



The Southeast Sower

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“Led By the Spirit of God” (Jim Deason)

“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God” (Rom. 8:14)

In the greater context of the book of Romans Paul’s point is to the effect that, whether Jew or Gentile, if you are led by the Spirit of God you are a son. Sonship was not reserved for the Jews alone but for “whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord” (Rom. 8:29). He is our perfect pattern (1 Pet. 2:21-23). Christ-likeness is our goal (2 Pet. 1:4). The Spirit of God plays a significant role in leading us there.

In the discussions that have taken place over the years concerning the Holy Spirit, I do not remember anyone denying the Spirit a place in the process of conviction, conversion, and sanctification. The debate has centered on the question of *how or by what means* the Spirit leads us.

The Holy Spirit Does Not

There is no evidence at all to suggest that the Spirit leads us through some better-felt-than-told experience. Likely, you have heard folks interpret some good (bad) experience and say, “*I felt led to _____*” or, “*The Spirit moved me to say _____.*” When you ask them to show you the passage that teaches the Holy Spirit leads in this way, they are unable. And sometimes they are quite offended that you would question their “experience.”

There is no evidence to suggest that the Spirit leads us through some quiet, inner voice. It is not unusual to hear people claim that God has spoken to them in this way. Really? Where is the evidence? How do you know it was God? How do you know it wasn’t the devil?

There is no evidence to suggest that the Spirit leads us through some indefinable, indescribable way that makes us feel good—like we are doing the right thing. I once was in front of a man who patted his chest and said, “I would much rather have what is in here (his “heart” - jhd) than what is in a whole stack of Bibles.” It was clear to me that he would rather *feel* right than actually make the effort to *know* he was right. The truth is, there are many things that make us feel good which have no basis in spirituality.

David Houston and Barbara Mandrell sang, “How can it be wrong when it feels so right, And we’ll both go home to another tonight, And we’ll hide our feelings and hold each other tight, How can this be wrong when it feels so right?” Well, as you can see, feelings can be and often are wrong! Good feelings can lead you to

The Southeast Church of Christ meets at:

35 Walnut Ct.

Mogadore, OH 44260

Phone:

330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:55 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm

places you should not go and things you should not do.

The Holy Spirit Does

How, then, does the Spirit lead us? Fortunately, we are not left to such subjective methods as misinterpreted experiences and emotions to decide. The Bible speaks clearly on this matter.

In the shadow of the cross, Jesus promised the apostles, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He *will teach you all things*” (Jn. 14:26). Further, Jesus promised, “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, *He will guide you into all truth...*” (Jn. 16:12-13). This truth is found in your New Testament.

Paul claimed, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words” (1 Cor. 2:12-13). Note that Paul claimed to be Spirit-led so that he might both *know* and *speak* the words of God, exactly as the Spirit directed.

These inspired words, spoken by Paul and other miraculously gifted men of the first century, are meant to guide and direct us to Christlikeness today. He affirmed, “the things which I write to you

are the Lord’s commandment” (1 Cor. 14:37). The Spirit led him to record the words of God in a brief form so that in reading we might understand his insight into Christ (Eph. 4:3-5).

Hence, the Spirit leads through the word which He revealed. There is no evidence in Scripture to suggest that the Spirit leads, especially in conviction, conversion, and sanctification, by any other means. If someone claims to be led directly by the Spirit, the burden of proof is upon him to produce irrefutable evidence that it is so—and this is something he cannot do!

Keeping Focus

Every instruction of God—every command, every example, and every appropriate implication—is for the purpose of making us more like Him. God said, “Be holy, for I am holy” (2 Pet. 1:16). My prayer is that you would be led by the Spirit by means of His word to be more like Jesus.

A Hundred Years From Now

(Author Unknown)

Tell me, friend, what will it matter

A hundred years from now

If you owned ten thousands acres

Or just a broken plow;

If you bought your suits in Paris

And your clothes in Italy

Or your clothes were made in patches

As bed quilts used to be;

Whether you lived in a mansion

With the finest broadlooms laid,

If you had a private chauffeur,

Butler, cook and maid?

Or if you lived in a cottage

With your health gone on the skids,

Out of work and with no money,

Just your wife and seven kids?

Yes, there’s more to life than living,

More for those who will believe,

More in store laid up in heaven

If the Savior we receive.

Whether we are lost forever

Or to Jesus here we bow—

This is what will make the difference

A hundred years from now.

Sentence Sermons

1. God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.
2. Life is short, but it gives us plenty of time to outlive our good intentions.
3. Parents do not bring up children anymore— they finance them.