

## Prerequisites to Being Led by the Spirit of God, Part 3

Many people follow their own lead, only to end up in the wrong place. They find themselves with nothing working for them. The Holy Spirit, Who is the Truth Giver, has been sent to Christians to bring enlightenment. He wants to direct you on the correct path for your life, but you must first learn how to listen to His voice

### **A. God wants you to understand the importance of being led by the Spirit.**

1. Don't live by your emotions, because they aren't stable.
  - a. God created you with emotions, but not so that they would drive and direct your life.
2. Man is a tri-part being—he is a spirit being who has a soul and lives in a physical body. Through his spirit, he is able to contact God (Proverbs 20:27).
  - a. God will only guide you through your spirit, because He is a Spirit (John 4:23-24).
  - b. Even though God speaks to your spirit, the flesh will override what He is saying if your spirit is underdeveloped and your flesh is strong.
  - c. If you spend time in the Word, you'll be able to hear and trust the voice of your spirit, or your conscience.
3. Many people wonder if the voice they heard giving directions was God's, the Devil's or their own. The way to discern if God is speaking is by asking yourself several questions about what you hear:
  - a. Does it line up with the Word?
  - b. Does it require faith?
  - c. Does it require courage to do it?
  - d. Does it go against all the reasons and rationalizations of the world?
  - e. Do you have the peace of God about it (Colossians 3:5)?
4. Not everyone is in a position to hear God's voice and to be led by Him. God is always speaking, but there are three different types of receivers:
  - a. Those who can't hear because of the lives they live.
  - b. Those who hear, but choose to ignore what they've heard.
  - c. Those who hear and obey.

### **B. There are eight prerequisites to hearing the voice of God.**

1. You must be born again (John 3:3).
  - a. The natural man will think the things of God are foolish (1 Corinthians 2:14).
  - b. Hearing from God is part of your divine heritage (Romans 8:14).
2. You must be a person of meekness.
  - a. God will teach and guide the meek (Psalm 25:9).
  - b. Moses was the meekest man on the earth in his day, and God was able to use him mightily (Psalm 103:7).
  - c. A man who is meek will receive the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
  - d. Meekness has three parts:
    - i. Self-control, or slowness to give or take offense.

- ii. Humility, or being humble in spirit and lowly in mind.
    - iii. Teachability.
  - e. Meekness is displayed when a person does not take offense when he suffers for being in the right.
- 3. You must display faithfulness.
  - a. Don't let your senses guide you. Walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).
- 4. You need to spend time in fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Talk with and seek the advice of the Holy Spirit so that He can lead and guide you.
- 5. You must walk in "quietness."
  - a. Don't listen to the cares of the world; give them to God to handle (1 Peter 5:7).
- 6. You must walk in love.
  - a. You will be unable to hear from God when you walk in selfishness.
  - b. When you are operating in selfishness, you crown yourself "god" and lead yourself instead of consulting God for His direction.
  - c. By not walking in love, you grieve the Holy Spirit and quench His fire through your disobedience (Ephesians 4:30-32; 1 Thessalonians 5:19).
  - d. Walking in love means having a life without malice or entanglement.
- 7. You must be open to His direction.
  - a. Don't be set in your ways; be open to hear what He has to say and then make the appropriate adjustments (Matthew 18:3-4).
  - b. Be willing to obey God's instructions, even if they contradict your desired actions.
  - c. You must have a soft, pliable heart. God will show Himself strong to those who have a blameless, pliable and adjustable heart (2 Chronicles 16:9, AMP).
  - d. You may try to make plans for your life, but God will direct your steps if you have an open heart to hear Him. He will make those steps sure (Proverbs 16:9, AMP).
- 8. You must worship and praise.
  - a. Because of the blood of Jesus, we have access to His presence and should give Him praise (Hebrews 10:19).
  - b. God inhabits your praise (Psalm 22:3).
  - c. When situations arise, the first thing you should do is give Him praise so that when He comes to help, He'll speak to you and you will hear Him.

Proverbs 20:27

John 4:23-24

Colossians 3:5

John 3:3

1 Corinthians 2:14

Romans 8:14

Psalm 25:9

Psalm 103:7

2 Corinthians 5:7

1 Peter 5:7

Ephesians 4:30-32

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Matthew 18:3-4

2 Chronicles 16:9, AMP

Proverbs 16:9, AMP

Hebrews 10:19

Psalm 22:3

