



How Does the Holy Spirit Lead Us?

The centerpiece of New Testament Christianity has something to do with the Holy Spirit and power – the power of God coming inside us. Genuine Christianity has to do with not only with the work of Jesus Christ on the cross but also the work of the Holy Spirit inside us.

This is one of the key differences between man's religion and Christianity. In man's religion we may try to be good, to be a moral person, but we end up with no morality. In Christianity, transformation occurs through the indwelling Spirit of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working inside us, not by us trying to be good.

- The Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. But we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror/glass (to mirror oneself) the glory of the Lord, are being transformed/changed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to believers

Jesus Christ is God's gift to the world, but the Holy Spirit is God's gift to His children. He says the promise of Holy Spirit is not for the world, but for believers like you and me.

- John 14:16-17 – And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.

Last month, we focused on the question "Who is the Holy Spirit?" Today we focus on "How The Holy Spirit Leads Us."

Because we have the Spirit of God within us, we can recognize the moving of the Holy Spirit in our spirit, the witness of the Holy Spirit in our spirit. We can follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. And we can know the will of God through revelation in our intuition, avoiding the mistake of bringing our own strength to the work we are trying to for God and His kingdom.

- For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God (Rom 8:14).
- And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot" (Acts 8:29).
- And it was because of a revelation that I went up [to Jerusalem] (Gal 2:2).
- The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Romans 8:16).

God Wants To Speak To Us

The Scriptures make it clear that God longs for communion with His people and looks for people who will listen to His voice and do what He says. Abraham was called, "the friend of



God,” because he recognized God’s voice, believed His words, and obeyed His instructions (James 2:23).

- Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to waters; ...Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. Incline your ear and come to me. Listen that you may live (Is 55: 1-3).

A vital truth of Christianity is the understanding that God has come to dwell within the hearts of people through the new birth or conversion experience. Because of the Spirit of Christ in us, we have more than a shadow. We have a reality, a *living word* in us, which is able to make itself known to us. We call it God speaking to us.

- ❖ *Once we are born again, we have a new creation within us. The new creation gives us access to the Holy Spirit in our spirit. We call it the hidden man in the heart (inner man).*

We are the temple of the Holy Spirit

- Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you (1 Cor. 3:16).
- But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with him (1 Cor. 6:19).

God sends his Holy Spirit into our hearts, enabling us to call Him, ‘Abba! Father!’ and enjoy direct encounters with Him. Because of this, we can sense the leading of the Holy Spirit in our spirit and respond to the voice of our heavenly Father.

- For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God (Rom 8:14).
- For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” (Rom 8:15)
- The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Rom 8:16).

Defining witness

⇒ Witness (*summartureo*): to testify jointly; corroborate by evidence.

↪ Your Response

- How do you know that you are God’s child?
- Have you experienced the inner witness of the Spirit in your spirit?
- Do you want to be led by the Spirit of God?

We can hear from God personally

The Bible gives us a progressive revelation of God, especially concerning about hearing Him.

The Old Testament

In the Old Testament, God used many ways to get his message across, as varied as angels, pillar of cloud, Urim and Thummin, a fiery bush, tablets of stone, still small voice, signs and fleeces, thunder, dreams, and visions.



However, the presence of God was shut up in the Holy of Holies. So when ordinary people wanted to hear from Him, they had to go special people; i.e., the prophets, priests, and kings who were anointed by the Spirit of God to stand in their respective offices.

The New Testament

Likewise, in the New Testament, God reached the hearts of his people in virtually unlimited ways. But the writer of Hebrews says that God spoke through His anointed Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth (1:1), who said that His sheep would know His voice (John 10:27).

Scriptures

The references to a personal leading are unmistakable, in both the Old and New Testaments.

- Behold, I will pour out my Spirit on you; I will make my words known to you (Proverbs 1:23).
- It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind (flesh); and your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days (Joel 2:28-29).
- In the last days I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, and they will prophesy, have visions, and dreams (Acts 1:17).
- My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me (John 10:27),
- But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out (John 10:2-5).
- Behold I stand at the door and Knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the Door, I will come unto him and dine with him, and he with me (Revelation 3:20).

👉 Your Response

- Do you believe God has something to say to you personally?
- Do you want to hear God's word for yourself, or do you want others to tell you what God is saying to you?

Jesus ushered in the New Covenant

Then, just before Jesus returned to heaven, He tells His followers to wait for the Father's promised gift, which will soon be given to them in the form of a powerful baptism. At Pentecost the promised Spirit was poured out and made available to all believers. Because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our spirit, God resides within us and we can know what He has to say to us. We are able to hear Him speak personally to us—into our minds and hearts. Moreover, we are blessed by the Spirit with the capacity to hear with *spiritual ears* and see with *spiritual eyes*.



On tablets of the human heart

Originally God wrote down his Word with his finger on the stone tablets Moses lugged down from Mt. Sinai. Later God said He'd make a *new covenant* with his people in which he would write his Word on the tablets of their hearts. The Word that we have now inked on paper tells us clearly that God has established this promised new covenant with his followers *in their hearts* (Jer 31:31-33; 2 Cor 3:3b).

It's done, completed – and Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant. So where should we look to discover the personal word that God wants us to hear? In our mind and in our heart!

Two places to look—heart & mind

In the New Covenant, God can speak His personal truth directly into our mind and heart. He will speak a clear thought into your mind. He also speaks His living Word for us right into our heart (Lu 2:19; Ps 119:11, 37:31, 40:8). The Bible says our heart contains God's plans, directions, and desires for us (2 Thes 3:5; 1 Cor 2:9; Acts 7:23; Ps 37:4).

- How much more will the blood of Christ, ..., cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason, He is the mediator of a new covenant (Heb. 9:14-15).
 - And this is the covenant that I will make with them, after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and upon their mind I will write them (Heb. 10:16; 8:10).
 - You are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts (2 Cor 3:3).
- ❖ Learn to question where did this thought come from? Is it my thought? Thoughts of others? Thoughts of Satan? Or could it be thoughts from God?

↳ Your Response

- Have you ever experienced receiving a clear thought from God?
- How do you know what the Spirit of God is writing on your heart?

Recognizing the voice of God is key

Now we can be led by the Spirit to hear and respond to the voice of our heavenly Father. The Spirit often uses our intuition and the still voice of man's own spirit, although not many are aware of the difference between their *soul* and *spirit*.

When we cannot discern the difference between our *soul* and *spirit*, we are unable to function at this level with God's Spirit. And yet, this is where the Holy Spirit seems to be manifested the most – in our spirit. We suffer great loss in this area, both as an individual and as the body of Christ.

Learning to recognize the voice of God is essential to our living life more abundantly. It is necessary for anyone who wants to please God, for anyone who wants to be guided by the Holy Spirit, for anyone who wants to be fruitful in their Christian walk, in intercession. It is vital in our journey to wholeness, and seeing our true identity in Christ.



Listening to God is key to moving into deeper realms of spiritual growth and spiritual life. It is key to an interior development – to allow the Holy Spirit to work at a deep level in our inner being.

What do we mean when we say, “God spoke to us?”

When we talk about hearing God speak to us, we mean being aware in our spiritual senses – the eyes and ears of the heart – that God is communicating with us. Through pictures, visions, prophetic inspiration, spontaneous thoughts, and images sent by God, in the day or night, we can sense what God is communicating to us.

When we refer to “hearing the voice of God,” we are not talking about a literal, audible voice – if we seek a literal voice, we will most likely be misled. Although it is possible to literally hear God speak, apparently it is extremely rare.

God seldom speaks in an audible voice, like He did with Moses in the burning bush. People often say, “I wish that God would speak to me that way. I am waiting for Him to speak to me and to tell me what He wants me to do.” They are looking for an audible voice, a burning bush experience.

I have never heard the audible voice of God, externally, but I have heard an *inward audible voice*, several times. And only a few times have I heard God speak to me using tongues and then interpreting it. Most of the time, He is speaking to me through the still, small voice (intuitive knowings), dreams, prophecies, my faith, and thoughts in my mind.

Although my friend Ralph Nault has heard *the audible voice* of God twice in fifty years of ministry, most of the time the Lord speaks and guides Him through impressions in his spirit, images in his heart, dreams, thoughts in His mind.

Hearing the voice of God is not an emotional high; it is not an emotional feeling. We will be deceived if we go by these things. So even though we refer to God speaking, God’s voice, we do not go looking to hear a voice; if we do we will end up being misdirected.

- ❖ Be careful when “hearing voices” while awake in the night. It may be the voice of the deceiver!

Reflection: Can I Know God’s Voice?—Ralph Nault

The first time I heard God speak to me and was aware of it, and knowing it was indeed God, was right after people prayed for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I was thirty-nine years old. I want you to note this: It happened soon after others prayed for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

I had gone to church for many years. If you had asked me if I were a Christian, I would have said, yes, and I believe I was. I believe that God had spoken to me many times before, but I had not recognized it as Him. Why didn’t I recognize His voice sooner? It had something to do with the following Scriptures. I am sure.

- John 14:26 – *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*



- *John 16:13-14 – But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine and shall disclose it to you.*

For years, I thought that God spoke only to a few very special people who were very holy. I have now come to the conclusion He speaks to sinners too. I am glad, for like Paul, I can say that I am the chiefest of sinners. For those who have the same mistaken idea, don't be hindered any longer.

God wants to speak to you. In fact, He probably has something very important to say to you. You may need people to pray over you to receive the Holy Spirit, even if you have been a Christian many years. (*Led by the Spirit*, Chap 2, "Can I Know God's Voice," pps. 7-11)

Lord, I need You in my life. I want to live, to become fully alive. I need to know your voice, to hear what you are saying to me. Teach me to recognize your voice. Give me the courage to listen to you. In Jesus' Name, I ask this. Amen.

👉 Your Response

- Identify times when God has spoken to you.
- After we receive the Holy Spirit, do we need to go to the prophets seeking guidance?

Additional resources

- ⇒ <https://judithdoctor.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/You-Can-Hear-The-Voice-Of-God.pdf>

The Leading of the Holy Spirit

In his numerous writings to the church, St. Paul taught the importance of being led by the Spirit. Jesus Christ also understood the importance of doing and saying only what His Father wanted him to do (John 5:19).

- 'I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak those things as the Father taught Me, and He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the thing that are pleasing to Him' (John 8:28-29).

This is the key issue if we ever want to mature spiritually, grow up and break free from the dead letter of the law and fully function as the new creation: We must learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit!

- The spirit of man is the lamp (*candle*) of the Lord, searching all the inward parts (*belly; a hollow*) of his being (Proverbs 20:27).
- ...all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God (Rom 8:14).
- But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the **Law** (Gal 5:18).



Defining law

⇒ Law (*nomos*): to parcel out; prescriptive usage, regulation.

The spirit (inner man) has spiritual senses

Once we begin to respond to the Holy Spirit, He causes our spiritual senses to flourish within us. He teaches us how to begin to see spiritually, hear spiritually, speak spiritually, and respond spiritually to the things of God. Through His Spirit, God reveals things that our natural eyes or ears could never sense.

Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, God has given us direct communion with Himself. We hear His voice within our hearts. We are led by the Spirit. We have inner subjective experiences. Through insight, we receive revelation from Him, and He illumines Scripture to us. Through intuition, we sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the voice of God. Direct inner experiences with the Lord bring healing to the spirit, soul, and body.

- For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their **senses** trained (*exercised*) to discern **good** and **evil** (Hebrews 5:13-14).

Defining key words

- Senses (*aisthanomal*): an organ of perception; to apprehend, to perceive.
- Good (*kalos*): beautiful – good, valuable, virtuous.
- Evil (*kakos*): worthless – depraved, injurious, bad, evil, harmful.

Our spiritual man (inner man) can do all the things

- 1) It can speak; it has a voice: we call it a still small voice, an inner audible voice, an audible voice, intuitive knowings, or a thought in our mind. Note it is not a matter of listening to voices, neither is it a matter of praying to hear something.
- 2) It can see; it has eyes: we call them visions, spontaneous images, pictures sent by God. Through the eyes of the heart we can see and know what God is saying to us.
- 3) It can hear; it has ears: when we make a decision, wonder if something is true, or ask God about something, it might respond to us – the inward witness, a gift of faith, a word of knowledge, a prophetic word, an intuitive knowing, a still, small voice, or a thought in our mind.
- 4) It has feelings: we can sense when it is grieved or joyful.

1. Inner voice & the audible voice

We may hear an inner voice on the inside of us. The inner voice comes with words, and seems to carry a little more authority than the inner witness. Perhaps we may hear an audible voice outside of us, but hearing an audible voice occurs very rarely – perhaps once or twice in a lifetime.



Biblical example

- Young Samuel hears a voice (1 Sam 3:1-11).
- And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot" (Acts 8:29).

My experiences

- ◆ One evening sitting in an Aglow meeting, I heard a loud but inner voice say to me in a musical tone, "You are going to go to Jerusalem." And it happened!
- ◆ Once when I was journaling, this spiritual thought came, "I have not put you out to pasture; there will be a time when you will be very busy." And so it came to pass just as the Spirit had said!
- ◆ "I am going to bring your son home for a while." And it came to pass.

2. Inner eye

While we are awake, we may see visions, spontaneous images, or a picture of something.

Biblical examples

- Cornelius saw a vision of an angel who told him what to do (Acts 10:1-7; 11:13, 14)
- A vision appeared to Paul in which a Macedonian man said come over and help us (Acts 16:9).

My experiences

- ◆ Walking down the stairs of our place, I saw our son & his wife living with us.
- ◆ One son saw Jesus pulling this gray stuff out of his heart while I prayed with him.
- ◆ Jerry saw Jesus sitting between his brother and himself on the Ferris wheel.

3. Inner response

When our inner man hears us, it may respond to us in some way like an inner witness, a gift of faith, a word of knowledge, a prophetic word, an intuitive knowing, a still, small voice, a thought in our mind. When we refer to the inner witness, we are saying that we sense a movement in our inner man. We may it feel like an inner click, inner resonance, or intuitive knowing. Sometimes it is more distinct than others – a check or a go-ahead signal in our spirit.

In responding to us, it can provide us knowledge, confirmation, correction, instruction, guidance from God.

Biblical examples

- The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Rom 8:16).
- And it was because of a revelation that I went up [to Jerusalem] (Gal 2:2).
- I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt (Acts 27:10). Note: It was Paul's spiritual man that witnessed to him. Later he said, "you ought to have followed my advice" (v. 21). Note that he didn't say, "The Lord told me."



My experience

- ◆ While shopping in Bad Herrenalb, Germany, an *intuitive knowing* that I needed to go right then back to the clinic, suddenly entered my spirit. I obeyed it, and God had an appointment for me with a woman who needed to know if there was a God.

4. Inner feelings

I see this happen very often, when someone receives a new revelation from God, they often begin to weep with joy. It seems their inner man was so overjoyed that it flowed into their soul (outer man) and body (the outermost man).

Biblical examples

- And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52).

My experiences

- ◆ As the person laid hands on me and prayed for me, I was filled with overflowing joy that bubbled up from down inside.
- ◆ When I have sensed the joy of the Lord, I start laughing from down deep inside.

5. Sense the flow of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is like a river flowing out of our inner most being. It flows deep within us, below our rational consciousness, and using our faith, we can get in touch with it and go with its flow.

- “If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, from his innermost being (*belly-hollow place*) shall flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive ... (John 7:38-39).

⇒ Flow (*rheuo*): to flow, run as water.

Additional resources

⇒ <https://judithdoctor.com/the-inner-witness-is-this-gods-voice/>

Direct spiritual contact with God

God reveals things that our natural eyes and ears could never sense through His Spirit speaking directly to our spirit. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, God has given us direct communion with Himself. We hear His voice within our hearts.

We can be led by the Spirit. We can have inner experiences. Through insight, we receive revelation from Him, and He illumines Scripture to us. Through intuition, we sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the voice of God. Direct inner experiences with the Lord bring healing to the spirit, soul, and body.



We must rediscover direct spiritual contact with God and once again become open to intuitive, spiritual experiences. We must allow the Holy Spirit to cause us to see our spiritual senses and use them in our lives, thereby allowing the power of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit to heal, empower, and guide us from within.

We can never arrive at an understanding of God through purely rational, logical methods; we must develop a relationship with Him. We need direct and intimate contact with God – through our spirit. We learn to know not only with our mind, but with our hearts – intuitive perception of the Spirit.

Reflection: How does it work? – Ralph Nault

For those who ask, “How does it work? How do I hear God speak to me?” For those who are very new to this kind of leading and want it, all I can say is this: Reach out to God, ask Him with your whole heart, your whole mind, with all your strength, crying, ‘God, let it happen to me! I want to be led by your Spirit! I want to know your voice in my heart!’

I really can’t give you any methods. I can only tell you this: Go before God as a child, wanting to be taught. If there is a method that I use, it is this: I reach out to God from inside and say, ‘God, I want to please you and do your will! I am willing to be used, but, Lord, I don’t know what to do unless you tell me. I don’t know what to say, unless you tell me. You are going to have to speak clearly enough so that I can understand, so that I can hear you. Do that, Lord; speak in a simple, clear way that I can understand. Lord, do it quickly. Thank you.’

If there are some of you who have never received Jesus Christ into your heart and life, pray with me, ‘Jesus, I want you to come into my heart and into my family. Lord, grant me faith to believe that you are with me, and that you are never going to leave me. I am a sinner who needs your help. Forgive me and set me free from the bondage of my sin and death. I want to live, not die. I want to be with you, Lord. Be my shepherd. Thank you Lord. Amen.’ (*Led by the Spirit*, Chap 23, “The Beginning,” pps. 103-104)

- ❖ If we don’t have the boldness and courage to be led by the Spirit —to listen to what Jesus taught, what Paul taught, and what they were trying to teach us and show us; if we’re afraid to act upon those things they will just never happen.

Your Response

- Recall times when God has led you through His Spirit in the past.
- What does that experience mean to you?
- Watch for a thought that seems to come out of the blue and you begin to argue with it.
- What do you think God is saying to you today?
- Be aware of any intuitive knowings, spontaneous images when you pray, nudges in your spirit – not feeling like a pressure.