

Learning to Be Led by the Holy Spirit

By Dave Roberson

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture notations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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Chapter 1 ***The Importance*** ***Of the Holy Spirit's*** ***Leadership***

One of the most important teachings a person can receive is how to be led by the Holy Spirit. So many sincere believers think God is leading them from one situation to another. Yet each time they end up confused because the outcome isn't what they expect. Then they wonder why God would speak to them to do such a thing if it was going to turn out the way it did.

If you've ever been a victim of this type of situation, you know that nothing can be more confusing than to believe you heard from God and then to be confronted with overwhelming evidence that says you did not.

Satan's Deceptive Tactics

Over the years of ministry, I've seen a pattern emerge in this area of being led. People stumble and fall, only to get up and repeat the same mistakes. Satan uses the same tactics over and over again on saints around the world.

There is something about our potential to be led by the Holy Spirit that really scares the devil. He has gone to a lot of trouble to keep us confused, using every deception at his disposal to make sure he keeps us walking down the wrong road.

How does the devil do this? First, he isn't so stupid as to tell you that

you cannot be led by the Spirit. He knows that you know better. Therefore, the only chance he has of neutralizing you is to indoctrinate you into a program where you look to your emotions or outward circumstances as a basis for God's leadership and direction in your life instead of yielding to the Holy Spirit's inner witness in your spirit man.

One of the devil's favorite strategies is to send a bunch of low-level, second-rate, expendable devils to confuse us by parading a bunch of believers across our path who claim to be led by the Holy Spirit in everything they do. If we look to these believers as role models of being led by the Holy Spirit, we easily become confused. Although they claim to be divinely led, they go through one situation after another, suffering defeat again and again. The bottom falls out of everything they do as they make bad decision after bad decision.

It's the same tactic the devil uses to confuse the issue of healing. He makes sure we hear about every believer who has ever believed God for healing and failed to receive. In this way, Satan attempts to discredit the possibility that we could ever be healed or led by the Spirit of God.

Why is the devil so avid in his opposition to our being led by the Holy Spirit through the inner witness? Well, just the fact that Satan fights it so hard ought to tell us how powerful and how dangerous to his kingdom this divine leadership can be!

Three Categories of Believers

When it comes to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, believers can be divided into three categories:

The first category includes those believers who have come to understand how to be led by the Holy Spirit. These people have testimonies and lives that cause many to be saved.

The second category is made up of those believers who have been indoctrinated by the devil to operate out of the emotional realm and who have consequently never learned how to operate out of their spirit man. These believers experience not only the wonderful emotional highs that everyone feels when things go right, but the emotional lows of torments, fears, and insecurities that can be brought on by the pressures of this life.

It is this emotional realm that most Christians fall prey to because feelings are such an integral part of a person's makeup. Whether or not a believer is led by the inner witness of the Holy Spirit or by the devil's counterfeit is determined by how susceptible that believer is to pressure and the enticement of lust. The first type of leadership originates in a person's spirit; the second type is Satan's attempt to lead the person through his emotions while making that person think the leading comes from God.

Before we discuss this second category of believers further, let's go

on to the third category of Christians: those who don't acknowledge any form of divine leadership at all. These believers don't believe that a person can be led by the Holy Spirit. As far as they're concerned, God exists and they're going to Heaven. But it's almost as though this third category of believers think God has abandoned them while they live on planet earth. They're supposed to do as well as they can while they're here; then when their lives are over, they'll finally see Jesus.

But we know from God's Word that this isn't the case at all. Our Heavenly Father demonstrated His willingness to fellowship with us and to lead us by His Spirit when He not only saved us but gave us the infilling of the Holy Ghost!

Chapter 2

The Inner Witness vs. Soulful Emotions

Most of us want to be led by the Holy Spirit. When we're able to receive direction from the Holy Spirit, God's counsel and wisdom is made available to us in everything we do. I'm not just talking about receiving divine direction for ministry, but for our jobs, our businesses, and for raising our families. So let's take a look at how the Holy Spirit manifests Himself to us through the inner witness — the foundational, primary way that God leads His children.

In Proverbs 20:27, God compares your spirit to a candle: **The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.** You see, your spirit is the part of you that God illuminates and through which He communicates with you. It is through your spirit that the Holy Spirit leads you, and the most dominant method He uses to accomplish this leadership is the inner witness.

Differentiating Between Spirit and Emotions

Romans 8:14-16 talks about the inner witness of the Holy Spirit:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

THE SPIRIT ITSELF BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT, that we are the children of God.

Here we have a scriptural foundation verifying the fact that the Holy Spirit will **BEAR WITNESS** within our human spirit. But in order to understand how the inner witness really works, we must first understand what God designed this form of divine leadership to accomplish in our lives and how we can yield to it.

Let's begin by identifying the difference between what we experience when the Holy Spirit bears witness with our human spirit versus when we are being led by our emotions. We have to differentiate between the emotional realm of the soul — which can fluctuate from excitement when everything is going right to depression when it isn't — and the steadfast, stabilizing quality of the human spirit.

So consider this: Have you ever tried to give up on God, but something down on the inside just wouldn't let you do it? No matter how hard you tried, how bad things got, or how intense the pressure became, something on the inside kept crying out, "Abba, Father." ("Abba" is the intimate Greek term for "Daddy." Therefore, "Abba, Father" is an expression that says, "I am yielding to You, Daddy, because You are the Father of my spirit.")

Now, you probably didn't walk around actually hearing the words

“Abba, Father” going off on the inside of you. But even though your flesh was screaming at you to quit, exerting fifteen tons of pure emotional pressure through torment and fear, something way down deep inside you simply refused to give up. That inner “something” kept saying, “I don’t care how bad it is, You are the Father of my spirit, and I’m not moved by what I see, hear, or feel. I’m only moved by what I believe!”

So here’s how you can tell the difference between your spirit and your emotions: The part of you that refused to give in was your spirit. The part that reacted to the pressure was your emotions, or the soulish realm. The key is to learn how to operate out of the part of you that would not give up.

The Holy Spirit Bears Witness With Your Spirit

Look again at what Romans 8:16 says:

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

This means that when circumstances in your life get so bad that you feel like giving up, the part of you the Holy Spirit strengthens is your spirit. And as you sense that strength, your spirit responds by acknowledging its salvation. This is what verse 15 refers to when it says, **...we cry, Abba, Father.**

The flesh, the devil, and the world may heap condemnation on you. They

may put pressure on you and badger you to give up. But the Holy Spirit will combat all that opposition by continually bearing witness on the inside of your spirit that you are a child of God!

Not only does the Holy Spirit bear witness to your salvation, but He also bears witness to whether or not you are thinking right or wrong, making right or wrong decisions, or believing right or wrong doctrine. Therefore, the quicker you can differentiate between the emotional realm of the soul and the stabilizing quality of the human spirit, the quicker you will learn how to be led by the inner witness out of the bondage of the flesh into a walk of liberty and maturity.

Led by the Holy Spirit, Not by Your Emotions

For many years, I’ve watched ministers, businessmen, and people in general endeavor to make decisions according to the Holy Spirit’s direction. One thing I’ve noticed is that even though the Holy Spirit illuminates the spirit of every child of God, many Christians still fall into the devil’s trap of deception of being led around by their emotions. Mistaking emotions for the leadership of the Holy Spirit, they believe God is leading them from one place to another or from one situation to another. On the other hand, those who are truly led by the Holy Spirit and who understand how to discern the inner witness seem to be qualified by a certain set of divine principles.

When I was first born again, I was excited about the prospect of being led by the Holy Spirit. Like most people, my concept of the leadership of the Spirit was that He would lead me from place to place or even from poverty to wealth. But later I found out, as so many have discovered before me, that it is almost impossible for the Holy Spirit to lead a believer in this manner as long as the devil can find access through a good case of emotions and then overpower the inner witness.

Christians who fit in this category find themselves on a continual emotional merry-go-round. They run from place to place, claiming God sent them and causing confusion because they are confused themselves. They often prophesy direction over other people's lives, yet their own lives are messed up. These people don't understand that it would do God no good to send them anywhere as long as the devil can overpower them once they arrived. They wouldn't be able to stand up under the pressure or temptations of sin.

That's why the Holy Spirit wants to take you into the next step of the born-again experience, friend. He wants to develop your character to such an extent that the still, quiet voice of your inner man is louder than the turmoil of pressure and stronger than the temptations of sin. Therefore, the Holy Spirit's first goal is to lead you out of a walk based on the flesh and dominated by your emotions into a walk of the Spirit in which you can know how to discern His voice.

The truth is, your road to a life of victory will always direct you toward that which is more powerful than your carnal emotions — the operation of your inner man. This brings us to a study of the operation of spirit, soul, and body.

Chapter 3 ***Dividing Between*** ***Spirit and Soul***

When God created His first man Adam, He fashioned a body for Adam from the dust of the earth — a substance that already existed. But when it came time for the creation of Adam's spirit man, God reached down on the inside of His own being and literally brought Adam's spirit into existence. And when God placed that spirit into Adam's body, the life in that spirit activated his vital signs, and man became a living soul.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7

Adam's body was the most incredible thing God ever created. It was a physical suit of clothing that flowed in absolute harmony with the natural laws of physics that govern our entire universe. This "suit" gave the man Adam, a spiritual being, the ability to coexist on two levels of creation — God's natural and spiritual kingdoms — much like an astronaut's suit allows him to operate both on earth and in space.

There was nothing like man's physical body in the entire universe. It was designed to house Adam's spirit in every aspect. His spiritual hand fit into his natural hand finger for finger; his spiritual eyes fit into his natural eyes; and his ears fit into his natural ears. God made this natural body to so perfectly encompass the operation of

the inner man that if the natural man and the spiritual man stood alongside each other, they would look almost identical.

A Physical Soul To House the Spiritual Soul

Now, when I say God created our natural body to house our spiritual body, most people don't have any trouble understanding this principle. A more difficult concept to understand is that when God created the spirit of man, He placed within that human spirit certain spiritual forces such as love, peace, and joy. These forces make up the nature of our inner man.

Then in exactly the same way that God created our physical hands and feet to be receptacles for our spiritual hands and feet, He created a physical soul that acts as a receptacle for the spiritual forces of love, joy, and peace. So when God placed Adam's spirit into his body, the spiritual hand fit into its counterpart, the physical hand — and the spiritual soul fit into ITS counterpart, the physical soul!

You see, the difference between the spiritual soul and the physical soul is this:

- The spiritual soul possesses the **FORCE** of love.
- The physical soul possesses the **EMOTION** of love.

Man is the only part of God's creation that possesses a spiritual soul. Take your pet dog or cat, for example. Dogs and cats can be so warm and friendly that the emotions

of their physical soul can almost parallel the operation of a spiritual soul. But when your pet dies, even though you may miss it terribly, its physical soul perishes with it.

When **WE** die, however, the inner man is disconnected from the outer man and simply steps out of his body. The spiritual soul, which consists of the **FORCES** of love, joy, and peace, is disconnected from the physical soul, which consists of the **EMOTIONS** of love, joy, and peace.

The same way your physical hand is designed to serve your spiritual hand, the physical emotions of the soul are designed to serve the spiritual forces of the inner man. God designed these spiritual forces of love, joy, and peace to operate through the emotional realms of your soul to affect your entire being.

The New Nature Of the New Birth

But when Adam fell from God's grace and died spiritually, he received the nature of sin into his spirit. At that point, not only was his spirit capable of such things as hatred, murder, and lies, but this sin nature also infiltrated the chromosomes of his physical man, breaking the cycle of his perpetually self-renewing physical body. Thus, that physical body lay down and died some nine hundred and thirty years later.

Centuries passed until finally Jesus came, and the new nature was once again made available to us through the new birth. When we are

born again, a new nature is received into our human spirit. Because of this new nature, our inner man no longer has the capacity to fluctuate between love and hate, truth and lies, peace and murder. Once again it remains constant in the spiritual forces of love, peace, and joy.

There's just one problem. The spiritual soul with its forces of love, peace, and joy must now operate through the physical soul. But the physical soul still has death working in it, inherited from the first Adam. Therefore, it still has the capacity to fluctuate between the emotions of love and of hate, and it will continue to have that capacity until it is glorified.

The cares of this life may start entering in. Torment and fear may take hold and begin to control your emotions, causing them to fluctuate back and forth. But in the midst of it all, your spirit man will remain constant, almost as if to say, "You can fluctuate back and forth between hatred and love or between fear and faith if you want to, but I'm not going with you!"

The devil likes to build strongholds within the emotional realms of the soul. But as you learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit, you'll grow to the place where your actions are controlled by the constant, stabilizing forces of your spirit man rather than by the emotional highs and lows of your soul. At that point, it's a whole new life!

Chapter 4 ***The Value of*** ***Praying in Tongues***

The primary key to help you reach past the emotional highs and lows of the world and open a channel directly to the inner man is **PRAYING IN TONGUES**. First Corinthians 14:14 says, **For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.**

The truth is, I hate to think of the disadvantage a person has who hasn't been convinced of the significance of praying in tongues.

Using this precious gift, you can turn yourself over to the Holy Spirit on purpose at any moment to deliberately kindle and activate the fire of the inner witness. As soon as you start praying in tongues, you begin operating out of your inner man, for the Bible says that in the Spirit you speak mysteries:

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:2

Building a Foundation Through Praying in Tongues

The Holy Spirit lives within that still, quiet place of your spirit where tongues originate. He quietly waits for you to either close the door to His incredible, life-changing forces or to throw that door wide open. Through

the revelation gift of praying in tongues, He wants to put a foundation underneath your character so strong that no matter what has you bound or how loud the voices of pressure and turmoil have become, He is able to lead you out of it all into victory.

You see, even though the origin of tongues is the Holy Spirit, it is your human spirit that does the praying. The Holy Spirit is actually creating the language of tongues within your human spirit as you speak it forth. Therefore, the prayer you are praying is in no way influenced by the soulish emotional highs or lows you may be experiencing at the time.

That's why praying with tongues strengthens the part of you from which you derive strength to resist sin. It also sharpens your discernment to differentiate between the emotional realm of the soul and the peaceful operation of the inner witness.

So the next time the wolf delivers a package of bad news to your door, don't immediately react out of your emotions. Instead, enter into the Spirit. Deliberately begin to operate out of your inner man on purpose by praying in other tongues. As you do, you'll bypass the soul altogether and drive your emotions back to where they're supposed to be — submitted to your spirit!

'Throwing a Lifeline' To Your Inner Man

Praying in tongues can be likened to finding a man who is lost at sea.

The chances of finding one person in the vastness of the ocean are pretty slim. But when it does happen, the helicopter comes over the horizon, spots a tiny little dot in the great expanse of water, and throws the man a lifeline.

Well, sometimes the cares of this life can make you feel as though you're drowning in an ocean of emotional turmoil. But praying in tongues throws you a spiritual "lifeline" that can lead you out of trouble into victory.

At first, when your foundation is still changing from operating in the emotional realm to operating in the realm of the Spirit, your emotions can scream so loudly that they overwhelm the quiet place out of which the spirit operates. In fact, the operation of your inner man can seem rather weak next to your soul when it's raging with negative emotions. But just keep throwing a lifeline to your inner man. Every minute you pray in tongues, you edify yourself, cultivating the forces of love, peace, and joy resident within the new nature of your spirit man.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate these spiritual forces within your inner man through praying in tongues, you'll eventually be able to tell the difference between the Holy Spirit's inner witness and your emotions —between the force of love and the emotion of love, the force of peace and an emotional sense of well-being, the force of joy and the emotion of happiness. You'll even grow to a place where your emotions serve **YOU** instead of you serving **THEM**.

That's when you can enter a rich, full life in which God leads you to victory in every situation. He communicates with you, bearing witness when you are heading in a right direction. He checks you when you are heading in a wrong direction. He is able to do that now because the "giants" in Canaan land no longer control you through torment and fear. Instead, the calm, stabilizing operation of your spirit holds your mind and emotions steady, enabling you to discern the Holy Spirit's inner witness in every situation.

So go forth to possess the promised land of your inheritance in Jesus Christ. Yield to the Lord's work within your inner man as He leads you out of bondage and corruption into a mature walk of sonship and liberty. You **CAN** be led by the Holy Spirit!

Chapter 5 Prophecy

The greatest thing a believer
can do for Me, saith the Lord,
is yield himself to the power
of My Holy Spirit.
For have I not said
that He will guide you into all
truth
and that My Word is truth?
Outside of His presence
there is no leadership
and no illumination of the mind.

There are those who have entered
into a relationship with Me
in the generations and decades
past,
yes, even in other centuries,
saith the Spirit.
Those few who were caught up
into My presence
held the standard as they passed
through their generations.

To any child of God
who yields himself to Me,
I would say it is your Father's
pleasure
to place all the keys to the kingdom
into your hands.
There is nothing I am withholding
from you,
nothing I will not reveal to you.
For I have called you to cross this
place
with your anointing and your call
and do exploits in these last days.

Be strong, My child,
in the power of My might,
and you will be elated and full of
joy.

Thirst on, but know this:
No man can give you what you thirst
for.
You must allow the Holy Spirit to
bring you
from glory to glory
and reveal the fullness of Jesus
Christ
in your life and in your call.

Oh, that you would enter into My
presence
and be full of My joy and power!
saith the Spirit.

So learn to spend time with Me.
Tune yourself up to walk with Me,
and you will do exploits for Me.
Before My coming, your eyes will see
what you desire to see —
the fullness of the moving
of My Spirit in people's lives
and in the blessings of God.

Do You Want the Holy Spirit To Lead You?

In this book, Dave Roberson presents a unique scriptural understanding of what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit through the inner witness. Dave teaches from the Scriptures that before anything else, the Holy Spirit leads you "...out of a walk based on the flesh and dominated by your emotions into a walk of the Spirit in which you can know how to discern His voice."

So if you want to learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit, don't try to skip the first step. As you yield to the Holy Spirit's leadership in your life, you'll find a life of liberty and victory waiting on the other side!

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