

## Title: Led by the Spirit: Overcoming Struggles and Finding Freedom

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the concept of being led by the Spirit and the struggle against sin and personal problems. The pastor emphasizes that true freedom comes not from the absence of problems, but from victory over them through God's power. He discusses the importance of genuinely wanting to be free, the danger of partnering with one's problems, and the reality that even those who are saved still face struggles. The sermon concludes with the idea that God's grace is sufficient, even when He doesn't remove our "thorns in the flesh."

### Key Points:

- Having a destination (heaven) is meaningless without direction (the Holy Spirit)
- True freedom is not the absence of problems, but victory over them
- We must be careful not to partner with our problems or rebrand them
- Being led by the Spirit means having power over sin, not necessarily distance from temptation
- God's grace is sufficient, even when He doesn't remove our struggles

### Scripture Reference:

- John 16:13-14
- Romans 7:15-25 (paraphrased)
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (Paul's thorn in the flesh)

### Stories:

- The pastor's experience at the Baltimore airport, noticing people eating ice cream for breakfast
- The illustration of an eagle's nest designed to be uncomfortable to encourage growth
- The physical demonstration with church members illustrating the struggle against sin and the concept of being "free indeed" while still facing temptations