

# The Spiritual Life: Learning to be Led

God has the whole heart of those who fully trust Him. These are His true children, the ones led by the Holy Spirit.

## Satan's Strategy to Separate Men from God

Genesis 3:1-5

New Living Translation

The Man and Woman Sin

3 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"

4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

- The first thing the devil did was make Eve question God, "Did God really say?"
- The second thing he did was directly oppose God's word. This was an effort to convince her there was no danger of dying in disobedience.
- The third thing he did was convince her that God knew He was withholding something good from her, that would make her more Godlike.
- Finally he told her the power she would obtain would be a knowledge separate from God, but equal in power.
- Humanity would now have the ability to know good, and to know evil.

## Loving One, Hating the Other

Matthew 6:24

New Living Translation

24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other.

Genesis 4:1

New King James Version

4 Now Adam knew Eve, his wife, and she conceived and bore [a]Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.”

- So just as Adam knew, or became intimate with Eve and produced something. Our ability to know good, or know evil allows us to have an intimate relationship with God and produce righteousness together, or have an intimate relationship with Satan and produce evil together.
- Our free will, coupled with our knowledge of good and evil has made us like God but which one? The God of Heaven, the Lord God Jehovah, or the god of this earth Lucifer?

## The Evil Condition of the Human Heart

Genesis 6:5-6

New Living Translation

5 The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. 6 So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart.

- So man’s knowledge of evil, led to intimacy with Satan, and produced wickedness in the earth and a great love for evil.

John 3:19

New Living Translation

19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

Jeremiah 17:9

New Living Translation

9 "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things,  
and desperately wicked.

Who really knows how bad it is?

## The Conflict of the Soul

Galatians 5:17

New Living Translation

17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

- Because there is opposition between the two natures we must choose which God will lead us.
- Knowing the evil condition of our hearts separate from God, we must choose to never lean on that which is broken.

Proverbs 3:5-6

New King James Version

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall [a]direct your paths.

- Trust is to have a loyal confidence in someone. An unbreakable belief in the ability of someone's nature to be consistent.
- Why with all of our heart? Knowing the conflict between the two natures, and the condition of the old heart, we must fully turn our hearts over to God.
- Lean definitions: : to incline, deviate, or bend from a vertical position

- b: to cast one's weight to one side for support
- 2: to rely for support or inspiration
- 3: to incline in opinion, taste, or desire
- In order to exhibit righteousness we must be led by the Righteous One in all of our ways. Literally every way! All that we do, and hope to do.
- Acknowledge: : to recognize the rights, authority, or status of. Lord

“ I acknowledge your rights over my life, so not my way but your way. I acknowledge your authority as the sovereign and supreme Lord of my life, your thoughts are higher than my thoughts, your ways are higher than my ways. Lord you are my Savior, and I am the redeemed, you made the way for my salvation. Now that I have acknowledged who you are, please direct my paths as you promised”

- What is a directed path? It is the ordering of our steps by the whispers of the Lord to our hearts. It's also the direction of the paths under our feet as he orchestrates all things working together for our good.

## Searching for God's Goodness

Matthew 7:7-11

New Living Translation

7 “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! 11 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

- With which nature are we seeking gifts from God?

- The good gifts the Father gives are predetermined to be good by Him.

## The King of Kings

Revelation 1:5-6

New King James Version

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who [a]loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us [b]kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Judges 21:25

New Living Translation

25 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

Proverbs 14:12

New Living Translation

12 There is a path before each person that seems right,  
but it ends in death.