

April Development Guide

SUBJECT: BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT



We are to be led by the Spirit in everything we do, allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us, lead us, and edify us . . .

- **Romans 8:14 (NLT)** – *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.”*
- Jesus said we can clearly be led by the Spirit of God in everyday life.
 - **John 10:1-5 (NKJV)** – *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”*

Three things to help you and I be led by the Spirit and to hear Him and His promptings loud and clear:

1. Who you listen to has the most influence.
 - a. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing from the Word.
 - b. The Bible is the number-one way we are led by the Spirit.
 - i. **Isaiah 59:21 (NLT)** – *“And this is my covenant with them, says the LORD. My Spirit will not leave them, and neither will these words I have given you. They will be on your lips and on the lips of your children and your children’s children forever. I, the LORD, have spoken!”*
 - c. The more you read the Bible the clearer you will hear His voice and the easier it will be to be Spirit-led.
 - d. The three primary ways God will speak to you (there are more):
 - i. Biblical direction—The Bible. This is number one. It sets the direction and clarity for every other way He will speak.
 - ii. Inward witness / the Holy Spirit
 - iii. Other people / Spiritual authority
2. Being led by the Spirit and hearing God’s voice in your life is a proximity issue.
 - a. The Bible says as we seek Him, He is near not far . . .
 - b. He’s in proximity to you. Are you in proximity to Him?
 - c. Jesus said in **John 15:5**, *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*
 - d. He’s not distant from you, we become distant from Him. We need to get alone with Him to hear Him loud and clear.
3. Obedience—it cranks up the volume of the voice of God.
 - a. The opposite of obedience is disobedience.
 - b. When we are disobedient, we callous or harden our hearts to the things of God, dampening His voice in our lives.

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- c. **Hebrews 13:12-13 (NKJV)** – *“Brethren... Exhort one another daily, while it’s called ‘today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”*
- d. How we soften our hearts to hear God more clearly is through obedience. This will help you to be led by the Spirit.
- e. As we are obedient with what we read in the Word, what He asks of us in prayer, and the promptings He places on our hearts, His voice gets louder and louder.

Additional scriptures to read:

- Holy Spirit guides in witness and evangelism: Mark 13:11, Matthew 10:19-20, Luke 12:11-12, Acts 8:29 (NLT), 1 Corinthians 2:13
- Holy Spirit guides Jesus in His ministry: Luke 4:1, Matthew 4:1, Mark 1:12, Acts 10:37-38

Discussion Questions:

1. What were your biggest takeaways from this teaching on being led by the Spirit?
2. How can you apply this to your everyday life?
3. Is there anything you’re currently doing that might be dampening the promptings of the Holy Spirit?