



Spirit Directed Education

Be Led by the Holy Spirit

Christian School Insights

Being led is a Learning Process

Being led by the Spirit of God begins at the point of salvation. Part of the responsibility of the Holy Spirit is to draw people to God (John 16:8-14). Once a person accepts Christ as Lord and Savior, they have the capacity to be led by the Spirit of God. This leading then becomes a learning process.

Temple of the Holy Spirit

When a person is born again, the Holy Spirit takes up residence within the very being of each believer. God's Word says that when we ask Christ into our life, we become the temple of the Holy Spirit. A "temple" means a dwelling place. When the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your body, your re-created spirit is able to hear God speaking to you through the Holy Spirit. John 10:27 says, *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."* Likewise, John 10:5 says, *"a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."*

Psalms 37:23 says, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."* And finally, Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *"trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*

The Voice of the Spirit of God

Everyone that is born receives a conscience that was put there by God. The conscience is part of the soul; the soul also includes intellect (mind), emotions and the will. The role of the conscience is to direct us in doing good things and avoiding evil. The conscience serves as the moral compass in every human.

Moreover, when you get born again, you receive an added dimension to your conscience. It becomes the voice of the recreated spirit which is "tuned-in" to the frequency that the Holy Spirit is using to communicate and to lead you into the blessings that God has prepared (Gal.3:14), to protect you (Ps.23), to preserve you (Ps. 121), and to deliver you (Ps. 37:40; 91).

The Leading of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit was given to help lead you. "Before the fall, man's spirit ruled the human personality and the body and the mind of man were under subjection and the control of the spirit of man. When he sinned, his spirit received the nature of the adversary and became subjected to the body. Since then the human personality was ruled by the senses. The spirit was being made the prisoner of the five senses. Since then, there has been a cry from the spirit of man to be free; a cry for freedom to be restored to the original state before the fall to rule over the body once again" (Faith that Takes).

The primary way that He leads is through the inward witness or the “still small voice”; not a real voice, but an inward knowing within your “spirit-man.” The cooperation of your recreated spirit with the Holy Spirit brings direction to your life.

Jesus said, “*When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come*” (John 16:13-14).

Without the indwelling presence and leading of the Holy Spirit, you have to rely upon your own thinking, and five senses—see, feel, touch, taste, and smell and common sense. “God did give you the five senses, a mind to think, and an understanding of how the universe works so that we can work with the laws of nature” (Billy Joe Daugherty – *Led by the Spirit*).

You may also receive direction through the advice, opinion and attitudes of others, such as your teachers, parents, pastor, and friends. “You should not ignore those things when making a decision, but they must be subjected to the spirit of God. What is God’s Spirit saying?” (BJD-*Led by the Spirit*)

Common sense tells you to slow down when roads become icy and slick; however, it is the Holy Spirit that tells you to slow down when you are unable to perceive with your senses what may be happening next; for example, someone coming around a blind corner that you may crash into if you did not slow down.

You could be planning a trip to grandmothers and the weatherman advises you not to drive on the roads, but the Holy Spirit tells you to go visit your grandmother in spite of the warning. And in so doing, you find out that she had fallen and was unable to get to a phone to call for help; obeying the inner voice saved her life.

Listen and Obey

As you listen and obey the inner witness of your own regenerated human spirit, you will walk in the blessings of God. “*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart*” (Proverbs 20:27). Your spirit knows things that your mind does not. The Holy Spirit knows even more than our human spirits and can enlighten you on any point should He wish to speak with you, as long as you are listening to Him. However, it is through your recreated spirit that you know what to do. Of course, you still need to pray and ask God.

Pastor Billy Joe Daugherty, in his book, *Led by the Spirit* encourages his readers to seek to be led by the Holy Spirit daily. “It is wonderful when I know I am doing the right thing at the right time, in the right place in the right way with the right people. That’s what it’s like to be led by the Holy Spirit.”

Pastor Billy Joe offers three simple actions that you can take to experience the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your life.

1. **Desire to be led by the Spirit of God.** John 10:27 says, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”
2. **Ask specifically.** James 1:5-8 says, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea

driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all of his ways.” Be specific in prayer based on the desire God has implanted in your heart. Faith is based on God’s Word. Find the Scriptures that specifically promise what you are asking. “If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:14-15).

3. **Listen.** Create sensitivity in your spirit so that you can hear him with your heart (Rev. 2:7).

Creating sensitivity to hearing the voice of the Spirit of God is enhanced through the following actions:

- **Immerse your spirit in the things of God.** As you feed your spirit with the things of God, you become more sensitive to His guidance. As time passes you can learn to let God guide you in the smallest details of your life.
- **Commune with the Holy Spirit.** As you pray and spend time alone with Him - an extended period of time on a daily basis - you become accustomed to His voice. You can sense it, know it and recognize it. You are aware of it.
- **Read God’s word.** Develop a consistent pattern of Scripture reading. Take time to be in places where God's Word is being preached with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- **Worship and praise.** Spend time in places where prayer, worship, and praise are used to take authority over things that are not of God. Praise invites God's presence. God inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3). At the same time, praise is a weapon against the enemy (Ps. 149). It drives out darkness and breaks oppression of the devil.
- **Pray in the spirit.** The Holy Spirit is the One who gives the prayer language. Acts 2:4 says, “[They] began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” When we are praying in the spirit we are giving the Holy Spirit place in our life. Paul said we can pray for our tongues to be interpreted. He adds, “*I pray with my spirit, and I pray with my understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with my understanding also*” (1 Cor. 14:15).

Pastor, Billy Joe Daugherty concludes his book with this thought, “You can’t do anything that will make the Holy Spirit speak one way or the other. So, don’t reject other ways the Holy Spirit leads... His Word, words from the Holy Spirit, an inward witness, a sense of peace, a lack of peace, interpretation of tongues, divine encounters, and dreams. God is very creative. We would be foolish to demand that He speaks to us in a certain way.”