

Sunday, March 5, 2023
LEADING OF THE SPIRIT
PART 2: HOW DOES GOD DO IT?

Last Sunday, we began a series of talks about the leading of the Holy Spirit. A pastor once said that we will live or die based upon our ability to hear from God. That is what we'll focus on – our ability to hear from the Lord. One of the things we learned last week:

The Holy Spirit brings the will of God to pass in the natural realm.

The Spirit is the primary agent of the Godhead that we interact with on the earth. The Father is in heaven. Jesus has ascended to His right hand. The Holy Spirit is sent so that we can be filled with and led by God:

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. /// John 14:26 (NLT)

The Spirit brings the will of the Father to pass by empowering us to testify of Jesus in our lives.

How are we led by the Spirit into the will of God? Some of the most common ways:

1. Scripture
2. Spirit to spirit communication
3. Impressions
4. Communication through others
5. Signs
6. Dreams

You will notice that Scripture is listed first.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)

Scripture is the highest revelation of God to man. Every other spiritual communication is to be judged by it.

The Spirit fulfills the will of the Father and magnifies Jesus by staying true to the Word of God in every leading of humanity. Last week, we looked at the first mention of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. It was in the first two sentences of Genesis – the beginning of creation. Notice who else was there:

John 1:1-3 (NIV)

lógos (from *légō*, "speaking to a conclusion") – a *word*, being the expression of a *thought*; a saying. *lógos* ("word") is preeminently used of *Christ* (Jn 1:1), expressing the *thoughts* of the Father through the Spirit.

If a leading does not find its nature and foundation in the Word, it is useless. Spirit to spirit communications can come from 3 primary places: the Holy Spirit, the demonic, and the psychological. Demons will ignore scripture, violate scripture, use scripture out of context in an attempt to deceive. Scripture is your judge. Psychological needs can appear as spiritual direction.

Psychological need: unresolved guilt, pain, confusion, anger, etc., that take the form of spiritual direction in an attempt to take control of decisions.

Once again, the entire context of the Word is used to discern Spirit to spirit communication.

John 10:1-10 (NIV)

Jesus' sheep "know" His voice. What is His voice? The Word. Impressions could be described as a "pressing" direction. Not necessarily hearing the Spirit speak but feeling a strong sense of direction to do something. We can feel an impression to knock you out – so these are once again weighed against the goals of the Word and the heart of Jesus. Next time: communication through others, signs, and dreams.

Today's Scriptures:

- John 14:26 (NLT)
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)
- John 1:1-3 (NIV)
- John 10:1-10 (NIV)