

## HOW YOU CAN BE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

When you were saved you became God's child, God became your friend.

A good father always wants the best for his children. Since a father knows more than his small children, he wants to help them doing everything in the best way. He wants to give advice in difficult decisions, he wants to give warnings when there are dangers, but also help the children to succeed in all areas of life

This is our heavenly father. He wants the best for his children in life.

### **3 Joh. 2**

*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

Here we see that God wants that we should succeed in everything that we are doing, that we should be healthy and feel good in our soul.

It means that God wants you to succeed in everything you are doing. In your studies, at your work, in your company, as a parent and so on. Then God will be honored and very happy, since he loves his children.

### **Ps. 23:1-4**

*1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*2. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters.*

*3. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

*4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

David is describing the Lord as a good shepherd. A good shepherd leads his sheep to the right place. If the shepherd don't do that, he would have to suffer himself since he is not taking care of his herd. Other shepherds will talk bad about him and they don't want to have anything to do with him. But God is a good shepherd and he leads his sheep in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Now we have seen that God wants to lead us, showing us what way to go. Let's now look how God leads us in practice.

### **Joh. 14:16-18**

*16. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever –*

*17. The spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

*18. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

We see that the Holy Spirit is our helper. He is the one who lives inside of you and he is also the one who will guide and lead you. (You have studied in lesson 9 about the person of the Holy Spirit.)

In life we will come to many crossroads. We don't know what is best or what direction to go.

Here's one example: You live in Iran and you are facing difficult times. You are thinking on two different directions. Shall I believe God for help and protection to remain in the country? Or shall I escape out of the country to another country?

It is a difficult decision. It will affect your future for many years ahead.

If I with a lot of struggle and a lot of money escape the country and enters another, can I stay there? Many iranians have been stuck in refugee camps for years without any possibility to a good life. Then after a long time they have received a negative answer and have to go back to Iran. Some has then chosen to hide themselves in the new country where they have had a very difficult life.

But if you remain inside Iran it might imply severe persecutions, maybe even imprisonment and torture.

In such and similar situations God wants to clearly show us what is right, what is his will. The great thing is that if you get clarity in what God wants and what he says about the situation, it creates faith in your heart. That faith releases the power of God to victory and breakthrough. You just know that God is with you, and that he wants to help and guide you in the decision you have taken which agree with his good will.

**Gen. 26:1-6, 12**

*1. There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.*

*2. Then the Lord appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.*

*3. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands; and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.*

*4. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;*

*5. because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."*

*6. So Isaac dwelt in Gerar.*

*12. The Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.*

There was a famine in the country and a very difficult time for everybody. But Isaac lived in covenant with God. Therefore God revealed himself for him and told him to remain in the land. Even though it was failure of the crops God wanted him to sow in the country. He did it, and there was a hundredfold harvest in the same year.

Naturally speaking he should have left the country. But God had a better solution for him. He listened and followed God's plan for his life and that made him very successful.

**Gen. 26:14, 28**

*14. for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.*

*28. But they said, "We have certainly seen that the Lord is with you. So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you'".*

**Prov. 3:1-6**

*1. My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands;*

*2. For length of days and long life and peace they will add to you.*

3. *Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart;*
4. *And so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.*
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 direct your paths.*

One thing I have learnt is:

## **God is much smarter than me!**

### **How you can be led by the Holy Spirit**

#### **A. Trust in God.**

First God wants us to dare to trust in him and know without a shadow of a doubt that God is love and that he always wants our best. We also need to know that we at times don't know what is best for us.

#### **Rom. 8:31-32**

31. *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*
32. *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

The first thing that you need to do when you are facing big and difficult decisions is to get peace with God. Panic and fear is not a good starting point to hear the Shepherd's voice. Dare to trust the Lord. You have studied in earlier subjects that faith comes by hearing the word of God. Renew the faith of your heart, by reading the word of God, the Bible, and some of the materials on this site (for example: What faith is? Ever increasing faith). Don't forget that God is with you and he wants to guide and lead you.

#### **B. Fellowship with God.**

As God's children we have the advantage of having a personal relationship with God. He is near you, he is in you. Speak with him openly about everything in prayer and conversation. He is both your friend and your Lord. Listen to him from his word in the Bible. There he wants to speak to you. Sometimes pray out his word, use it as your words of prayer. Worship, praise him in word or in song, in your language or in tongues.

#### **Joh. 14:17, 23**

17. *The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*
23. *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

The bank employees learn how a genuine note looks by watching the genuine notes. When the employees learn how a real note looks like, they know exactly which the false ones are.

When we fellowship in an intimate relationship with God it is so easy to recognize his voice and get guidance. Then his path is easy to see and understand for us.

**Rom. 12:2**

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Our minds and our thoughts become in line with His thoughts when we let His word change us.

Then it will be easy to see God's path in our difficulties.

**C. Not outside the word of God.**

When God leads us through his Spirit, or talk to us it will always be in accordance to God's word.

He never goes beyond his word. If someone says that he has heard from God, but it's not in accordance to God's word, don't bother on the things said. Follow the word of God. Do the same thing if your own experience contradicts the word.

**1 Thess. 5:20-21**

*20. Do not despise prophecies.*

*21. Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

- ✘ We should not pursue hearing voices
- ✘ We should not follow voices
- ✘ We should follow the word of God

Never accept anything without first testing it in the light of God's word. If we pursue hearing voices, the demons of satan might speak. But they never speak such which agree with the word of God. It will always be lies and it will create confusion.

Conclusion: Don't pursue that God should talk to you. He does if He wants and if you need it.

When he does, test it with the word of God. If it agrees with the word and you feel peace and a green light, then it's real.

**D. God's Spirit talks to us and leads us mainly in three different ways.**

- 1. The inner testimony**
- 2. The still small voice**
- 3. The Spirit of God's audible voice**

**✘1. The inner testimony**

**Rom. 8:16**

*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

This is the most common way, so common, simple and natural that you easily miss it. Our soul wants it to be more supernatural.

We often miss the supernatural, because it's so natural.

Here's a testimony from the book, "*How you can be led by the Spirit of God*," by Kenneth E. Hagin:

*"During the year I had been preaching a series of meetings in a certain church. Almost every pastor asked me to come to preach and have meetings. I believe I got hundreds of invitations. One brother came to me and said, "Brother Hagin, do you ever go to small churches?"*

*"I go wherever the Lord asks me to go," I answered.*

*"We have 70-90 people on a Sunday. But if God ever speaks to you about it, we really want you to come.*

*I let the invitation go, together with hundreds of others. But many months later when I was praying for an evening meeting, this conversation came to my mind again. And it kept coming back to me after that. Finally after a month, I said, "Lord, do you want me to go to this little church and have meetings?"*

*The more I thought about it and prayed about it, the more I thought about it, and the better it felt inside of me. It was not a physical feeling, but a feeling in my spirit.*

*It was like a velvet feeling inside my Spirit.*

*That's the green light. It is the go – signal. It is the testimony of the Spirit that you should go."*

End of quote.

### **How to feel the inner witness**

It's like an inner knowing, without doubting, you just know. You feel the green light on the inside. You feel peace.

Your soul might start to think how this all will happen and so on. You might go back and start to doubt.

Then you don't feel the peace of God. The things of God then often feel totally wrong.

When you are pressed, worried or feel confused don't make any decisions. Seek peace and love.

### **The inner witness can easiest be described in this way.**

You stand at a crossroad in your life. You don't know if you should go right or left. You don't know what's God's will in this. You have surrendered yourself to him and don't want anything else but do that which pleases him. But which path is the right for you?

I have experienced when I stand in worship and experience the presence of God or when I have been praying and his presence is there, then literally I have put myself at the crossroad. Then it has been easy for me to see which of the alternatives, left or right, gives red or green light, which one of the paths which gives peace or distress.

The inner witness is the absolute most common way how God leads his children. God's children are called to walk in peace and joy all the time. Even if there might be difficult circumstances and difficulties on the road.

You just follow the inner peace.

We often complicate the walk with God. When it comes to knowing God's path and his plan for our lives, we have to remember that God is more interested that we are on the right road

than we are. He is our shepherd, and he has promised to lead us. We are his sheep. Sheep cannot make it without a shepherd who shows them the right pastures. If you only want to be at the right place, God will make sure that you are at the right place, by following the inner peace and joy, which characterizes God's own character.

**Ps. 16:11**

*You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

**Ps. 34:14**

*Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.*

**Gal. 5:1**

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

If you feel distress and don't feel the green light, wait with your decision. God will not force you.

Often God has placed a longing deep down in your heart, in your inner being. These are his plans for you.

**Prov. 20:5**

*Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.*

Listen to your inner witness. If you have taken the wrong road, then go back to the crossroad where you felt peace.

**Be careful of this:**

**A.** Don't add anything to what the Holy Spirit has said. It is easy to add things along the road.

**Prov. 30:5-6**

*5. Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.*

*6. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.*

**B.** Hesitation. Listen to that signal. It might be a good thing, but still you hesitate, it is not God's best. Go back to the crossroad. If it is God he will come back. God doesn't want you to be doubtful, you will know that you know.

**C.** Time. Here we often miss it. Paul had to wait for twelve years before he started doing that which God had called him to do.

**Hebr. 10:36**

*For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.*

**D.** Suspiciousness. God will not be hurt if you make sure how things are. Ask and make research so that you have a better basis for your decision.

## **2. The still small voice**

When God lives inside of us it is no wonder if he speaks to us. That voice is still as the voice of our conscience. At the same time we feel green light in our spirit. It always agrees with the word of God.

The inner voice is a quiet, still, inner voice, followed by a inner peace.

I remembered when I first visited the country of Iran.

I had got to know one iranian in our country which is in Europe.

Here my iranian friend lived as a refugee.

He got saved, and became a true disciple of Christ.

Then my iranian friend was sent back from my country to Iran. But he was not disappointed, on the contrary, he was full of faith and confident that the hand of God was over his life.

Now I was sitting alone in his living room one early morning in Iran, outside the window was a big mosque. Then I heard the inner still voice of the Holy Spirit: *“Stay here for a longer time and build my church.”*

I just knew it was God’s Spirit who asked me to do this. At the same time I knew it was completely impossible. But God had put faith inside my heart. It also agreed with the word of God.

### **Mt. 28:19-20**

*19. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

*20. teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”*

### **Mark. 16:15-16**

*15. And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

*16. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

My wife got a word to our friends in the house a few days before that they should be donkeys for Jesus.

### **Mt. 21:1-3, 6-11**

*1. Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,*

*2. saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her.*

*3. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them’, and immediately he will send them.”*

*6. So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.*

*7. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.*

*8. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.*

9. Then the multitude who went before and those who followed cried out saying; “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”

10. And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?”

11. So the multitude said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Here it says that Jesus was in need of a donkey to ride in as the Prince of Peace in Jerusalem. Jesus needed our friends who like a donkey would bring the gospel to Iran. She shared this with them, but this word didn't leave my wife, the word remained with her. In the night after I had received the word, “*Stay here for a longer time and build my church*”, I said to my wife, “I believe that we will live in Iran for some time to build God's church.” She said, “Yes, why not”. That was not her normal reaction to something big and impossible. She is a woman who stands with her feet on the ground.

In the morning when she was praising and praying the Holy Spirit came immediately with the same word to her:

“*Do you want to be a donkey for me in Iran?*”

“*Yes, If you can use a donkey like me, I want to stay here,*” her immediate response was.

Nine months later I moved together with my wife to the wonderful country of Iran to complete that which the Holy Spirit had so silently spoken that early morning.

Therefore we are today active in building God's church in Iran.

The inner still voice is very similar to the inner witness. You can say that both rest on the same foundation. Everything that is included in the inner witness is there. But now the Holy Spirit takes the initiative to show a new path or a new direction for your life.

When we hear the inner still voice, at the same time we feel peace, green light and wonderful peace.

### 3. The voice of the Holy Spirit

#### Acts. 9:1-7

1. Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

2. and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

4. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

5. And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

6. So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

7. And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

#### Acts. 10:19

While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are seeking you.”

The voice of the Holy Spirit can sometimes be like an audible voice; plain and clear, authoritative and decisive. And often when we are facing big, important steps and decisions. But it is not so common. I have never experienced it. Together with the audible voice it gives the same peace and green light as the inner witness and the inner still small voice.

Important to say again:

Don't look for voices. The demons of darkness might then try to get your attention and want to mislead you. If this happens you can expose them by:

- ✘ There is no peace.
- ✘ There is no joy.
- ✘ It creates confusion and despair.
- ✘ There is a compulsion, a force which everybody around you feel annoying.
- ✘ It doesn't agree with the word of God.

All the three different levels

- ✘ The inner witness
- ✘ The still small voice
- ✘ The audible, a little more authoritative voice

... is always followed by an inner peace, a green light, like a velvet feeling, an inner knowing. And it always agree with the word of God.

### **The voice of your soul**

Now we have looked upon the real. Then it is easy to see what is not real.

Sombody might with a lot of faith and joy say: "This and this God has said."

If somebody questions that, or comes with objections or hard questions, the person who has said that might feel threatened.

He might say that it is rebellion to question him; he feels threatened.

It shows that it is soulish and not from God.

You can also see the same thing by working in your own strength trying to prove to others that it is from God. A restlessness, a force and a pushing trying to get others to believe is a warning sign.

He who has got something from God is secure in it. He lets God be God.

### **Ps. 19:7-10**

*7. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.*

*8. The statues of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

*9. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.*

*10. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

God bless you in your future walk with God.

He is your shepherd and he wants to lead you with all of his heart, more than you. If you are humble and really wants him to lead you he will do it. You don't have to fear going wrong.

*How you can be led by the spirit of God*

He will lead you since he loves you. He sees your heart and he says, "I love you, you are my child, I will never leave you."

Greetings,  
Your pastor and friend.

If you have any questions concerning this subject, or if you are facing a difficult decision and you feel that you need to share this with somebody to choose God's direction, feel free to write to me through the contact side. Write in farsi with latin letters if you can.

## **EXAM**

1. Which is the most common way that the Spirit of God leads us?
  - A. The inner witness.
  - B. Revelations of angels
  - C. An audible voice
  
2. Where does it say, *“He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”*
  - A. 3 Joh. 2
  - B. Prov. 3:6
  - C. Ps. 23:3
  
3. When God leads me I experience it as,
  - A. A green light and a peace
  - B. A forcing feeling
  - C. Worry and fear.
  
4. If that which I believe God has said to me doesn’t agree with the word of God, I should not think more of it.
  - A. Right
  - B. Wrong
  
5. How long time did it take for Paul to enter that which God had called him to do?
  - A. 1 year
  - B. 7 years
  - C. 12 years