

02 – HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAD?

- ✓ The truth is, He can lead us any way He wants to! In Scripture, He led His people through dreams, visions, angelic visitations ... even audible voices. The thing is: None of those spectacular ways of being led are promised to us. They happen as the Spirit wills. (In Scripture, spectacular leadings usually came once or twice in a person's lifetime.) What I want to look at, in this message, are the "normal" (common) ways that God leads all of His children. Spectacular leadings may or may not come. But here are some safe and Scriptural ways to be led that every Christian can expect.

1. Follow After Peace:

Colossians 3:15 – "And let the peace of Christ act as an umpire continually in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds.]" (AMPC)

- ✓ Notice He told us to let peace "act as an umpire". What does an umpire do? In a baseball game, the umpire makes decisions about the game. He calls "balls" and "strikes". He determines whether a runner is "safe" or "out". All those things are decided by the umpire.
- ✓ In this verse, Paul tells us to "let peace act as an umpire ... deciding and settling with finality all the questions that arise in your minds". When we have a decision to make, sometimes we don't know which way to go. We've weighed out the "pros and cons", but we're no closer to a decision than we were when we started. So, what are we going to do? We're going to let peace "be the umpire" and make the call. (Look at some other translations of that verse.)

GNT – "The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make."

CJB – "Let peace be ... your heart's decision-maker."

NTE – "Let the King's peace in your hearts be the deciding factor."

- ✓ You can't say it any plainer than that! Ask yourself, "Which of these directions brings me peace?" (The peace you're looking for happens in your heart. Your *mind* might still be in turmoil and confusion. So, look down on the inside. Ask yourself, "Which of those options brings my heart rest?". When you have calm assurance on the inside, you can move confidently in the direction of that peace.)
- ✓ If you're praying, and you're not sensing peace in *either* direction, then start moving. (It's easier to steer a *moving* car than a *parked* one.) Start to take small steps in a direction and see if peace comes or goes.
- ✓ Practical Advice: If you're considering a move to another city or Province ... GO THERE! (I can't always determine the Lord's will, while I'm praying in my bedroom. When you go there, it's SO much easier to sense the Lord's direction.)

2. The Inward Witness

Romans 8:14 – "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit ..."

- ✓ If this is a new concept for you, the term "bears witness" might be a little "blind" to you. So, let's look at some other terms the Bible uses to describe the same thing.

a.) Perception

Acts 27:10 – "Men, I perceive that this voyage will be fraught with danger and involve heavy losses, not only of the ship and the cargo but also of our lives."

- ✓ Notice, Paul didn't say, "The Lord told me", or "I heard a voice". This was a spiritual "perception" – something he picked up in his spirit. There was nothing in the natural realm that would have caused him to think they shouldn't go. But inside, something just felt "off".
- ✓ Paul called it a "perception". The best word I could give you, in its place, might be "premonition". (For all you "Star Wars" fans, picture

Han Solo saying, “I’ve got a bad feeling about this”.) It’s a perception – not in your head – but in your heart. In the deepest part of your being something feels “off”.

- ✓ Sometimes, Christians have ignored these warnings. Then when disaster struck, they said, “Well, I guess God was preparing me for this tragedy before it happened.” No. God was trying to *warn* you, so you could AVOID the tragedy. Look at Paul’s words, after the storm was raging.

Verse 21 – “You should have listened, and not sailed away from Crete. If we had not left there, you would have avoided this damage and loss.” (CJB, GNT)

- ✓ God wasn’t warning them to PREPARE them for the loss. God was trying to help them AVOID it entirely!

b.) Impression

Acts 21:4 (Williams) – “So we looked up the disciples there and stayed a week with them. Because of impressions made by the Spirit they kept on warning Paul not to set foot in Jerusalem.”

- ✓ Again, it doesn’t say they heard a “voice”. (The word “impression” implies the *absence* of words.) It’s not “words”. It’s an “impression”. God impressed it on their hearts.)

c.) A “Knowing”

1 John 2:20 – “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things ...”

- ✓ Obviously, you don’t know all things in your head. But your heart knows things that your head *doesn’t* know. (The “anointing” in this verse is a Person. He reveals things to your heart.)
- ✓ We refer to this kind of “knowledge” all the time. (Suppose you’re in

a fight with your wife, and you think of a “brilliant” comeback. You have second thoughts, but you push through and say it anyway. She crumples to the floor in a pool of tears. And, you leave saying, “I KNEW I shouldn’t have said that!” (How did you know? Your heart knew it! It was telling you not to say that!)

d.) Promptings

Romans 7:6 – “But now we are discharged from the Law. So now we serve not under obedience to the old code of written regulations, but under obedience to the promptings of the Spirit.” (“Nudges”).

- ✓ Sometimes, you’re sitting in a service, and the Spirit will “nudge” you. “Go pray for that one” ... or “Give her some money.” There weren’t any words, just a “nudge” in that direction.

e.) A “Green Light” or a “Check”

- ✓ I don’t have a verse for this one. But it’s a simple, modern way to explain everything we’ve said so far. Sometimes, you’ll get a “check” on the inside. You know something’s wrong, but you can’t put your finger on what. You’re just sure the Lord is saying, “Don’t do that”.
- ✓ Or you sense a “green light” or a “go ahead”. You just know inside, if you go that way, it’s going to turn out well.

Keith Green Story

“I couldn’t understand where these awful feelings were coming from.” (Premonition.) “I wanted to run out and call my children back.” “Something didn’t seem right.” “Just as Bethany was lifted into the car, Keith hesitated. He called across the yard, ‘If I don’t come back, raise Rebekkah to be a woman of God.’”

(They missed a check, and it cost them their lives!)