

Are you “LED by the Holy Spirit?”

Romans 8:14



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Only those who are led by our God’s Spirit are children of God (Romans 8:14). Too many of us are led by our own emotions, fears, concerns, public opinion, or even by our church or pastor – anything or anyone but the holy spirit! In this sermon discover what “being led by” God’s spirit looks like, how it happens, and what can stop it. What does it mean to be led by the spirit, according to scripture? This is such an important topic.

Warm welcome everyone! I’m in the process of a move to a smaller property – which should give me more time in future to work on this website and to spend more time with my grandchildren.

For today’s message: Are you sure you are a child of our God? There’s at least one clear that defines how we are seen as children of God.

Romans 8:14

“For as many as are LED by the Spirit of GOD, THESE are sons of God.”

Romans 8:9-10

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, IF indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of CHRIST, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

Would you like to be sure you are a child of God’s? Then we must be sure we are being LED by the Spirit of God.

There is but ONE holy spirit – Ephesians 4:4, which is also called the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14), as well as the spirit of Christ (v. 9; 1 Peter 1:11). Both are used in the same passage we just read.

Angels are spirits (Hebrews 1:11), and there holy angels (Luke 19:26; Rev 14:10) and angels who sinned (2 Peter 2:4) – but there is only one HOLY Spirit (Ephesians 4:4). More on this in a minute. So, if only those LED by this ONE HOLY spirit are God's children, I have to ask us: what, who leads your life? IS it God's spirit leading you – or something else? And do you see God and His spirit as your LEADER – or as your tool? Ponder that one.

Be sure you also hear my sermon given May 2015 titled “22 THINGS the Holy Spirit is Doing”.

<http://www.lightontherock.org/index.php/message/22-things-the-holy-spirit-is-doing>

What does being led by God's spirit look like? What's a person like who is spirit-led? What even IS the Holy Spirit?

To be led by the spirit means you're NOT the one leading your life. The world psychology teaches “If it's to be, it's up to me”, but believers in our Messiah say, “I seek God's will, God's lead in my life.” The Holy Spirit is the one guiding us and showing us the way God wants us to go – really in all areas of our lives.

Let's get down to brass tacks: Herein lies the problem. We like to be in control of our own lives. Especially in America. We don't like anyone or anything telling us what we can or can't do with our own lives. So we can, if we're not careful, even block out the Holy Spirit telling us what to think, what to do, where to go, or in fact even blocking where we want to go.

Result: we end up with less children of God actually being led. I prepared this message really for me, as I wanted to study it as I felt I need to be led more by God and His spirit.

The times ahead may have periods of prosperity – or not – but in the end, we'll see the worst time children of God have ever experienced. It will be better for us if we've learned how to be led by God's Spirit by then.

The early church after Christ's resurrection was very Spirit-led in the beginning. They saw angels. They had visions of the Christ speaking to them. There are several examples recorded for us where it was clear to them that God's spirit wanted certain things done – and they followed that lead. But I don't think we're seeing that as clearly today in many groups and churches.

The early church was zealous and had many good works and were spirit led. The Laodicean church – perhaps about this end time believers – they are described as wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked spiritually. So yes, we can use a discussion on how to be led by the Holy Spirit.

EXAMPLES of being “Led BY THE SPIRIT”

The first mention of “led by the Spirit” – is appropriately Yeshua, being led by His Father’s spirit.

Luke 4:1-2 (also Matthew 4:1)

“Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and **was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...**” – where He was tested by the Devil.

Somehow he knew God wanted him to go to the wilderness and take on Satan. How did he know? How did that happen?

Others were shown things to do, or places to go or not go, also by the Spirit.

- **Simeon**, the old devout man to whom “it had been revealed to him BY THE HOLY SPIRIT that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ (Messiah). So he came by the SPIRIT into the temple” (Luke 2:26-29).
- **The brethren on the day of Pentecost** – probably about 120 of them – received the Holy Spirit and all of them spoke, **as they spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4.** Clearly they followed the lead.
- **Then we read how Philip was told by the spirit to go speak with the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:29),** and then was caught up by the spirit somehow and disappeared, (V 39), but reappeared in Azotus, many miles away.
- **Peter** later described his encounter with the messengers from **Cornelius. In Acts 11:12 Peter says the SPIRIT told him** to go to Cornelius’ house. Is that just for apostles? I think we can be led like this.
- **Agabus**, one of the early prophets /believers, “stood up and showed **by the spirit** that there would be a great famine...” (Acts 11:28).
- Paul at times was told NOT to go certain places and forbidden by the Spirit. **Acts 16:6-10** – v. 6 ‘they were forbidden by the holy spirit to preach the word in Asia’, and v 7—same thing- don’t go to Bithynia.

Then they had this vision of a Macedonian pleading with them to come – and they concluded “that THE LORD had called us to preach the gospel to them.” (v.10). For Paul to be aware of all that means he was definitely tuned in to God’s spirit. He learned when he had an open door and when the door was shut – and he didn’t resist what the Spirit was telling him.

We can tune in as well. *If you’ve prayed for God to bless something with open doors or to slam them shut if your plans are not His will for you – then watch and listen. And if there’s no peace with the direction you’re headed, take it back to God. Maybe He’s saying – “Don’t. Not yet. No. Listen”. He’s got something better, or he’s protecting you from something.*

David approached God frequently – “should I go here or there, or will these people turn me in to Saul” – and God answered. God has not gone mute. See 2 Samuel 2:1-4; 2 Sam 5:19-24 for some great examples of David seeking God’s direction, not just what David wanted.

Don’t fear being LED by God’s Spirit

Frankly – some in the past have cautioned against focusing on this! It scares them. So they keep people from being led by God’s Spirit. Some ministers have even warned against responding to strong feelings or thoughts you know you didn’t originate. Hints of demonism even creep up! So frankly – many have shied away from allowing themselves be led by God’s spirit. What a crying shame.

Of course we are to test the spirits. So when it says we must be led by the Spirit of God, or the Holy Spirit – let’s be clear. *It’s not referring to being led by spirits, plural.* It’s not being led by angels, who are also called “ministering spirits” (Hebrews 1:14) – unless their message is clearly of God. There are numerous times when angels were sent from God – to David, Mary, Zacharias, Samson’s parents, to Paul, to Peter in jail, and so many.

Of course we are to examine what our inclinations and thoughts are. God’s spirit will never lead us into sin. In fact continuing a life of sin shows you haven’t surrendered to him yet. That grieves the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), damming its flow in us and ends up limiting the power of God (Ps. 78:41).

WHAT IS “being led by the Spirit”?

Many believe being “led by the Spirit” just means you’re fighting sin and the flesh now. It certainly includes that. But it is much more.

Others believe it is God speaking to you in strong ideas and thoughts – as we’ve just read in the book of Acts and elsewhere. Being led by the spirit certainly includes all that too. But there’s more.

Being led by the spirit also includes seeking Him and His direction in all things of your life and waiting for HIS inspired direction – and then acting on where and how He leads you. We’ll need to be listening for his answers.

If we’re not seeking our Master’s direction, how can we know where He’s leading us? If we’re not following where He’s leading us, we’re not being led.

Let’s explore now the different facets of this fascinating topic. I hope it leads you into a quest to be led more by God’s Spirit than ever before.

How we START to be led by the Spirit

- **To be led by the spirit starts with having to truly REPENT** (turn from our evils way and turn to Him as well as ask forgiveness for our sins), be baptized in the name of Jesus/Yeshua, and **receive** the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands of an ordained pastor – as Peter preached in **Acts 2:36-38** on Pentecost.

That sequence is seen in the example of the Samaritans’ baptism and laying on of hands later by Peter and John (**Acts 8**), and again in **Acts 19:1-9** when Paul laid hands on disciples of John the Baptist so they could have the Holy Spirit.

- Now the hard part really starts. True repentance **is a complete humbling of ourselves**. You and I will never be led by the Spirit until and unless we fully **surrender our will** to God’s will – as Christ himself said, “Not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)

But **we like being in control** of our lives and things in our lives, so being led by the Spirit won’t happen until we – on our knees – tell God we’re tired of leading our own failed lives and want HIM to lead us now and that we want to follow His leading. That’s why Yeshua is our Lord, Master and king. Or is he?

Someone led by the spirit realizes if God wants something to happen – nothing can stop Him, except at times God does allow our lack of faith in him to interfere and we can sometimes “limit the Holy One of Israel”. Zerubbabel – in starting to rebuild the temple – was reminded: “Zerubbabel, hey! It’s *not* by your power or your might, or your great plans – but by my spirit that great things will be done. Even mountains become a plain if you move by my spirit”

Let's read it:

Zechariah 4:6-10

So he answered and said to me:

"This is the word of YHVH to Zerubbabel:

NOT by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.

says YHVH of hosts.

7 'Who are you, O great mountain?

Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!

And he shall bring forth the capstone **with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"**

8 Moreover the word of YHVH came to me, saying:

9 "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple;

His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know

That YHVH of hosts has sent Me to you.

10 For who has despised the day of small things?

For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.

They are the eyes of the Lord, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

Apply this concept to your own life. What **mountains** has Satan put before you!? Bring them to the grace of God and ask him by His spirit to demolish any mountains keeping you from bringing glory to God!

- **This complete surrender should evidence itself in the fiercest fight of our lives** – against sin rearing its head in all forms. I do NOT believe most believers I know are truly fighting that hard. We fight sin in spurts. Then we stop. We get tired of fighting sin – including the more subtle ones. Or we sin a real bad sin (are there “good sins”) and get down in the dumps.

OK – you gave up Christmas, eating pork and Sunday worship but now the really big day-to-day surrender and following happens. Now we have to actually follow our Leader in our private day-to-day lives. More on this momentarily. *But someone led by the spirit is constantly asking “what do YOU want me to do for you, dear God? What decisions and actions can I take that will bring you joy? Is anything I’m about to do against your way of life or your law?”* And the more we follow God’s lead by His spirit, the more quickly we flee from temptation and more we will hear from Him.

Instead of asking him to bless our plans, we’re asking Him how we can be a blessing to Him here on earth.

Follow His lead instead of asking him to follow yours.

What are we like when we're all by ourselves and think nobody is watching? Are you still being led by the Spirit in those times?

Where are we going on the TV? Or out by ourselves? If we're led by the spirit we'll be exhibiting the FRUIT of the Spirit's presence and leadership in our lives. Here are things that say the Spirit is NOT leading us enough yet:

- Overeating, over drinking * Worrying and being anxious coveting
- Lusting * Greed * self-centeredness * Selfishness * intemperance
- Being lax on sabbath keeping, doing business on sabbath

And then we're thrilled as can be to be the children of God—and we identify with HIS way, HIS law, HIS spirit, HIS grace, HIS righteousness and being **a son or daughter of God Most High** is exciting! We want to obey because we love him so much. Sure, we fear to disobey as well, but now more and more we obey out of love. We would hate to disappoint.

So you're about to see how these elements come together in the two main passages that speak of being Led by the Holy Spirit. *If nothing else I hope this sermon makes you go on a personal mission to be led by God and His Spirit more than ever before.*

What is the Holy Spirit

First let's say a little bit about the Spirit itself. I need to cover what the Holy Spirit is – but that's worthy of a full sermon on its own. **I believe deeply the Spirit is much, much more than many of us think it is** – but neither do I believe it is a separate person or entity equal to God Most High. And yet we're told the Spirit SPEAKS to people – as in Acts 13:1-4 when the leaders in Antioch realized the Spirit was telling them to separate out Paul and Barnabas. But isn't that really Christ speaking to them *through* His Spirit?

Acts 13:1-3

"Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, **the Holy Spirit said**, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

So the Holy Spirit can SAY things, can teach us and GUIDE us into all truth (**John 16:13**). Hear my sermon on the 22 Things the Holy Spirit does. The spirit testifies of Christ, it doesn't testify on its own or speak its own words, we're told in **John 16:23**. The Spirit says what it's told to say (see John 16:23). The spirit can be grieved (**Eph 4:30** says "DON'T grieve the Holy Spirit of God...") And yet the Bible also often refers to the Spirit as God's power that is poured into believers. So it's power too, but it's much, much, so much more than just power of God.

It was **the POWER of the Most High** that came over Mary and she conceived – but the SPIRIT is never called the Father of Yeshua/Jesus. Ponder that one. No, God the Father is the FATHER of Jesus. He's called "Son of the Highest" (Luke 1:32), not "son of the Holy Spirit". **Luke 1:32, 35-36**.

So clearly to me at least, the spirit of God is not a separate person but is an extension of God and Yeshua. It's the spirit of God, and spirit of Christ, sent from the Father. **John 15:26** says Yeshua sends it to us – but it proceeds from the Father.

John 15:26

"But when the Helper (Comforter – KJV—*parakletos* in Greek) comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

Now figure this one out:

2 Corinthians 3:17

"Now the Lord IS the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

That's pretty clear –but it also opens up more questions. But in short, I believe the Holy Spirit is GOD in us working through his spirit. God alone ultimately is purely holy (Rev 15:4). It's not a separate entity but a part of God. That's why we can grieve the spirit – because we can grieve God. That's why it's the power of God too. We are flesh, and we all struggle with things of spirit.

What happens when you receive the Holy Spirit? Yeshua said HE and our heavenly FATHER come **live inside of us** (**John 14:23**) - and that happens by His spirit.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and ***My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.***"

So if God is in us, that makes us HOLY. ONLY God's presence makes something holy – or if something or someone is dedicated to God. So the temple utensils were called holy. The ground under Moses' feet at Mt Sinai was holy – because holy God was there. He alone is ultimately holy (Revelation 15:4).

So our bodies become the dwelling place of our GOD – in the SPIRIT – and we're also told we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, from God. You see the interchangeability of the words "God" and "Holy Spirit".

1 Corinthians 6:19

*"Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"*

1 John 4:12-16

"No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 **By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.** 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **GOD abides in him, and he in God.** 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

But can I say at this point that I believe VERY strongly that "being led by the Spirit" is the same thing as saying "being led – BY GOD" OR "being led BY Christ". It's all one and the same thing as I'll continue to show with scripture.

So are you and I being led by God's spirit; by Christ? By God the Father?

I believe many of us are frankly more often led by -- are you ready? Now tell me if I'm wrong:

- by own inclinations, own desires, lusts and covetousness,
- by our own feelings
- or perhaps by our friends/family opinions;
- by our pastor or church

What's the CONTEXT of the main "led by the Spirit" scriptures

The main meaning of "led by the Spirit" – or Led BY GOD/Christ – is found in the CONTEXT of the 2 passages that speak of it.

Let's read them. Notice what is the context and what is being discussed in each of the 2 main passages we're about to read.

Romans 8:5-17

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

[WHAT do you spend your time focusing on? Latest clothing or cars or video games or getting the newest I-phone?]

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the **Spirit** of Christ, he is not His.

10 **And if Christ is in you**, *[notice again how having the Spirit is equated with Christ being in you; also end of v 11]* the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But **if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead** *[That's God the Father who did that]* dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

*[Are you seeing how Paul is interchanging Jesus, God the Father and the holy spirit – as all being a part of GOD in us; an extension of Christ or the father? **Now the immediate context of what it means to be LED...**]*

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die*; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

[Do you see the context of being led? It's that God's children, led by the spirit, hate sin and are not living by the flesh. Then He adds something else that is clear if you are being led by the Spirit.]

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."**

[this is no mere doctrinal understanding – but a CRYING out... DADDY! YOU feel it! And now we obey not out of FEAR, but because we identify with the FAMILY OF GOD, with GOD our loving Father whom we ADORE.]

16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness **with our spirit** that we are children of God,* 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

2 main things stand out:

- **Get into the fight against sin – big time!** Follow the lead of Christ to become new in him, and resist sin. That’s what a big, big part of being led by the Spirit is all about. More in a minute...
- Understand also that God’s spirit has **BEGOTTEN YOU into his FAMILY** - and you can call God Most High “Daddy” – “Abba, father”, the words spoken by a little child. Servants and slaves were not allowed to ever call their master “daddy”. Only the children were allowed to call him Abba, Daddy. NOW let’s live like, act like, and be like children of God. I preach to myself too. The Family of God lives by “the WAY” of God.

Galatians 4:6-7 Holman version

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”

When Christ comes into our lives, He does it by and through His Spirit. So it can be said we are indwelt by Christ, the Father and the Spirit –for the Spirit is a part of God and/or Christ. This is not the trinity. The Holy Spirit, in my belief, is the manifestation of Christ or the Father, and is not a separate being or a separate entity.

Our Consecration

Our Abba is telling us – as part of the family, walk like I walk. Read 1 John 2:3-6 again. We can’t claim to know God if we don’t keep his commandments. That’s what it says. God is saying “Believe like I believe. Behave like I behave.” We are being called a royal priesthood. We are the modern spiritual priests.

In the Old Covenant, Aaron had to offer a ram and dab some of its blood on the new priests’ right ear lobe, right thumb, and right big toe. Let’s read it, as it is instructive to us who are also being called and consecrated for holy use. Leviticus 8 is about consecrating the priests, who were Aaron and his sons. And remember Aaron pictures Christ.

Leviticus 8:22-25

“And he [Aaron] brought the second ram, **the ram of consecration**. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram, 23 and Moses killed it. Also he took some of its blood and put it on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. 24 Then he brought Aaron's sons. And Moses put some of the blood on the tips of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.”

What's going on here? The Living God is telling the priests (that's us, remember) that they must now be careful what they allow themselves to hear or to do or where they go.

How many times have we gone places we had no right being in? Or listening to garbage, plain garbage – on TV or movies and their F words. Garbage thoughts. WHY bring that slop into your home? How many times have we started to do something and heard the Spirit say – “that's not our Way, don't do that. Stop. Do this instead”?

(My story of being told by the Spirit to call my neighbor who needed help)

The more we listen, the more will hear God's voice working in us. The more you ignore those gut checks, the less you'll hear God's voice, the less you'll be led by God's spirit.

And if Christ is really active in us, He will live in us as He lived the first time: obediently to God's laws and ways. But it will be him doing it, through us and in us. **John says in 1 John 2:3-6** that we can't claim to know Christ unless we walk as he walked, obediently. But the salvation comes first, apart from works, lest anyone should boast (**Ephesians 2:8-10**), and then good works automatically follow, as proof that the new birth is taking place.

The other main place that speaks of being “led by the Spirit” is Galatians 5. You'll see the same focus in context. You'll see that Christ – the Spirit in us – is at war with things of the flesh, with carnality and sin. If we don't listen to Christ, thru the spirit – we end up doing bad things.

Galatians 5:16-26

“I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** 17 **For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh;** and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law.

19 Now **the works of the flesh are evident**, which are: **adultery, fornication, uncleanness**, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, **contentions**, jealousies, **outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies**, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 **And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** 25 **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**"

Let me say it bluntly: *when we don't see ourselves exhibiting God's LIFE – his Fruit of HIS spirit – it's because we're not being led enough yet by God, by His Spirit.* Obviously when we do something we know is wrong – that is clearly not being led by the Spirit. A so-called believer continuing to live a life of SIN – is NOT being led by the Spirit. Period. End of story. "If you love me, KEEP my commandments" Yeshua says several times (**John 14:15; 15:10**).

My brothers and sisters, are you seeing the clear context of what is meant by the phrase – "be led by the Spirit"? IN both scriptures Gal 5 and Romans 8 – **the context is be fighting sin by Christ in you.** And it means following His lead into righteousness, holiness and the like. It means walking like he walked, obediently (1 John 2:3-6).

You can't be a son of God unless you're led by the spirit. Let's say it positively: SONS (children) of GOD ARE being led by the spirit. So the context of being "led by the spirit" –is to fight sin tooth and nail! And live like the son or daughter of God that you really are! And when you stumble, don't mope in depression! Repent! Get back up and back into the fight, soldier!

It comes down to fully surrendering our lives to our new LORD and MASTER in a walk of obedience and submission.

Being led by the spirit means hearing him and following him. Laodicean-type Christians (Rev 3) apparently can't hear his voice, don't hear the knocking at the door and aren't responding. Maybe they don't want to have Christ that much in their lives! They clearly have God's spirit, for they are described as His ekklesia. But Laodiceans are not being led by the Christ. How can they be? They've locked him out – outside His own house, his own door.

God's Spirit will NEVER, EVER lead us to sin against God. NEVER.

God's spirit will never ever lead us to fly off the handle and read someone the riot act who didn't give us the proper service on the phone or in their store. Never. There is righteous anger –but be slow to anger. “The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God” – **James 1:20**. God's spirit will never lead you to be unkind to your wife or husband. Never.

In all these examples I'm giving in this sermon, I preach also to myself.

So that's the main focus and point being made when we're told to be led by Christ, or led by the Spirit: wake up, get in the fight against sin, and build a strong relationship with your Savior.

That means you're praying more and more, you're studying His Word more and more, you're doing works of kindness and good works. You're practicing pure religion and helping widows and orphans – like some of you do with our Kenyan brethren and the 28 orphans.

There are more points about being led by God's spirit but let's do a quick recap of what we have so far:

- We saw the many examples of early believers hearing God's voice, or hearing direction coming from the Holy Spirit and acting on it.
- So we surrender our will to God's will. We repent of our sins and are baptized and receive the holy spirit by the laying on of hands.
- God comes to live in us (John 14:23). But apparently that is done by an extension of HIM – His spirit – and either way, we become holy temples or houses for God, through the Spirit.
- We have been **consecrated for holy use**. We've daubed our ear, thumb and foot – big toe – and we have to realize our lives are not our own now and we
- We now are given some of God's mind, the way He thinks – and we come to **hate sin more and more and to fight it with as much ferocity as we can**, by the power of Christ himself in us. We can do all things through Christ.
- We **become deeply loved children or our Heavenly Father** and are eagerly crying out Abba, daddy, father. We obey out of deep love for our Father and Savior. We respect what Yeshua did do much that what breaks our Father's heart, breaks ours. What brings him joy makes us ecstatic. We are very outspoken about the joy we have to be children of the Highest.

And now what? Let's cover a couple more things and wrap it up with that.

- Believers who are led by the spirit **PRAY FOR God's leading** at the start and end of every day. How can we say we are led by God's spirit if we're not seeking it! The Comforter will guide us into all truth. God will Guide you continually (**Isaiah 58:11**) when we seek His leading.

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in YHVH with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **In ALL your ways acknowledge Him, and HE shall direct your paths.**"

- **Those led by the Spirit are looking for ways WE can do something for God, rather than waiting for, and praying for, what God can do for us.**

Ask God to open doors and shut doors to show us his will. David was so good at this. Several times we can read of how he asked God – "should I go to this or that city" – and God would tell him. Or "will I be turned in to Saul by these people" – and God would answer. If you've asked for something – but don't have peace about it – it's probably not God's answer. *His answer, His way, brings peace to your heart.*

We stop praying for God to answer our prayers of what we want – and start praying more to ask Him what HE wants to do in our lives, where HE wants us to work, where HE wants us to live, or whom to marry, or whether to marry.

- **Those led by the spirit are tuned in for even more direction. The still small voice from God.** When you have a strong feeling to call someone, do so. When you have a strong urge to get OUT of a place – follow that "urge", it could save your life. God will never lead you into sin.

The more you respond – the more you will hear God's voice leading you. *The more often you ignore those signals, then His voice will grow fainter and fainter.*

When you hear God's leading – and you will if you repent of your own will and seek Him –you've GOT to surrender to him and follow. He wants to bless you. Believe that. He's not keeping anything from you.

When we are in tune to God's voice, we will feel Him, hear him. Some believe we don't hear or feel the Spirit. Obviously those who preach that haven't heard or felt the Spirit – but with the examples I've just given, I hope

you see we ARE supposed to hear and feel the Spirit. We can GRIEVE the Spirit, Christ in us – the hope of glory (Eph 4:30; Col 1:27). We can, by our actions and lives, grieve or bring joy to our Master.

Some get so good at doctrine but are terrible with relationship.

Being led by the Spirit means we have an awesomely close relationship with our God. We FEEL his love. We feel his broken heart over our sins. We feel his forgiveness. We feel his acceptance and love. And at times we feel his anger and displeasure. It's all a relationship.

But if we are listening and in tune to God – by studying his word, and praying often, and asking Him to speak to us and show us the way HE wants us to go – and looking for and listening for strong feelings, thoughts, and answers – you will find that happening more and more often.

Let me end with this: imagine where we could be, what we could be doing individually and collectively as God's children – if we would ALL stop leading ourselves, and start trusting his leading, looking for his leading, and actually hearing his voice, following His lead. What wondrous things lie ahead of us, what powers, what miracles, what joys – if we would just let Him lead us!

So engage in the fight, soldier! Fight sin, fight the flesh – and surrender to the Spirit, open the door to Jesus Christ knocking outside. Bring Him inside your life, quickly. That's where he wants to be. Do it. Pray even now for it.

And glory in God in His high calling. Understand what an awesome blessing that is. You'd be glorying if you heard a billionaire second-cousin you didn't know about had bequeathed you with a billion dollars on his death. Your calling, to be a son or child of God, and heir of God himself with Christ is so much more than we can imagine. Wow, we just don't appreciate it enough.

Praise and glory be to our God. Let's pray.

Closing prayer.

Blessing.