

LEADERSHIP STUDY: 3RD AUGUST 2022

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING CONTINUALLY LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”
(Romans 8:14)

Jesus Himself said,

“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 things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26)**

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

SO WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE CONTINUALLY LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

1) Because God’s plan for our life unfolds one step at a time

In the book of Psalms we read,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way.” **(Psalm 37:23)**

- **Each day God has divine appointments for our life. Some more significant than others**
- **Being continually led by the Holy Spirit helps us to be always at the right place at the right time**

- **Being continually led by the Holy Spirit is a great key to fulfilling all that God has planned for our life**

2) So that we can get God’s wisdom and perspective for our lives. God sees the bigger picture for our lives and knows what He has planned for our lives

- **It is so important that we continually make time to hear from God**

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” (Jeremiah 23:18)

- **Life is full of important choices that we need to make. The choices that we make in life will greatly determine the outcome of our life here on earth**
- **Being continually led by the Holy Spirit helps us to consistently make right choices in life so that we continually remain in God’s will for our life**
- **Being continually led by the Holy Spirit helps us to know what to say “YES” to and what to say “NO” to**
- **Sometimes a “NO” can simply mean that it is not yet God’s perfect timing to do something**

3) Because God's ways are much higher than our ways

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” **(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

- **Being continually led by the Holy Spirit helps us to remain in the will of God for our lives**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

- **God's ways for our life can so often be different to our ways**
- **THAT IS WHY WE MUST NOT LEAN ON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING BUT ALWAYS DO WHAT GOD PUTS ON OUR HEART TO DO**
- **We will be most effective and fruitful in our Christian walk flowing in God's plan for our life**

Jesus Himself said,

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” **(John 15:16)**

4) Because involving God in all of our plans and being continually led by the Holy Spirit helps to uncomplicate our lives

- **When we allow the Holy Spirit to direct our steps in life it makes our life a lot less complicated**
- **God is able to make a way where there seems no way**
- **Learning to do things when God puts on our heart to do them is a great key to uncomplicating our lives and to completing all those things that God has planned for our life. I have always found that if I fail to do things when God puts on my heart to do them, I invariably find that life becomes more rushed and stressful**
- **God knows what is best for us in every situation and is able to connect us with the right people to see His plans for our life coming to pass**
- **We must simply learn to let go and to let God direct our steps in life**

In the book of Proverbs we read, “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.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

5) Because being continually led by the Holy Spirit helps us to avoid the snares of the Devil and the pitfalls of life

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**

- **We have a very real adversary, the Devil, who is out to destroy our lives**

Jesus Himself said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

- **We continually need God’s wisdom to make right choices in life so that we can avoid the snares of the evil one and the pitfalls of life**

6) Because when we fully surrender our lives to Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to direct our steps in life, we can have peace at all times because:

i) Nothing is impossible with God

The Angel Gabriel said to Mary the mother of Jesus,
“For with God nothing will be impossible.” **(Luke 1:37)**

ii) God promises to meet our every NEED in life when we put Christ and the things of the Kingdom first in our life

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33) AND**

iii) Nothing can ever happen to us apart from God’s will for our life when our lives are truly surrendered to Him

Jesus Himself said,

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” **(Matthew 10:29-31)**

HAVING GOD’S PEACE IN OUR HEART IS A GREAT INDICATOR THAT WE ARE IN GOD’S PERFECT WILL FOR OUR LIFE IN EACH SEASON OF OUR LIFE

AND

7) If we are not continually led by the Holy Spirit, we can miss out on God given opportunities that come our way in life

So how can we learn to be continually led by the Holy Spirit in all that we do in life:

1) We need to cultivate intimacy in our walk with the Lord

- **It is so important that we continually make time to have intimate fellowship with the Lord as we have TWO WAY COMMUNICATION WITH HIM**
- **As Christians we can hear God's voice clearly**

Jesus Himself said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27)

King David wrote, "Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

2) That we have an open bible when we draw aside to spend time with the Lord. God will always speak clearly to us through His word

- **The Holy Spirit will highlight passages of Scripture that are answers to our prayers or which give us clarity of direction in what we are meant to do**

The Psalmist wrote,

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
(**Psalm 119:105**)

“Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” (**Psalm 119:133**)

3) We need to continually (daily) commit our plans to the Lord. Not my will but Thy will be done

Again, in the book of Proverbs we read,

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (**Proverbs 16:3**)

4) We need to keep short accounts with God by having a repentant heart. This is a great key to maintaining a soft heart so that we can clearly hear the voice of God at all times

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (**1 John 1:9**)

The Psalmist wrote, “I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.” (**Psalm 66:17-19**)

Having a repentant heart helps us to have a clear pipeline of communication with God

5) We need to walk in simple obedience and be quick to do the things that God puts on our heart to do. God cannot reveal step two to us until we have done what He has called us to do for step one

- Sometimes God is waiting for us to do what He has last told us to do before He can speak to us as to what He has next planned for our life
- It is always good to keep doing what God has last told us to do until we hear our next instruction from heaven through the Holy Spirit's guidance
- **Especially when it comes to things like forgiving others, we can see our prayer life being hindered until we do those things that God has put on our heart to do such as truly forgiving some people that have hurt us**

Jesus Himself said, “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” **(Mark 11:25-26)**

6) We need to run with the first gently impression that God puts on our heart and mind to do

There are three voices that we can listen to. God's voice (the Holy Spirit), the Devil's voice (the thoughts that He targets our mind with) and our own thoughts that we listen to

Generally,

- i) The first gentle voice that we hear is the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us
- ii) The second voice that we hear is the Devil putting a contradictory thought in our mind, and
- iii) The third voice (thoughts) are us rationalizing the second voice (thoughts) that the Devil has put in our mind

It is that first gentle voice from God that we need to learn to discern and follow

7) The importance of learning to continually walk in the Spirit

- This is a great key to maintaining a heart at peace and to consistently hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit
- Hearing the gentle still small voice of the Holy Spirit is very difficult if we are operating out of our fallen human nature and walking in the flesh

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (**Galatians 5:16-18**)

8) Don't try to rationalize what God is putting on your heart to do. If we do confusion can set in and God is not the author of confusion. We must simple JUST DO WHAT JESUS TELLS US TO DO. Again, God's ways are always higher than our ways

- **We must simply learn to not lean on our own understanding but to acknowledge God in all our ways**

Again, in the book of Proverbs we read, “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.” (Proverbs 3:5-6) **AND**

9) The importance of always staying connected in fellowship with other mature believers

- God will also speak to us through other believers
- There is wisdom in a multitude of counselors
- Especially when it comes to things where our emotions are involved it is good to receive objective godly wisdom from other MATURE believers who hear from God

In the book of Hebrews we read, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.” **(Proverbs 19:20)**

I WILL FINISH WITH ONE FINAL IMPORTANT POINT:

What the Holy Spirit directs us to do will never contradict what the Bible tells us to do because the writing of the Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit. If what we hear contradicts the Bible it was not the Holy Spirit speaking to us