

LED BY THE SPIRIT

“Change of Plans” | Led by the Spirit

Acts 16:6-10

What does it mean to be “led by the Spirit” when the Spirit wants to change our plans? How do we respond? Can we legitimately be a follower of Jesus if we are unwilling to be “led by the Spirit” into change we didn’t ask for? God always has a reason, even if we are left to view it through the clearer vision of looking back at “all that God has done.” We don’t always know why at first, but when we are lovingly obedient to the call of God, He will work out everything for our good and for His glory. Jesus doesn’t call Himself, “Lord of the Harvest,” for nothing!

The book of Acts is written by a guy named Luke, a physician, likely of Gentile background who records much of the early church history from...his own eye witness testimony...

Acts 16:6-10: 6 Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. 7 Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. 8 So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. 9 That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” 10 So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

When God says NO.→The HS prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.

- The HS did not allow them to go to Bithynia, (Northwest Asia Minor/Turkey).
- They ended up in Troas...where the author of Acts begins to use the pronoun “WE.”
 - Acts 16:10, 11, 12, 16, 19, 40, 20:5, 21:1, 21:10, 27:1, 27:2 - Luke begins to accompany Paul...
 - Lk:2/37,932/27.48%→Pl:13/27/32,408/23.48%→Jn/28,091/20.35%→Mt/18,346/13.29%→Mk/11,304/8.19%
 - Peter:2→Matthew→Mark→James→Jude→Hebrews
- ...there is always a reason.→Truth is...we may NEVER know...

When God says GO.→In Troas, Paul receives a vision of the Macedonian man.→“Lord of the Harvest”→Mt. 9:37-38

- **Philippi (Acts 16:11-40):** On the Sabbath, outside the city by the river, where they meet Lydia, a worshiper of God.
 - Lydia and her household are baptized, Paul casts out a demon from a slave girl, leading to being jailed.
 - While in prison, an earthquake occurs, and the jailer and his household are converted and baptized.
- **Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9):** Paul preaches in the synagogue, reasoning with the Jews for three Sabbaths.
 - Some Jews and a multitude of devout Greeks and leading women believe, but opposition arises.
 - Paul and Silas leave Thessalonica by night to avoid the opposition.
- **Berea (Acts 17:10-15):** Paul and Silas find a more receptive audience among the Jews.
 - The Bereans search the Scriptures daily to verify Paul's teachings.
 - However, Jews from Thessalonica oppose them, & Paul departs for Athens, leaving Silas/Timothy behind.
- Edward Kimble→Dwight L. Moody→Wilbur Chapman→Billy Sunday→Mordecai Ham→Billy Graham→GL & RW
- ...there is always a reason.→But...we don’t always know what it is on the front end?

When God says GROW.→ ...we are the reason.

- Romans 8:28: If we love God, it will be GOOD...in His time...and in His way.

→**Jesus Christ is the Head of His Church!**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit changing your plans, and what was your response?
2. Reflect on a situation where God said “NO” in your life. How did you handle it, and what did you learn?
3. Reflect on a situation where God said “NO” in your life. How did you handle it, and what did you learn?
4. How does God use change and transition to grow us as we are “led by the Spirit?”
5. **PRAYER:** “Holy Spirit, help me to go wherever you call me and do whatever you call me to do!”

Articles:

- "THE CHAIN OF EVENTS LEADING TO BILLY GRAHAM'S CONVERSION" by Travis Agnew: <https://www.travisagnew.org/2013/07/22/the-chain-of-events-for-billy-grahams-conversion/>
- "The Night Billy Graham Was Born Again" by Laura Bailey: <https://billygraham.org/story/the-night-billy-graham-was-born-again/>

The Holy Spirit's activity in the OT & the NT:

- **Romans 8:11**: "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you."
- **Colossians 1:15**: "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation."
- **Ephesians 4:22-24**: "Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy."
- **1 Peter 1:2**: "God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ."
- **2 Corinthians 3:18**: "So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."
- **Galatians 5:22-23**: "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
- **Philippians 1:6**: "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23**: "Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again."

The Holy Spirit's activity in the OT & the NT:

Old Testament:

- **Genesis 1:2** - "The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters."
- **Exodus 31:3** - "I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts."
- **Numbers 11:25** - "Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him. He took some of the Spirit that was upon Moses and put the Spirit upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But this never happened again."
- **Judges 14:6** - "The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands. He did it as easily as if it were a young goat. But he didn't tell his father or mother about it."
- **1 Samuel 10:6** - "At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person."
- **1 Samuel 16:13** - "So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on."
- **Isaiah 11:2** - "And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."
- **Ezekiel 36:27** - "And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."

New Testament:

- **Matthew 3:16** - "After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him."
- **John 14:16-17** - "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth."
- **Acts 2:4** - "And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability."
- **Romans 8:9** - "But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)"
- **1 Corinthians 2:10-11** - "But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets."
- **Galatians 5:22-23** - "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

- **Ephesians 1:13-14** - "And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago."
- **1 Thessalonians 1:5** - "For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true."

The Trinity Scriptures: 3 "persons" in 1 "essence"

Old Testament:

- **Genesis 1:26-27:** "Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.'"
- **Genesis 3:22:** "And the Lord God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.'"
- **Genesis 11:7:** "Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."
- **Isaiah 6:8:** "Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?'"
- **Isaiah 48:16:** "Come closer, and listen to this. From the beginning I have told you plainly what would happen. And now the Sovereign Lord and his Spirit have sent me with this message."

New Testament:

- **Matthew 3:16-17:** "After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.'"
- **Matthew 28:19:** "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."
- **John 14:16-17:** "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth."
- **John 15:26:** "But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me."
- **John 16:13-15:** "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future."
- **2 Corinthians 13:14:** "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."
- **Ephesians 4:4-6:** "For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all."

Scriptures Use Metaphors to Speak about the Holy Spirit:

- **Wind: John 3:8** - "The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."
- **Fire: Acts 2:3** - "Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them."
- **Water: John 7:38-39** - "Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.' (When he said 'living water,' he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him.)"
- **Oil: 1 John 2:20, 27** - "But you are not like that, for the Holy One has given you his Spirit, and all of you know the truth... But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie."
- **Dove: Matthew 3:16** - "After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him."
- **Seal/Seal of Promise: Ephesians 1:13-14** - "And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people."

The Holy Spirit has work to do in us and through us.

- **Comforter/Advocate: John 14:16-17:** "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth."
- **Teacher/Guide: John 16:13:** "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard."
- **Convicter of Sin: John 16:8:** "And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment."
- **Indweller of Believers: 1 Cor. 6:19:** "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?"
- **Empowerer for Christian Living: Gal. 5:22-23:** "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
- **Revealer of God's Wisdom: 1 Cor. 2:10-12:** "But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets."

- **Bearer of Witness: Rom. 8:16:** "For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children."
- **Empowerer for Ministry: Acts 1:8:** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- **Intercessor in Prayer: Rom. 8:26:** "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words."
- **Grantor of Spiritual Gifts: 1 Cor. 12:4-11:** "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all."
- **Giver of Life: Rom. 8:11:** "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you."
- **Transformative Agent: 2 Cor. 3:18:** "So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."
- **Interpreter of Spiritual Truth: 1 Cor. 2:14:** "But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means."
- **Sealer/Assurer of Salvation: Eph. 1:13-14:** "And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago."
- **Unifier of Believers: Eph. 4:3:** "Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace."
- **Empowerer for Holiness: 2 Thess. 2:13:** "As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth."
- **Empowerer for Endurance: Romans 15:13:** "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."
- **Agent of Baptism: Matthew 3:11:** "I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."
- **Glorifier of Christ: John 16:14:** "He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me."
- **Revealer of God's Love: Romans 5:5:** "And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."

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