

Led by the Spirit - Part 6

LED BY THE SPIRIT

Psalm 37: 1-6 and 23-24

STIMULATE

** Over our past five studies together, we have learned that the expressed will of God for all Christians is for us to be **Saved, Spirit-filled, Sanctified, Submissive** and (from last week) willing to experience **Suffering** for His name.

Our suffering is actually the design of God and is according to His will. We should always respond with trust and heartfelt obedience!

** With what clothing should all Christians adorn themselves while going through this God ordained suffering?

We should put on the clothing of humility (under the mighty hand of God)! cf. 1Peter 5:5

MOTIVATE

** All of this has been excellent, and time well spent in learning about the expressed will of God. But what about our original question? “How can I know if I am following the Holy Spirit’s lead or I am simply doing whatever is on my mind to do?” We desire to serve our Lord and to live in the center of His will; but to do that we are going to need to be “**Led by the Spirit**”.

For today we want to consider just two important principles from God’s word, which will illustrate for us what it means to live each day being “**Led by the Spirit**”. Please turn in your Bibles to Psalm 37, as we study together verses 1-6 and 23-24.

Read passage (V.1-3) (V.4-6) (V.23-24)

Opening Prayer

Led by the Spirit

INVESTIGATE

V. 1 ** As we begin to study a small portion of this masterpiece by David, we need to firmly establish our starting point. What five things have we learned about the Christian who is being “**Led by the Spirit**”?

The Christian who is truly led each day by the Holy Spirit is:

- 1) **Saved** - Romans 10:9-10, 8:16-17
- 2) **Spirit-filled** - Colossians 1:9-10, 2:6-7, 1Thessalonians 2:10-12 and Luke 1:15
- 3) **Sanctified** - Romans 1:1, Galatians 1:15-17 and Romans 6:12-13
- 4) **Submissive** - Romans 12:10, Philippians 2:3
- 5) **Suffering** - Acts 5:41, 1Peter 4:14-16

** We must take a very close look into our own hearts to be sure that all five of these elements are what make up our daily walk with the Lord. With that now firmly established in our minds, what is David’s instruction to the true child of God?

“Do not fret because of evildoers...”

** What would make us “fret” relative to the evildoers who are living all around us?

The mere fact that evil men and unrepentant sinners do prosper for a season in this life.
cf. Psalm 37:7-8, Jeremiah 12:1

** Besides fretting, what second sin are we to avoid while we are being “**Led by the Spirit**”?

“...be not envious toward wrongdoers.”

** Is that easy to do?

Certainly! If our situation is not going well (and we are living in obedience to Christ), while at the same time “wrongdoers” are prospering; we can easily become envious. cf. Psalm 73:2-4, Proverbs 3:31-35

V. 2 ** What does verse two say will ultimately become of the evil, wrongdoers around us?

They will “wither quickly” and “fade like the green herb”. cf. James 1:9-11

V. 3 ** Having instructed us on two things we are not to do, David now turns a corner and gives us five specific commands which we are to do if we hope to understand the first principle of being “**Led by the Spirit**”. What is the first command?

1) Trust in the Lord! cf. Psalm 62:8, 115:11, Isaiah 26:4

** What is David’s second command for us Spirit led Christians to follow?

2) Quite simply, “and do good”! This “good” puts our trust into action. If we are truly trusting in the Lord, then we can do good even to those evildoers and wrongdoers who would harm us.
cf. Matthew 5:43-45 (From outside the church) and 1Peter 3:8-9 (From inside the church)

** Still here in verse three, what is our next command?

3) Dwell in the land! David knew that if we are trusting in the Lord and doing good, we would be able to settle down and live where our gracious God has placed us; with contentment.
cf. Philippians 4:11, Hebrews 13:5-6

** David’s fourth command is most encouraging for the hunger of our souls. What does he want us to do in the middle of our contentment?

4) “...cultivate faithfulness.” lit. “feed securely or feed on His faithfulness”. David wants us to feed our hearts with the faithfulness of our loving God. This would certainly ensure that we remain content. cf. Genesis 32:10, Deuteronomy 32:3-4, Psalm 33:4 and Galatians 5:22

V. 4 ** What is David’s fifth command for those of us who live each day being “**Led by the Spirit**”?

5) “Delight yourself in the Lord!” If we were to fully understand this command, we would never delight in anything but our gracious Lord and in the things He has provided for us.
cf. 1John 2:15, James 1:17

OK - Let's make an assessment of where we find ourselves in understanding the call of God to be "**Led by the Spirit**". You can know that the Holy Spirit is leading you through every decision of everyday, if you are...

Saved, Spirit-filled, Sanctified, Submissive and willing to **Suffer** for the name of Christ. Seeing the expressed will of God in your life, you now understand and obey David's five commands which were:

1)Trust in the Lord, 2)Do good, 3)Dwell in the land, 4)Cultivate faithfulness and 5)Delight yourself in the Lord.

** If we have all of that in place, what is the first principle of being "**Led by the Spirit**"?

1) DO WHATEVER YOU WANT! - As amazing as that may sound, if all ten of the above listed realities exist in your life; God is going to "**give you the desires of your heart**".

** Does that mean that God is going to fulfill any desire I might have throughout the day?

Absolutely not! David is saying that if you are living each day being "**Led by the Spirit**", God will put the proper, Christ honoring desires in your heart! What an exciting principle!

** Can just any Christian claim that their desires have come from God, like their passion for a new car?

No - Only those who are fulfilling all that we have studied over the past five weeks can claim that the Holy Spirit is leading them into Christ honoring desires. cf. 1Corinthians 10:31

V. 5 ** So what will we do with "the desires of our heart" if we are being "**Led by the Spirit**"?

We will "Commit [our] way to the Lord".

** What does that say about our knowledge of the details which comprise our own future?

We do not have a clue, but our gracious God does! cf. James 4:13-15, Psalm 139:16

** When we trust also in the Lord for the outcome of our life, what does David say that God will do?

He will "bring it to pass".(KJV)

V. 6 ** Even if evil men say "all kinds of evil against us falsely"(Matthew 5:11)during this life, what will God do for us if we are living each day as those who are being "**Led by the Spirit**"?

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your judgment as the noonday. Our loving God is going to balance the scales!

** But is it really "our" righteousness?

No - God has given us the perfect righteousness of Christ in exchange for our sin!
cf. 2Corinthians 5:21

V.23 ** So, now that we have learned that the Spirit led Christian can do whatever he or she wants; what should they do?

The answer to that question introduces the second important principle in living each day being "**Led by the Spirit**".

2) KEEP MOVING! The Spirit led Christian has been gifted by God to serve Him and the other members of the body of Christ. cf. 1Peter 4:10

** Since we do not know what each new day will hold, how can we have confidence that we are walking in the path which the Lord has set before us?

“The steps of a man are established by the Lord...”

** There are many examples of how God directs the steps of His children in Scripture. Let’s just look at two, one from the Old Testament and then one from the New Testament.

Old Testament - Abraham’s servant was sent to find a wife for Isaac (Rebekah),
Genesis 24:27

And he said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the Lord has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers."

New Testament - Peter, Acts 9:32-35

Now it came about that as Peter was traveling through all those parts, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise, and make your bed." And immediately he arose. And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

** When Christians follow their God-given desires and continue to actively serve the Lord, how does our God feel about them?

“He delights in his way” - Our God actually gets pleasure from seeing us walk in obedience to Him while we are being “**Led by the Spirit**”. cf. Ephesians 5:10

V.24 ** If we are being “**Led by the Spirit**” into our daily steps for the Lord, will we ever stumble?

Absolutely! We are still in our Romans 7 flesh and can miss a step every once in a while. David says, “**When** he falls...” not “**If** he falls”. It is a forgone conclusion that we will fail at times. cf. 1John 1:8

** Are we going to be destroyed if we trip up?

We will “not be hurled headlong”.

** Why is that, Who is looking out for us?

“Because the Lord is the One who holds his hand!” It is so wonderful to know that we can serve our God with a clear conscience and trust Him to forgive us from our error and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. cf. 1Timothy 3:8-9

EXTRICATE

** What were the five commands given to us by David today that would help us to understand the first principle of being “**Led by the Spirit**”?

You can know that the Holy Spirit is leading you through every decision of everyday, if you are...

Saved, Spirit-filled, Sanctified, Submissive and willing to **Suffer** for the name of Christ. Seeing the expressed will of God in your life, you now understand and obey David's five commands which were:

1)Trust in the Lord, 2)Do good, 3)Dwell in the land, 4)Cultivate faithfulness and 5)Delight yourself in the Lord.

DELINEATE

** What were the two principles from David which would ensure that we are living each day "**Led by the Spirit**"?

- 1) Do whatever you want!
- 2) Keep moving!

EVALUATE

** If you have not been a part of this series from the beginning and only heard those last two principles, what could be the harm?

We must fully understand the five elements of God's expressed will for our lives and the commands David shared with us today; if we hope to be truly "**Led by the Spirit**". We must not cheapen the Holy Spirit's role of leading us through our day by doing whatever we want, making decisions in the flesh and then trying to claim that He was leading us all the time!

ACTIVATE

** Are you willing to closely examine your own heart in light of all that we have learned together to determine if you are being "**Led by the Spirit**"?

Closing prayer