**Faith to be Led by the Spirit!**

Do you remember ever being led by the Holy Spirit to do something or to go somewhere like Philip was led in (Acts 8:25ff) when he was led to go to Gaza? Truly this story is unusual when we think of Samaria being north of Jerusalem, and Gaza being at the very last part of Judea. There might have been many questions in his mind as he traveled, but he went anyway!

I have a story like that. It was in my first or second year as pastor of the Whittier church when on a Tuesday morning I was strongly led by the Spirit to visit a man who was dying. His daughter had been a member of our church but had left months before—but while she was a part of our church she had asked if I would go and speak about salvation to her father in Murrieta, California, which is about ninety minutes south of Whittier.

I had intended to go when she asked but had postponed it. Then she and her husband became in conflict with one of the leaders of our church and had left upset. While the conflict was not with me, I knew she was not happy that I had not supported them. Now I did not know if the man was alive and did not have the number of their telephone in Murrieta to see if they still wanted me to come. I called her phone in Whittier, and no one answered.

Still, I had this strong leading of the Spirit that I should go. What made it worse was that I was the newly elected finance chairman of the District Advisory Board and was to give a major report to them in a few hours. In addition, my car was being repaired, and all I had to drive was my old, Toyota Dolphin R.V. that had no air conditioning, and the day was hot! But God didn’t seem to be very impressed with my concerns. So, I called my Superintendent and told him I had an emergency pastoral call I needed to make, and he said it would be no problem for me to make the report the next month.

Therefore, off I went trying to obey the Holy Spirit. This was the days before cell phones and satellites, so I hoped I had the right area as I checked my “Thomas Brothers” map. Uncomfortable and hot, I found the address, went up to the door and rang the bell.

Lo, and behold! The wife who had requested that I come was the one who came to the door. She was amazed to see me. I asked if her father was still alive and would she want me to come and pray with him. She was very enthusiastic with her response of “yes!”

Her mother and her sister helped her lead me to the room where her father was. He was next to death’s door. I talked briefly with him and asked if he would like to accept Christ as his savior. He responded, “Yes.” I prayed, and then he prayed asking Christ to come into his heart. There was evidence of joy in the whole room and especially on his face at the end of that prayer!

They thanked me so much for coming, and I left rejoicing that I had done what the Spirit was leading me to do. Driving back to Whittier there was such joy in my heart. When I went into the office, there was a message on the answering machine from the family, saying that 15 minutes after I left, that man had died.

**I am not smart enough to orchestrate anything like that!** But I have often told the Lord that I do not want to miss any assignment which He might want to give me. **What about you?** Are you living close enough to the Spirit that he could give you an assignment? It might be a phone call, a note of appreciation, a gift in the mail. This is one of the stories that I remember often and praise God each time I do remember. What a joy to think that, partly by my faith and obedience, a difference for eternity was made. **I have found that often the enemy tries to throw up a smoke screen of doubt or circumstance to hinder us from the victory that God wants us to see realized!**