

HOW GOD LEADS US THROUGH OUR SPIRIT

(5 ways God leads us by our Spirits)

LOF 3 – BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT

WELCOME BACK TO LIFESTYLE OF FREEDOM!

LAST WEEK WE TALKED ABOUT **LIVING A SPIRIT-LED LIFE**

WHY SHOULD WE LIVE BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT AND NOT DRIVEN BY OUR FLESH.

AND HOW THE SPIRIT LEADS US:

1) HE LEADS US THROUGH HIS WORD.

GOD WOULD ONLY SPEAK LIKE HIS WORD – THE BIBLE!

He will never contradict His own Word.

Don't ever say God is silent when we never open our Bible.

- The more we know His Word....
- The more we recognise His voice
- The more we know His character and His will for us.

2) HE GUIDES THROUGH HIS PEACE.

Not any kind of peace like the world offers that is only temporary.

but THE EVERLASTING PEACE,

That whilst you are in the midst of storm and raging seas, even when we stand trembling we know that we can stand firm because the rock we are standing on, is the unshakable foundation of God.

3) HE CONFIRMS THROUGH YOUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH.

God also speaks and confirms through your **WISE COUNSEL**....

the Godly leaders and people that God has placed around you.

So ensure we have leaders / mentors that cover our blind spots, and people with authority that we submit ourselves under them and allow them to speak into our lives.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put **A NEW SPIRIT** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27 I will put My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

When we became born again - When a person receives Christ, he receives a BRAND NEW SPIRIT.

- If God is going to guide us and lead us, He will do it through our spirits.

- The Bible says that.... **GOD GUIDES US THROUGH OUR SPIRITS** JUST LIKE A **LAMP DOES IN THE DARKNESS.**
- **Prov 20:27** The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart

The bible says in the book of Romans that those who are led by the Spirit..... are the Sons of God.

- Romans 8:14-16 (NKJV)
- ¹⁴ For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, these are **sons of God**. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba Father." ¹⁶ **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.**
- There can be people who say they are Christians, but still living led and highly driven by their flesh.....
- But those, who live led by the Spirit of God, are the true Sons of God.
- When you are led by the Spirit - you're the kind of Sons that really pleases God.
- You did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear.
- But you received **the Spirit of SONSHIP!!**

1 Cor 2:9-12

⁹ But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

¹⁰ But **God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit**. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**

- There are things unseen by our natural eyes (things in the supernatural realm)
- Things unheard of.....things we have never even imagined or wished for....
- Have been prepared for us the children of God!

- But God reveals them to us not through our natural eyes, not through any audible voice....not through our human understanding or logic....
- But these things are revealed to us **THROUGH HIS SPIRIT** within us.

“So we might know the things that have been freely given us by God”

SO TODAY....

We’re gonna look deeper into more practical...

How exactly does God lead us by our Spirits.

Which I refer to as **“PROMPTINGS” OR “LEADINGS” OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

5 PROMPTINGS / Ways God Leads Us By Our Spirits

1. BEING TROUBLED IN SPIRIT

John 13:2,21 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”

- When you get around people who have a wrong spirit or motivation, **your spirit will be troubled.**
- They may be saying the right thing, or doing the right thing.....but when you get around them, something in your spirit bothers you.
- When you sense an inward agitation..... **be on your guard; God is trying to tell you something....**
- Whenever there’s no peace
- When your peace is affected..... that is God leading you!

Colossians 3:15 (AMPC)

And let the peace from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts

In another word LET THE PEACE OF GOD BE THE DECIDING FACTOR OF all questions that arise in your minds.

- When something’s too good to be true.....its probably too good to be true.
- When something sounds dodgy..... (a business deal, a proposal.....).....
- **Listen to it.**
- Because those people don’t have the Holy Spirit in them, but you do...

- And He will lead you.
- When your peace is affected..... don't do it!

2. BEING GRIEVED IN SPIRIT

A certain people or place may cause you to be grieved in your spirit.

The Bible tells us **“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit by the way you live”**
what does it mean?

How can we bring sorrow to Holy Spirit?

Its when believers cause pain, grief or distress to the Holy Spirit because of our actions.

THERE ARE 5 THINGS THAT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT:

- 1) When we DISOBEY the HOLY SPIRIT
- 2) When we DENY the HOLY SPIRIT
- 3) When we DO NOT APPLY the Word of Truth in our life
- 4) When we DO NOT DESIRE GOD'S WILL.
- 5) When we DO NOT RELY ON HOLY SPIRIT

- When that happens to you.... When you feel the Spirit of God is being grieved..... LISTEN TO IT, BE SENSITIVE TO IT, AND DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS because this will keep you out of trouble.

Hebrews 3:15, NIV:

'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.'

Be sensitive and obedient to the still, small voice of God.

3. BEING RESTLESS IN SPIRIT

2 Corinthians 2:12-13 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, 13 I had **no rest in my spirit**, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.

- There will be no rest in your spirit when something is not right.

There's almost like a struggle and a fight within your heart....

You're doing something and your heart is telling you something else..."THIS IS NOT RIGHT"

- *This job is not right, its compromising your integrity.*
- *This relationship is not right, its costing your relationship and faith with God.*

- *You should be here....you should not be hanging around in this place, with this kind of people.*

If you don't seem to have rest in the direction you are going..... **STOP AND TAKE TIME TO WAIT ON GOD..... TAKE TIME TO REST WITH GOD.**

Blessings, the hands of God will only be upon you when we take the right path, when we go in the direction that He leads us towards.

GIVE EXAMPLE:

- *STORY OF NEW ZEALAND ICE CREAM*
- *EVERYTHING SEEMS PERFECT, THE NUMBERS LOOK GOOD, EVERYTHING IS LINED UP.*
- *BUT THE SPIRIT IS RESTLESS.*
- *GOD WAS TRYING TO PROTECT US, JUST OBEY & FOLLOW.*

4. BEING PROVOKED IN SPIRIT

Acts 17:16-17 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was **provoked** within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. 17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

- Paul witnessed something that provoked him in the spirit.....its wrong, I need to speak up and say something.

- *When that happens to you, you need to open your mouth and share*
- *When you are surrounded by vain talk....you don't feel peace.....speak up.*

- Get involved; God is directing you.

- The word "**PROVOKE**" means: **TO PROD OR TO SOFTLY PUSH.**

Of course the Bible also teaches us not to be easily provoked....easily angry or respond to anything based on emotions!! Not to speak being led by our feelings, to know when to speak, and speak wisely.....

But When something is not right.....and it's the Spirit of God gives us a push.....obey and go for it!

EXAMPLE: GOSSIPING, WRONG TREATMENT OF COLLEAGUE AT WORK.

- *God has put you there for a reason.*
- *God has placed you there to bring light into the darkness.*

- God has His anointing and presence with you.
- To bring change, not to blend in
- To bring God values, not succumb to the world values, vain talk, conversations that are not profitable and bringing glory to God.

5. BEING COMPELLED IN SPIRIT

Acts 18:5 When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was **compelled** by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus is the Christ*.

● AN INWARD COMPELLING TO SPEAK.

Jer 20:9 Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name." But *His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.*

There's a constant nudge from inside that compels you to speak.

- *When there's a nudge for you to share / testify about God.....don't hold it.*
- *When there's a nudge for you to call / text this person to check how he's doing....do it.*
- *When there's a nudge for you to pray for that person.....don't deny / hold it - it's the Holy Spirit compelling you to do that.*

But, it is equally important to remember that there are other kinds of promptings that we can experience, besides the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

Some can be good promptings, while others can be bad:

- Your heart can "prompt" you to give (Exodus 25:3).
- But your sin can also "prompt" you to speak (Job 15:5).
- And your troubled thoughts can "prompt" you to answer (Job 20:2).
- The devil even "prompted" Judas to go out and betray Jesus (John 13:2).

Becoming a Christian does not ensure that all your promptings are now from God.

As a matter of fact, the apostle John says:

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God... (1 John 4:1)

Looking at the different promptings in the Bible.....

1. Some were from the Spirit of God,
2. Others came from ourselves (our hearts, our sin, or our troubled thoughts), and
3. Some even came from the devil himself.

So, it's important to distinguish which "promptings" are really from us (or from evil spirits), and which ones are truly from God.

This is really the most important test: **DOES IT AGREE WITH SCRIPTURE / WORD OF GOD?**

- If the answer is yes, then it is from God.
- If not, then it could be either from you or an evil spirit.
- The way to become more sensitive to how God deals with your spirit is to **SPEND TIME IN GOD'S WORD.**

His Word is Spirit and life.

- **SPEND TIME IN PRAYER,** especially praying in other tongues.

When you pray in tongues, your spirit is praying. Pray and get into the Word. Listen to your spirit.

Keep Feeding your Spirit.

And exercise the leading of the Spirit of God inside you.

When you get these kind of Promptings (when you feel troubled / restless / compelled) in the Spirit --- don't grieve the Holy Spirit, don't deny, don't disobey....

But learn to **OBEY and ACT IN FAITH, SPEAK UP IN FAITH....**

And you'll be amazed to see God is leading you into.

Who's ready to get stronger in being led by the Spirit of God?

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Which aspect of your life right now that you require leading of His Spirit?

Share any of your experience where you encounter promptings / leadings of the Holy Spirit in a particular situation.