The Holy Spirit

Session 6: The Holy Spirit Guides and Leads

Being led by The Spirit begins with becoming a willing vessel. No person who ever found themselves used by God continually did so by accident.

Let's look at some examples.

A willing Vessel

Peter's Housetop experience

Acts 10:9-16 NKJV "The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, **Peter went up on the housetop to pray**, about the sixth hour. 10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, **he fell into a trance** 11 and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 13 And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." 14 But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." 15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." 16 This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again."

1. Peter had a supernatural Holy Spirit encounter after he purposed in his heart to pray
2. What was the benefit? God was preparing Peter's heart to minister to the Gentiles
    a. **Acts 10:28 NKJV** "Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But **God has shown me** that I should not call any man common or unclean."
        i. Shown: Exposed, Evidence presented, Show by words
        ii. The Holy Spirit Led him so that he might lead others to the truth

Jesus takes time to pray

Mark 1:32-39 NKJV "At evening, <u>when the sun had set</u>, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. 33 And **the whole city was gathered together at the door**. 34 Then He <u>healed</u> many who were sick with various diseases, and <u>cast out many demons</u>; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. 35 **Now in the morning, <u>having risen a long while before daylight</u>, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.** 36 And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. 37 When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." 38 But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, **because for this <u>purpose</u> I have come forth**." 39 And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons."

1. Jesus took time to pray in order to get direction. The first thing he tells peter is concerning his purpose.

a. How do we know our purpose? We get alone with God and pray.

Encouragement to a young minister

II Timothy 1:13-14 NKJV “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed to you, **keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us**.”

1. We are instructed to Hold fast to the Word (The Good news) that has been entrusted to us with the Help of The Holy Spirit. It is by The Spirit that we are able to passionately present the Gospel fresh, and alive to the people who hear it.
2. Through the help of the Holy Spirit he helps us to live out our purpose, to preach, teach, and evangelize a lost and dying world with renewed passion and vigor.

Knowing The Inner Voice

Unless we learn to recognize the Holy Spirit's voice we shall surely miss his call.

I Samuel 3:4-5, 8-10 NKJV “that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, “Here I am!” 5 **So he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” And he said, “I did not call**; lie down again.” And he went and lay down. 8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you did call me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, ‘Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.’ ” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 **Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel answered, “Speak, for Your servant hears.**”

1. Notice, that God’s voice was not immediately distinguishable from the ordinary. Samuel had no perception he was hearing the Lord until he was instructed.
    a. It will be the same for us, God is speaking, but do you recognize his voice?

The Prophet Elijah hears a still small voice

I Kings 19:11-12 NKJV “Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire **a still small voice**.”

1. Notice the contrast, Spectacular displays were not where God’s voice was found. Where was it found, in a still small voice. This is the voice we are to learn to recognize on the inside.
2. **Psalms 23:2 NKJV** “He makes me to lie down in green pastures; **He leads me** beside the still waters.”
    a. The leading of the Lord is rarely spectacular but it doesn’t make it any less supernatural

Led with Light

Proverbs 20:27 NKJV "**The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD**, Searching all the inner depths of his heart."

1. What is this saying? God will enlighten us from within. Our spirits are the place where God will give us light.
2. Light exposes that which is hidden and makes clear that which is unclear.

Do you remember what we talked about in session 3…

Acts 15:28 NKJV "For it **seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us**, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:"

1. Notice, When the Holy Spirit speaks it passes the check point of your own spirit, by the Holy Spirit.
2. How do you know if something is from the Holy Spirit? We often call it "bearing witness with our own spirit." The Holy Spirit gives us light in our own inner man.
3. These church leaders were able to recognize what was communicated to their own spirits by The Holy Spirit. How did they describe this? It seemed good!

Notice this next passage…

Romans 8:16 NKJV "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"

1. How does The Holy Spirit lead us, he bears witness (In other words he communicates to our own inner man) that we are children of God.

Going back 2 verses we find further clarity…

Romans 8:14 NKJV "For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, these are **sons of God**."

1. As born again believers, and children of God we have a right to be led by The Spirit of God.

Eight things that should not lead us

(1) Fleeces and Outward Signs

1. **Judges 6:36-37 NKJV** "So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said— 37 look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said."
2. Why don't we do this? God has declared in Romans 8:14 that sons are led by the Spirit not outward signs.

(2) Words That Don't Bear Witness With Our Spirit

1. Reference previous teaching based out of Romans 8:16

(3) Fear, Anxiety, or Pressure

1. **II Timothy 1:7 NKJV** "For **God has not given us a spirit of fear**, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
2. Fear, anxiety, and pressure are never from God. Remember the bible forbids worry, and it teaches us to reject fear.
3. God's way is that of peace, joy, and gentleness. Remember once again God leads us by "still waters".

(4) The Desires of the Flesh

1. **I John 2:15-16 NKJV** "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world."
2. Paul made an astounding statement, "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world"
    a. Why did Demas forsake Paul? He was led according to the desires of his flesh

(5) Circumstances Alone (Open and Closed Doors)

1. **I Corinthians 16:9 NKJV** "For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."
2. Paul was not dissuaded from entering a door that had many adversaries. There is only one good question to ask ourselves. "What does God want me to do"

(6) Natural Reasoning Alone

1. **Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV** "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And **lean not on your own understanding**; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."

(7) Every Thought That Comes to Mind

1. **II Corinthians 10:5 NKJV** "casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**,"
2. If we are take every thought captive then there are some thoughts that will try to lead us contrary to the ways and teachings of Christ

(8) Anything Contrary to God's Word

1. **II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”