

## Wind of the Spirit

### Part 6

*“Trust the Holy Spirit’s Leading”*

- **The Early Church and Apostles learned to trust the Holy Spirit’s Leading**

#### Acts 1

**4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

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**12** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. **13** When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying.

- Then Peter stood up among the believers and instead of waiting for the Holy Spirit he began to conduct business...
- Peter lead them in the business of replacing Judas among the 12...

#### Vs. 23

So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas and **Matthias**.

#### Vs. 26

Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to **Matthias**; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

- Peter and the disciples before the day of Pentecost in a sense rolled the dice and themselves chose an Apostolic substitute that is never mentioned in scripture again before or after Acts 1:23,26
- But after the day of Pentecost all of this changed...

- Peter and the Early church went from self reliance to full reliance on the Holy Spirits leading...
- You will notice the pattern and language changes drastically after the Day of Pentecost...
- The Early Church is birthed in the power of the Holy Spirit not the plans of man...
- They see Miracles by the Power of the Holy Spirit Acts 3...
- They Pray together and the place is shaken in Acts 4...
- Acts 5 Ananias and Sapphira are struck dead for lying to the Holy Spirit...
- Even the name of the Book of Acts is debated some say it's in reference to the acts of the Apostles and others the Acts of the Holy Spirit among the believers...

Never the less the early church learned to look for the will and leading of the Holy Spirit...

### **Acts 13**

**2** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." **3** So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

### **Acts 15**

**28** For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

- The Church goes from casting lots to listening to the Holy Spirit...
- From casting lots, rolling the dice, fate as it wills, to the Divine direction and leading...
- The Early Church desired to walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit...

## Romans 12

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- In an effort to follow the Holy Spirit and know God's will, something is required. Scripture is clear we must offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God...
- Second, we can no longer conform to the pattern of this world
- Third we need a transformed mind...
- It's not until we have chosen to sacrifice these things and live according to the Spirit that we will even be able to sense what God's will is...

Have you ever fasted?

What happens the moment your fast begins?

- If we want to live by the spirit we must die to the flesh...

This is what the Apostle Paul says in

## Romans 8

**5** Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.** **7** The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. **8** Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. **9** You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you.

The Apostle Paul in the book of Galatians likens Abraham and the story of Ishmael and Isaac to the church in Galatia when he found them putting their faith in observing the law over following the Spirit.

This is what Paul says

### **Galatians 4**

**22** For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. **23** His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

In the Story of Abraham and Sarah when it comes to Ishmael and Isaac, Ishmael represents what happens as a result of the will of the flesh. While Isaac represents what happens as a result of the will of the Spirit...

- For Abraham, Ishmael is the result of compromise...
- For Abraham, Isaac is the result of perseverance and faith...
- In the story, it's easy to see how the flesh can get in the way of the Promise of God...
- Sarah was old and barren...
- Abraham and Sara longed for what God promised, to be a father of many nations...
- The trouble came when out of desperation, that they began to coordinate by their own ability.
- As a result Ishmael was born from the slave woman, while Sarah remains without a child...

The way of the flesh was the easy way...

The way of the flesh was the obvious way...

But this was not the God way...

If you get hungry enough anything looks good...

## **Illustration:**

### • **Bad Pizza**

This represents the lies of the enemy...

This represents the plan and substitute of the devil...

God's Plan on the other hand might take a little longer...

It might cost you a little more...

It's going to require some sacrifice...

But you're going to know it when you see it...

### • **Good Pizza**

## **Ephesians 2:10** NLT

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

The fact that we are God's masterpiece means that there is a picture in his mind for your life...

The only way we will ever see this picture of what God has in mind fulfilled is to walk in fellowship with and follow the Holy Spirit...

That means we must say no to the wrong things and yes to the God things...

## **Psalm 34:8**

**Taste and see that the Lord is good;** blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.