Led by the Spirit - Part 1

SAVED 2Peter 3:1-10

STIMULATE

** As our study together in 2Thessalonians 3:11-18 was coming to a conclusion, we observed the two elements of a "**Christ Honoring Admonition**". Do you recall what they were?

1) The role of a humble servant. We come along side (parakaleo) our sinful brother to help him back to a closer walk with the Lord.

2) We genuinely love these people. They are not the enemy, the enemy is sin!
cf. Romans 7:11-13

** If our brother continues in an unruly, undisciplined and sinful lifestyle, what four things were we to do or not do in order to manifest the love of Christ to them?

1) Take special note of him.
2) Do not fellowship with him.
3) Do not regard him as an enemy.
4) Admonish (warn) him as a brother.

** Our awareness of this awesome responsibility should make us closely examine our own lives. Are we being "**Led by the Spirit**"? Are we under His control, so that we will be ready to come to our brother's aid at a moment's notice?

We do not know when the Lord would call upon us for this extremely important area of ministry to the body of Christ and our lifestyles must be such, that we are always prepared.

MOTIVATE

** Over the past few weeks a question has repeatedly come up which deserves our attention. That is: "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?" The answer to that question will be the focus of our studies together for the next six weeks. What is the first key to knowing that your life is being "**Led by the Spirit**"? For the answer, please join me now in 2Peter 3:1-10 and let's embark on a Scriptural journey together.

Read passage (V.1-4) (V.5-7) (V.8-10)

Opening Prayer

Saved

INVESTIGATE

** Before we look into our text for today, we need to establish some fundamental ground rules regarding a Christian's life being "**Led by the Spirit**". Where do we know that the Holy Spirit will not lead us?

He will never lead us into sin! If we find ourselves in a sinful pattern or decision, we can know that it was not the Holy Spirit of God and Christ who lead us there.
cf. Matthew 6:13 and James 1:13-15

** Where will the Holy Spirit always lead us?

Into the expressed will of God! That was the abiding concern for our Lord Jesus Christ during His life here on earth. cf. John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38, Matthew 26:42

** How do we know that the Holy Spirit shares the same concerns which Jesus held to be important regarding the will of God?

Because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ Himself! The Trinity is in complete agreement with itself. cf. Romans 8:9

"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God** dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Him."

** For us to be able to answer the question, "How can I know if I am following the Holy Spirit's lead", we are first going to have to understand was is the expressed will of God in Scripture. Does Scripture say that we are being "**Led by the Spirit**" if we belong to God?

Absolutely - O.T. Proverbs 16:9, N.T. Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:18

** Then what is God's will for a Christian? To where is the Holy Spirit leading us?

That answer comes in five parts, and today we are looking at the first one. God's will for us is that we are "**Saved**" and our passage for today points us in that direction. The three sections we have read together point out "**The Prediction**", "**The Problem**" and "**The Promise**".

Let's learn it together.

"**The Prediction**"

V. 1 ** According to Peter, why did he write this second epistle to "those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours"? (2Peter 1:1)

He felt it was important to be "stirring up" their minds, to cause them to remember what he had taught them from the Word of God.

V. 2 ** What two resources did these believers have for obtaining the Word of God?

They received it from "the holy prophets" (not false) and from the apostles.

** Peter was a very affectionate man and cared deeply for those which he had been given oversight. What word did he use here in verse two which described the relationship between the apostles and the saints?

He said, "the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by **your** apostles." Peter always maintained the importance of leaders being closely connected to those whom they have been given oversight by the Lord. cf. 1Peter 5:2-3

V. 3 ** So what is "**The Prediction**"? What does Peter say is going to happen in the last days?

Mockers will come with their mocking...

** What compels these mockers, what is their driving force?

"...following after their own lusts..." Sin is more important to them than the truth of God's Word. cf. 2Timothy 4:3-4

V. 4 ** What are they mocking?

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ in judgment.

** Does this mocking take place today?

Absolutely - Men do not want to be confused with the facts regarding the person of Jesus Christ.

** What is their reasoning for saying that He is not coming back?

"...all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation". They are living in total denial!

"**The Problem**"

V. 5 ** What is their problem? What is the first thing that escapes their notice, which leads them to this faulty conclusion?

The world was created by the Word of God. They do not recognize God as the Creator of all things. Sounds like today! This is the greatest "problem" with evolution. By taking God out of the creation equation, men try to remove Him from the judgment which is rightfully due upon their sinful lives.

V. 6 ** Peter now gives us the second thing which amazingly escapes their notice, what is that?

The great flood, the flood of Noah's time, the flood of judgment against sin! They are ignoring the fact that God does judge sin and is going to do it again!

V. 7 ** How is God's second cataclysmic judgment against sin going to be different from the first?

"...the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire..." What God did the first time by judging sin with the flood, He will do in the future by consuming the world in fire!

** Besides the heavens and earth, what else will be consumed by God's fiery judgment?

The "destruction of ungodly men".

"**The Promise**"

V. 8 ** Ok- We have seen "T**he Prediction**" and "**The Problem**", what is "**The Promise**"? Before we answer that, Peter interjects an important characteristic about God's uniqueness and utter distinction from man. What is it?

God exists outside of time! He sees one day or a thousand years as the same. He created time for our benefit. "In the beginning" refers to the beginning of time and creation.
cf. Genesis 1:1 and John 17:5

V. 9 ** Since God exists outside of time, is He slow about bringing judgment upon sinful men?

No - He is not slow, but patient! What amazing grace! We as sinful people rightly deserve God's wrath, but He chooses to be patient toward us.

** Why is that? Why is God so patient with sinful man?

Because He is not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

** If God is not willing for us to perish, what is His will regarding our eternal condition?

For the elect, here is the first statement of God's expressed will for us - that we be saved!
cf. 1Timothy 2:3-4, Ezekiel 18:23 and 32

** Did you notice what activity is experienced by those who are not perishing?

They are the ones who have come to repentance! cf. Acts 20:21

It is not enough to know about God, or Jesus Christ. Once we understand who God is and who we are as sinners, we must repent and ask Jesus for forgiveness. cf. Acts 2:36-38, 1John 1:9

** The only way to live in the center of God's will and thus be "**Led by the Spirit**" is to first become saved. These are the individuals who are said by Scripture to "do the will of God".

Mars Hill (in Him we live, move and have our being...for we are His offspring)
cf. Acts 17:24-28

Because of God's will we are saved; and know the One who is our Lord and Savior.
cf. John 10:27-30

Because of God's will we are saved; and obey Him as Lord and Master. cf. Mark 3:31-35
We become the brother and sister and mother of Jesus by doing God's will so as to be saved and by living in obedience to the One we have called Lord. True salvation will always equal obedience to the will of God.

Because of God's will we are saved; and we are not like the world around us which is perishing. Our joy and calling is to do the will of God and to not love the things of this world.
cf. 1John 2:15-17

V.10 ** Let's finish our look at "**The Promise**" of God to judge this world. According to verse ten, is there going to be a final judgment upon this fallen earth?

Yes, God is faithful to His promise and He will bring it in "as a thief" and destroy the earth.
cf. Isaiah 24:18-23

EXTRICATE

** In our study together for today we have seen "**The Prediction**", "**The Problem**" and "**The Promise**" all contained in this brief passage of Scripture. Let's review what we have learned together.

Peter's Prediction: Mockers will come
Man's Problem: Ignoring the Truth!
God's Promise: He is going to judge sin!

DELINEATE

** If we wish to live each day being "**Led by the Spirit**" what is the first step we must take to be in the center of God's will?

We must become saved! Remember 2Thessalonians 2:8-10, "And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth **so as to be saved**."

EVALUATE

** If I have been so blessed to be called by God and saved by His grace in accordance with His will; am I faithfully doing the will of God each day by obeying His Word?

We must make a daily examination of our hearts before a Holy God to be certain that we are doing the will of Him who sent us into this world as a witness for His Son and the gospel.
cf. John 4:34

ACTIVATE

** I hope that you express your thankfulness to God each day for the perfect design of His will which included your salvation and that you will continue to be "**Led by the Spirit**" through your obedience to the Word of God.

Closing prayer