

## Church Government 4

### Led by the Spirit

I felt it important to take a slight side step from our topic to discuss a question that came up in the second study. How do we know we are being led by the Spirit. Peter must have felt he was doing the right thing, as we so often do, and yet it now appears that was from his own heart. How do we know the difference from our own desires and the leading of the Spirit? Can we always know for sure?

Looking back on that conversation I would like to share something perhaps a bit on the mystical side but I believe very clearly a revelation from the Word. Communion is bread and wine. The bread is the bread of life. He is the word made flesh. He is the bread that came down from heaven for the life of the world. Jn 1:14 He is the word of God. Then we have the wine. Wine is often listed with oil in Scripture. I believe they are both symbolic of the Spirit. Both are said to make the heart glad. The fruit of the Spirit includes joy. Jesus often derided the Pharisees for having the letter of the Law without the spirit. The symbolism is the bread without the wine. See John 6:47-56,63 The Greek word for 'eats' is the present active participle. It does not mean once, but now, continually. The wine represented his blood. The life of the flesh is in the blood. The life of the Word is the Spirit. If we are to have living communion with the living Jesus we must partake of his flesh (word) and his blood (Spirit) presently in this study tonight. If you would know the Spirit's leading, have communion - bread and wine - Word and Spirit.

If we are led of the Spirit we are not under the Law(Gal 5:18). Does that contradict the above idea? Ro 13:8-10 What is the Law of Love? Ro 8:5-14 If we are led of the Spirit we put to death the misdeeds of the body. Gal 5:16

What was Jesus example of being led by the Spirit? His whole life was an example of what we are discussing. Here's a few points I picked out. Perhaps you would like to add some for this study- please give a Scripture reference.

Jesus was an example of being led by the Spirit in:

Prayer Mk 1:35 I think this is first as even Christ claimed that He did nothing without the Father. His communion with the Father was in prayer. A special morning time of communion and prayer without ceasing was his example.

Fasting Lk 4:1,2

Compassion Mk 9:36, Mt 14:14

Obedience at all times Jn 5:19,36 6:38

Sought to glorify God not self Jn 5:41, 8:49,50 (He did pray to be glorified so that he could glorify the Father – but did not seek his own glory. Jn 13:31,32 17:1-5) Paul calls this dying to self.

Teaching Word -the whole of the Gospels, includes severity like Mt 23

Being a Servant – Jn 13:1-12

Warning Jn 13:18f, Mt 24 (prophetic words)

Discipling (the many teachings and his example to his disciples)

All of these are products of his love for the Father and man. These activities are stem from living the greatest commands. To love God with your all and your neighbor. Living that is being led by the Spirit, for you can only do these things as you are led moment by moment by the Spirit. If we try to define it all we could end up with a new set of Laws you would try to keep instead of daily living a life of love for God. It is easy to disconnect from the life giving source that leads us in the way and settle for good things that are not God directed and empowered. We must always remember it is not by might or by power but by my Spirit says the Lord. How do you know the difference between the good and God's perfect will? Can God use you in the merely good? Consider what the Spirit says to the churches of Rev 2,3. There were many comments about good things done but certain important things were left undone. How do we get that way?

O. Chambers has an interesting thought that a mature Spirit filled believer walks in the Spirit without being consciously aware of it. The checks of the Spirit are to warn us that we are considering not walking according to the leading of the Spirit. -comments?

One of the most helpful workbooks for me has been Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby. Throughout the book he challenges us to remember that "everything about knowing Him and experiencing Him, everything about knowing His will, depends on the quality of your love relationship to God." "To know and do the will of God, you must deny self and return to a God centered life."