

# How to be Led by the Holy Spirit, Part 1

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**Romans 8:14 (NKJV) “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”**

Everywhere people are looking for direction. Unfortunately many have sought guidance in unbiblical ways including palm readers, horoscopes, psychics, New Age spirit guides, and even the occult. However, Scripture is clear that certain means of guidance are forbidden by God. God told Israel, “When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. 13 You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. 14 For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.” (Deuteronomy 18:9–14 NKJV)

While God has forbidden believers from participating in certain kinds of spiritual activity, He has not left us without direction. God guides our lives through two different forms of holy guidance. The first is what I call “conscious guidance”. This includes any kind of guidance in which we are aware of God’s guidance. This includes guidance through the Word of God or the leading of the Holy Spirit. An example of this is when Simeon, a man who was awaiting the coming Messiah, came “by the Spirit” into the temple at the exact time when Jesus was being presented by His parents. (Luke 2:27) Simeon was consciously aware that God was leading him.

The second form of holy guidance is what I call “Unconscious Guidance”. This is the most common form of guidance because it involves God’s sovereign and providential guidance in our lives—a guidance that we are unaware of at the moment it happens. Unconscious guidance takes place through circumstances beyond our direct knowledge or control—circumstances orchestrated by God to bring us into the right place at the right time to fulfill His purpose and plan. Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV) says, “A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.” An example of unconscious guidance is Anna who providentially “came in at that very instant” when Simeon was prophesying over the baby Jesus and His mother (Luke 2:38). God is actively working behind the scenes to bring about His purpose for our lives.

Guidance is God revealing His will to us. In order to receive holy guidance, we must first repent of and completely break off all unbiblical forms of guidance. Then and only then are we able to receive guidance from God.

As we seek guidance from God, we must not ignore the importance of the Holy Spirit. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:9–16 (NKJV): “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of

the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For 'who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ." This passage tells us that human wisdom is not a safe guide. Why? It is because human wisdom is limited by what it can perceive with the natural mind. It ignores the spiritual dimension that can only be perceived by faith. God's wisdom is not irrational, but it is unperceivable with our natural minds. That is why God has given us the Holy Spirit so we can know the things of God and the "mind of Christ".

Unfortunately we don't always discern God's guidance for our lives because we are worldly minded rather than spirit conscious. Therefore we must understand the importance of becoming spirit conscious. The Bible teaches us that man is made up of spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The spirit, soul, and body are different and can be distinguished from one another (Hebrews 4:12). Through the five physical senses (see, hear, touch, taste, and smell), our human body is able to relate to the physical realm. Through our human soul (made up of our mind, will, and emotions), we are able to relate to other human beings. Our soul defines our individual personhood and personality. Our human soul also contains the heart of man from which derives our motives, attitudes, and desires. However, the most important but most neglected area of our life is our human spirit. God is spirit (John 4:23-24) and it is through our human spirit that we are able to relate to God in a spiritual way.

Unfortunately, sin brought spiritual death to the human race. Spiritual death means that our spirit man is dead and unable to perceive spiritual realities. However, when a person believes in the Gospel, his spirit is "born again". (John 3:3, 5-8). He becomes a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). On the other hand, our human body is not made new when our spirit is born again. That is why we still struggle with physical issues as we wait with hope until the final installment of our adoption—the redemption of our bodies at Christ's return (Romans 8:23). Neither is our human soul saved when we are born again. Our soul is saved (transformed) through the daily process of receiving the word of God to be planted in our mind and heart (James 1:18-21; Romans 12:2).

While we must daily bring our human bodies and souls into subjection to God's will, it is through the human spirit that the Holy Spirit brings the illumination we need to know God's will. Proverbs 20:27 (NKJV) declares, "The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart." God wants to show us the things He has prepared for us including knowing His specific will for our lives. God does this through the Holy Spirit who will illuminate our human spirit. Are you consciously aware of the Holy Spirit in your life? It is those who are led by the Spirit of God who are the sons of God. In Part 2 we will begin exploring different ways that God will help us become consciously aware of His will for our lives.

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