

Hearing and being led by Holy Spirit inside God's Kingdom

Our theme Scripture today: Romans 8:14

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God"

In the world today, you can be led by either of the following:

- 1) The flesh – your mind, will and emotions? (Explain)
- 2) The world – other people (Explain)
- 3) The Devil (Explain)
- 4) Holy Spirit (Explain)

As you continue to grow in holiness, you will also find yourself growing in your ability to discern God's will by the help of the Holy Spirit

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 a desirable man of God

- 1) He is mature in his walk with God before others.
- 2) He is balanced, dependable 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, his 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 but without action.

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.

How do you know if you are a Spirit-led or an emotion-led believer?
Ask yourself these 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? **Ecclesiastes 5:2** says "Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God *is* in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few".

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. Make a conscious decision not to be led by emotions but to be led by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit will 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.