows if we are doing all we can with the knowledge we have at the time. Even if we make the wrong decision while trying to follow Him, He saw our heart, and will protect us. Don't be afraid to miss God, because you will, because we all make mistakes. But as long as we inquire of the Lord sincerely, He will take care of us. In fact, God will prosper our mistakes, knowing we sought Him sincerely. Then, as we grow and develop spiritually, we'll look back and see that the Lord was helping us all along! People don't see our hearts, but God does. The important thing is to do all you can to follow Him. No parent punishes their child for doing their best to please the parent. Just let the Lord know every day that you are trying to follow Him and put time in every day praying and of course, spending time in the Word.

God bless, Your Word of faith pastor,

Pastor Jesse Rich

New England Campmeeting 2014 is being held August 10 - 16
Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel, 1 Monarch Place, Springfield, MA.
Sunday, Aug. 10 @ 7:00 PM Monday thru Saturday, Aug 11 to 16: @ 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM

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