

How to hear God and be led by Holy Spirit

One of the surefire ways to be led by the Spirit of God is to be a doer of the Word of God. We don't see too many Christians who are doers of the Word anymore, do we? They certainly talk the talk, but the walk looks like everyone else in the world.

The Bible says in Romans 8:14; "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God"

The big question today is – "Who is leading you?"

- 1) Is it your flesh – (soul) – your mind, will and emotions? (Explain)
- 2) Is it the world – other people (Explain) OR
- 3) Is it the Devil (Explain)

DEFINING HOLY SPIRIT LEADING

God has promised us that the sons of God are to be led by Holy Spirit. Many however do not understand how Holy Spirit leads and end up interpreting what that leading of the Spirit is and they get off.

In Romans 8:14, God promised to lead His sons by His Spirit but in the 16th verse, He explains how Holy Spirit is to lead us. It says; "The Spirit BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT..." Yes – Holy Spirit will bear witness with our own Spirit – Spirit Man (a man is a Spirit who owns a soul and lives in a body). Your body / flesh is like a shelter for your Soul and Spirit. Your Spirit man should always be dominant over your body. In most cases, and for many people including believers, it is not the case. We see the manifestation of the flesh more often than the manifestation of the Spirit including frustration, anger, jealousy, strive, bitterness – name it. Believe me, I had have dealt with too. We need to pay attention to our Spirit man – (inward witness). This is primarily the safest way to be led although it may not be the most spectacular way God may lead.

Many believers today like to hear a voice, have a dream, receive a prophesy or even see a vision. All these may be good but we need to know that they are all outward manifestation and therefore, the devil can duplicate all of them and mislead you. The devil can cause you to hear a voice or give you a dream, or a vision or even give you a false prophesy through someone. But because there is no devil in the spirit of a believer, he can never duplicate the inward witness or know what is going on inside your spirit-man. That is why the Bible says, that the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. Holy Spirit and evil spirit cannot rule from the same place. The enemy can speak into your mind but Holy Spirit / God always speaks to your heart – Spirit man.

If you are given a prophesy, or you hear a voice, have a dream or see a vision, always check your Spirit man. Does it leave you troubled in your spirit? Does it seem right with your Spirit? Do you have peace about it? If NOT, then just reject it. Your Spirit man, if fed the

Word of God, is usually very sensitive and it will never lie to you. If someone gives you a prophesy, or you have a dream or vision and it's from God, it will confirm what you have in your Spirit and leave you with great peace. When Holy Spirit is leading, there is peace. Always follow that God's peace.

As you continue to grow in holiness, you will also find yourself growing in your ability to discern God's will. *Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will".*

How we are led will make a difference in our level of spiritual maturity

Spiritual maturity requires that in every area of our lives, including our emotions, that the Spirit of God leads us. We cannot be effective in showing forth the light and life of Christianity if our flesh or how we are feeling on a particular day at a particular time controls us.

Here is a picture of the man of God that we should all desire to be like.

- 1) He is mature in his walk with God.
- 2) He is balanced and trustworthy.
- 3) He has a powerful testimony.
- 4) The Spirit of God guides him and it appears that in whatever he does prospers.
- 5) God trusts him and gives him assignments that he fulfills with confidence.
- 6) He hears the voice of God and is turned neither to the left nor to the right but stays focused on the job assigned to him until it is done regardless of who tries to sway him.
- 7) He is a blessing and not a curse to his community, pastor and church family.

So many times believers are ruled and governed by emotions instead of the Spirit of God. This always causes confusion in whatever environment they go in. The conversations they have with friends and church family are sprinkled with all the right "spiritual" words. However, there is no depth or wisdom by the spirit of God applied in their conversations, and therefore unstable and lack in producing the desired fruit.

If you want to know if you are a Spirit-led or an emotion-led believer, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do I make the decisions of my daily life based on how I feel, or on the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do I consistently spend time with the Lord in prayer, in reading the Bible and in listening for His direction? Do I recognize His voice?

3. Do I spend time justifying a wrong decision I have made?
4. Am I an emotional believer and are unable to control myself when faced with difficulty situations in life

Your answers will help you determine if you have a problem.

Why is it so important for each of us to be led by the Spirit of God in this hour?

Because we've been told that in the last days deception will be prevalent. We must be spiritually aware and able to discern what is of God and what is not.

How do we break the cycle of repeatedly making same mistakes?

1. **Slow down!** Don't rush into making decisions. Most emotional decisions are made quickly without any real thought or analysis. Evaluate: Does this have to be done at this exact minute? Is this wise? What is the Spirit of God saying? What could the repercussions of this decision be?
2. **Cultivate stillness in your inner man.** The Word of God says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10, NKJV). Our spirit-man should always be at peace. When it is not, the Spirit is not leading us. Our lives should be governed by the peace of God in the inner man. Personally, I have found that ignoring that lack of peace in my spirit does not pay. We can be led and governed by peace of God or simply ignore it and follow our own flesh, emotions or even convictions of other people but we shall remain miserable until we obey the Lord.
3. **Verify decisions by the Word of God whenever possible.** The Bible does not give us specific answers for each decision we must make. In other words, the Word will not tell you if you should go to a meeting or not. It will not tell you whether you should take a particular job. It will, however, give you guidelines for your daily life.
4. **Make a conscious decision not to be led by emotions.** Determine to be led by the Spirit of God. Ask Holy Spirit to help you.

John 16:13 say. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority; but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come"

Brothers and sisters, we have been given the tools to become spiritually mature Christians. God desires to raise an army of believers that will hold a place in history that none have ever held. For they will be the ones who are full of the Spirit, led by the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit and obedient to His call.