

GUIDANCE FROM GOD SERIES

SENSATIONS FROM THE INWARD WITNESS

This week we will share a little bit about the promptings of the Holy Spirit and how the promptings of the Holy Spirit provide us some sort of guidance. We are going to share from personal experience with God's Word here and there. The leading of the Holy Spirit can be quite subjective. And remember as we share that some of it can be subjective. How you sense the promptings and the guidance of God in your life can be quite subjective. There may be similarities but we need to give room for subjective reason. As we obey God and listen to God and do what God wants, we find that the inward witness becomes stronger. We have said that 95 percent of the time in decision making He leads from our inside in our spirit man. We need to know when it's right, when it's wrong. Most people only know the traffic light. When there is a green light it says its O.K. Then there is the red light it's not O.K. There is an orange light that means be watchful, be aware. We want expand on that in a more subjective manner to know how it feels like and what it is actually like to be led by the inward witness and how the promptings of God are like.

There are two major divisions, "A" and "B". The first major division is the sensation that is not verbal. By non-verbal I mean it's not in English or any known language. It's a sensation that we have to recognize. It's a tangible sensation on our spirit man. Under classification "B" would be what I call the inward voice or the inner thought and how we differentiate that. We will touch on "B" later in this teaching series. So remember we are looking more towards the sensations and not the path that has to do with your understanding. It's more the internal sensation and what it feels like to know what is right and to know what is wrong.

Under division "A" I like to sub-divide it again into two sub-sections. We first draw a line. And on one side of the line is what I call before the action takes place or before your decision is made. You have all the feelings and sensations up to the point when you make a decision. Then when you cross the line where your decision has been made and you have taken a course of action, direction is now focused based on your past decision whether it happened a few seconds, a few minutes, a few hours, a few days ago. So that is the line that we draw and the sensation before you cross the line and sensation after you cross the line.

How do you know whether the decision has been right or wrong? The inward sensation will still tell you. If we go against the sensation over several days or weeks that sensation can disappear. You will experience a condition called a hardness of heart. You will no more be able to sense that area any more. It's the hardening that takes place. It's just like when your foot is filled with all kinds of thickness because of different injuries. Your skin is no more sensitive. Or if you are playing the guitar and you are pressing the chords with the left hand, you will feel a thick layer of skin on the tips of the finger and. That is the price you pay for being a guitarist. If you don't play for some time that layer of skin peels off and it becomes sensitive again. But if you play everyday your skin will be so thick that it's not easy to sense any feeling on your fingertip. That's what happens when the sensitivity is resisted over a period of time. There is a hardness that comes.

In the bible there are more descriptions of what the sensation is like after you cross the line. It seems even that unless you draw near to the line, unless you bring yourself to the point of the line you may not even have any sensation. If you are looking at that line of decision from a far distance you may not have the sensation. For example if you are buying a house or a car, you are not sure whether that is a good decision or not. You have done your economic calculations, you have done your evaluation, you have done your research and you sought God's will. And God seems to approve of the whole thing but sensations are only clearer as you draw near the line when you are about to make the decision.

Let says you have settled for an apartment within a certain budget. Staying at home and not doing anything may not give you any sensation. You may need to take a

step of faith to walk out and look around at all the available apartments. And if you stand in the very apartment that you are supposed to buy you would sense different sensations. And that feeling of whether it's right or wrong, it's not just a natural feeling. It's what Acts 15 will say it seems good. You could sense that overwhelming goodness when you are in the right place. Other times when you are in the wrong place you could sense it.

But if you are far away from that line of decision, all you do is just stay at home and pray waiting for a vision, waiting for a prophet of God to come and tell you what you should do, you may never move. If Paul had run his missionary journey that way, he would not have both the second and the third missionary journey. The first missionary journey was by a dramatic supernatural word from the Holy Spirit who said in Acts 13: 2 *As they were ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."* But the second and third missionary journeys were not based on that type of leading anymore. Therefore Christians are foolish if they depend only on one type of leading. Every time God moves, you say, "I need to wait for a dramatic leading." You have put God in a box. You have limited God if you say you only want to be led this way. If Paul had waited to embark on his subsequent missionary journeys based on his experience of being called out for his first missionary journey, he would have no second and third missionary journey.

Paul experienced the peak of his ministry when he was in Ephesus in Acts 19. Yet all he had was an impression in Acts 18: 21 [Paul] *took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing."* And he sailed from Ephesus. Hardly would he have known that when he came back to Ephesus in Acts 19 that there he would see the greatest revival and miracles taking place. So let's not put God in a box.

The primary leading and confirmation of our life are based on our inward witness of the sense of rightness and wrongness in our heart and our mind. As we were saying if you stay a distance away from the line of decision you will never sense anything. You are too far away. There is no faith commitment. There is no effort on your part. Until there is an effort on your part as you draw near to the line and as you are standing on the line and as you cross over the line to decide or act you will

not have any sensation. That's why a lot of people are sitting at home waiting for a vision and up to now they are still waiting. A lot of people are waiting for God's guidance and they are not doing anything.

The other extreme is that you do everything without sensing the inward witness. The other extreme is running into every thing by your own mind, by your own wisdom and you are rushing where angels fear to tread. That would be the other extreme of not being sensitive and just rushing into every good idea. Like last week we said not every good idea is a good idea. If the devil were to tempt you it wouldn't constitute a temptation if he gives you a bad idea. A temptation is when he gives you a second-class idea. The devil will not tempt you with the worse because if he gives you the worse you would know that it was from him. The devil will tempt you with a deceptively good idea and then it constitutes a temptation. So not all good ideas are necessarily from God.

1. The Inward Sensation of Being Smitten

We have sub-divided sensation into two parts. One is when you approach and one after you cross over.

In the book of I Samuel chapter 24, David was running away from king Saul. In the Old Testament they were not even born again yet they have sensitivity in their conscience. Our conscience needs to be awakened. In order to be sensitive to God the main criteria is to develop our conscience to know what is right and wrong in our heart. Saul was pursuing David with three thousand chosen men from Israel. As David ran away from king Saul, he had an opportunity to kill king Saul when Saul came into the cave that David was hiding in.

I Sam.24: 3 And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, "Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you."

David wanted to do what is right and what is good. Saul was in the cave and there is no light in the cave. And David knows that he was there. *Then David arose and stealthily cut off the skirt of Saul's robe.* So while Saul was relieving himself David drew near. That's a line of division there. Saul represents where the line is. As David was drawing near to Saul he was not drawing near to kill him. His heart and his conscience will prevent him from killing him. But as he drew near he wanted to just cut a piece of Saul's robe. Why didn't his heart smite him as he draw near? He couldn't sense anything yet. Up to the point where he was standing right next to Saul David's heart still didn't smite him.

In verse 5 *And afterward David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.* The *afterward* could have been a few seconds or few hours probably lets give and take some minutes later. As he was holding Saul's robe and as he went back to where he was hiding, he waited until Saul left the cave. Afterwards David's heart troubled him. The word trouble is from the Hebrew word *nakah*, which means to smite or a slap. David's heart gave him a slap. It's the same Hebrew word that is used when it says *the Lord smote all the people and killed them.* It's the same root word that points to them fighting and smiting one another and in the Old King James Version *killing one another.*

David's heart gave him a punch. He has crossed the line and his heart was now smitten. It's almost like maybe you work in an office and there is office property. All you did was just take the office pen or pencil to your house and you took it knowing that it was paid with office money. Maybe your conscience is sensitive and you return it the next day. But you took it with the intention that it becomes yours. And as you take it and you put it in your pocket as you are heading home your heart smite you. It never came until you have it in your possession. The wrong move or the wrong decision gave your heart a real smacking. That's the first kind of sensation a kind of condemnation.

I know Rom. 8:1 says *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.* Here I am talking about the conscience hitting you. Maybe you have done something wrong and you

told a lie to cover it up. Up to the moment before you told that lie there was some tension. But the moment you told that lie intentionally to deceive you crossed the line, and smack, your heart is smitten. You got a smack from your conscience. That's the first kind of sensation. It's almost like something in you jumping up at you. And it can be so disturbing it will never go off until you take it back and correct that lie you told. It's a special sensation all in itself.

If you look at it David could have killed Saul. David showed mercy. He called on Saul and showed to Saul, saying, "Saul this is a piece of your robe. I could have killed you." But he didn't. God prevented him. God was not happy that he cut off that robe.

Most people experience another type of experience I call the scratchiness. To experience this smacking you have to be sensitive to the Lord. You have to be sensitive to the anointing of God. The reason David senses it was because he was a man sensitive to the anointing of God. I would describe it that most people only experience a little pinch. But this is the extreme way. Look at verse 6 *He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put forth my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed."* Now what was David sensitive to? The anointing of God. As he developed sensitivity to the anointing of God the moment he cut off the piece of Saul's robe, he felt like the anointing draining from him and his conscience slapping him. He must have repented to God straightaway. That was why he did not cross the second line to kill Saul. He crossed the first line to cut off a piece of Saul's robe, and his conscience smote him. He grieved, and he repented; therefore he could not bring himself to cross the second line to kill Saul.

Let me point to Psalms 51 where David failed God. That was the sin he committed with Bethsheba. Ps. 51:1-9 *Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgression, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and does that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth to iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth*

in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou has broken rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Notice he sensed it like broken bones although none of his bones were broken.

Verse 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness.

David says, "Take not thy Spirit from me." It was the same experience or same kind of sensation that he was having when he cut off a piece of Saul's robe. He had that sensitivity to the anointing of God leaving him when this time he fell into the sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband. And now he feels that condemnation that is coming upon his life. And he wants to be free from it.

Notice one of the things that he lost in this area is the joy. He says, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation." Why are some Christians not happy? It is because they are not sensitive to the anointing of God and they are not walking in the anointing of God. For the kingdom of God is love, peace and joy. When you have the Holy Ghost it's undeniable that you will be filled with joy. In fact sometimes Christians get up without being filled with the Spirit, they go out they won't have joy. In order to sense it you got to have a high level of the Spirit and the anointing of God. And by level it doesn't mean that you have to be called to the apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist or teacher. But it means just being filled with the Spirit.

And having that sensitivity when you cross the line it's like suddenly everything is stripped off. You feel that slap on your inside. That's what David felt like. That is when the anointing of God is strong and the sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and the anointing of God is drained out. Sometimes you could tell it. For some people they

have crossed the line and they didn't even know it. It is because they are not sensitive to the anointing of God. But you could tell that they have lost their joy. If you have lost your joy my advice and counsel is to go back to the place where you lost it. And you will find that at that place where you lost it is a place where you have compromised some principles or commandments of God. You say, "But I didn't kill anyone. I didn't do anything. I didn't really break the Ten Commandments."

David didn't break the Ten Commandments in the book of I Sam. 24. He did later break the commandment "*Thou shalt not commit adultery*" by sleeping with Bathsheba but not in I Sam. 24. All he did was cut a piece of cloth. And his heart smote him. Go back to the place where you have cut that piece of garment from Saul's life. What does Saul represent to you and I? Saul represents people who are anointed by God to be in authority both in the kingdom of God and in the secular world. The book of Romans tells us to respect authority. For example, if you speak evil against your government and rulers of your country you have crossed the line of cutting Saul's robe. But this is an area where I find many people are not sensitive to. That is why personally I avoid fellowshiping with such people. They are not sensitive to the anointing of God. They are not careful with their tongue. See there are several things in our life that we have to learn. But one of the most important lessons we learn is submission and obedience. Have you realize that submission and obedience cannot be learned as a lone ranger? Submission and obedience are learned as we relate to human beings. There is no other way you can learn submission and obedience. And every one will always have an excuse not to submit not to obey because of the imperfection of the people above them. But supposing that you yourself are on the top you may not be as perfect. Many times people who rise to that position find that they cannot do a better job and then they understand.

And that is why it's an important lesson to learn in this first level. It is a point where you cross the line of authority and anointing. When you have crossed that you have touched something that God has ordained. And immediately David says it was the anointing that I touched. When I touched that robe it was like cutting off something from Saul's life. Who was he to take off Saul's anointing? It was God who gave and let God be the one to close off his office in his life. I will say that not many people are sensitive to this first level because they are not sensitive to the anointing of God or to the authority of God, whether in the kingdom of God and in

the secular world. You go out to any coffeehouse and you will find a lot of people criticizing the government. That is why I don't like to sit around with people like that. Many times they have no Christian conscience. They have conscience only for the Ten Commandments but in the areas of respecting the anointing and the authority they have no conscience. If you were to walk with God and walk in His perfect will you avoid things like that. That is the first area what I call a sense of smiting in your heart.

2. The Inward Sensation of Grief

The next area is found in Ephesians 4: 30, *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* The word grieve is the word *lupeo*, which has a root word meaning sorrow. It has been translated as sadness. Again this is the experience that you will have only as you are draw near the line and cross the line. It's different from that slap. It is a sense of condemnation. Condemnation to many people is like sensing the anger of God against something that is done. But here it's sensing a genuine grief, a sadness and sorrow. Here is experiencing a sorrow. It is almost like the experience of sadness, except that there is something much deeper not in the physical realm but in the spiritual realm. It can even bring tears to your eyes. As you pray the tears come but it's from something inside not from something outside. And sometimes people are grieving the Holy Spirit without knowing it. Every time they come near to God and they pray sometimes they cry because they are grieving the Spirit and they don't know it. If we are touched by God's presence, that is different. When our spirits are praying and weeping for something we don't know, it may indicate that we have been grieving God.

I do know that when we go into intercession we can experience groaning in the Spirit. The reason we experience groaning is because we are taking upon ourselves the sorrow of people that have been grieving the Spirit. If the whole world is perfect there will be no such thing as groaning in the Spirit. In heaven there is no more groaning in the Spirit.

Rom. 8: 22 *We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now. It's the creation that is imperfect that has the groaning. Then Paul says in verse 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.* If the whole world and every human being and every creature were to be doing God's will today when you go into intercession there will be no possibility of groaning. Groaning is what I call taking upon yourself some pain or sorrow of others. And someone going against God causes that sorrow and you are praying it through for that person. A whole community can be going against God. A whole nation can be grieving God because of compromise. And you could feel the burden of the nation and you are praying and groaning. It's the same sensation of sorrow and grief. It's a grief that is in line with the stress.

So in the second sensation that takes place in the book of Ephesians chapter 4:29 *Let no evil talk come out of your mouth, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Now the first sensation is caused through sensitiveness to the anointing and authority that God has placed in the church or in the world. The second one is related to our response to the Word of God that we know and to the Word of God that we are hearing. Now the first has to do with the anointing and authority that God has placed. The second sensation has to do with how you respond to the Word of God especially the word of the Holy Spirit. See the Holy Spirit is grieved every time you compromise God's Word. The grieving of the Holy Spirit has to do with all the Ten Commandments and all of God's Word.

People who are not sensitive to the Holy Spirit would sense the grief in an opposite form. All anger is based on grief. Angry people are hurt people. If you have a problem with anger in your life, it is because a lot of grief has been locked into your sub-conscious. Anger is the opposite reaction that is caused by grief. A grieved people become an angry people. When we are grieved we will act in two ways: either an explosion that is anger or implosion that is depression. But the root is the

same. If ever you feel angry it's because you have been grieved. When we are grieved we must learn how to channel our grief correctly. In a one to one situation the best way when you have been grieved is go to the person who grieved you and say, "Look I am hurt. Lets stop this nonsense." Then the next thing is to pray to the Lord. But if you keep the grief, it will come out somewhere along the line. Energy needs to be released. Grief is a form of hurt and twisted energy that needs to be released somewhere along the line.

Now grieving the Holy Spirit relates to the Word of God. It relates to both the *rhema* and the *logos* in your life. Something that God has told you personally that nobody knows. That is God's personal word for you that you went against and you grieve the Holy Spirit. Or the written Word of God that you went against and you grieve the Holy Spirit. The only way not to grieve the Holy Spirit is walk uncompromisingly in God's Word. Anyone on this earth who walk against God's Word is right now grieving the Holy Spirit. No compromise for that. Many in the world are doing that. That is why there are so much intercessions and it is necessary to groan. We are taking the sorrow that has been caused by sinners and praying for them.

Let me point to the example of people who grieve the Holy Spirit but react in two different ways. In Acts 2 Peter was preaching a sermon in verse 37 *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"* Now I want to point very clearly that these people have been going against God. Let me point to Peter's sermon and analyze that. In verse 36 *Let the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.* They were pronounced guilty of the crucifixion of Jesus. They were cut in their hearts but they responded correctly. Sensitivity to the Word of God makes us sensitive to the grieving of the Spirit. They were grieving the Holy Spirit without knowing it. When the Word of God came it cut them. They could react in two ways, anger or repentance. Here they repented and said, "What shall we do?"

Lets look at Acts 3 after the healing of the lame man. In Peter's sermon he makes it very personal to the Jews. He put the responsibility on all the Jews. See the whole

Jewish nation had grieved God. Now through the preaching of the Word it was been made known to them what they were guilty of. In Acts 3:14 *But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you.* In verse 17, *Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.* They grieved the Spirit in ignorance. A lot of people are grieving the Holy Spirit ignorantly. Ignorance is no plea. We grieve the Holy Spirit every time we go against the Word of God, both the *rhema* word and the *logos* word. These people responded correctly and they repented. And the cut was removed when they repented; they were healed and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Let me point to a group who were grieving the Holy Spirit all the time. And they didn't realize it and they reacted differently. In Acts 7 we see the preaching of Stephen. In verse 51 he tells these people and these people were the Sanhedrin council, the high priest and all those people who were responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus. *You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit.* He told them right to the point from the Word of God. Verse 54 the same thing took place like in Acts 2. *Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him.* The Word pierces but they reacted differently. They reacted in anger. And they took stones and killed Stephen. You can kill a man but you cannot kill what the man stand for. It will haunt you the rest of your life. You can remove somebody, you can run down somebody, you can destroy a person, but you cannot destroy what that person stands for. It will haunt the rest of your life especially if that person stands for the Word of God. They killed Stephen but they cannot kill their own conscience. The rest of their lives their conscience will trouble them. The only to escape is to kill themselves. But even then there is no escape because in eternal life their conscience will disturb them. Look there is no escape for grieving the Spirit. Only the blood of Jesus is available for us and a lot of people are grieving the Holy Spirit and making Him angry. But they don't sense it as they grieve the Spirit.

Such people who grieve the Holy Spirit, for no rhyme or reason, they get angry at the Charismatics, they get angry at the prophetic move and they get angry at the faith message. You know where the anger is coming? It is coming from grieving the Spirit. You go throughout the Christian world you find a lot of people getting angry at the move of God. Why should they get angry? Any normal reasonable person shouldn't get angry with Jesus for healing on a Sabbath day. The people are being

helped. Any normal human being would not get angry with sick people who are being healed. Yet there are people who do get angry. Their anger is an opposite reaction to the grief of the Spirit. They are grieving the Spirit and sensing it as anger.

It's important to know that when you cross the line and grieve the Spirit, you should experience it as sorrow. Pent up sorrow produces pent up anger. Those who are soft and sensitive to the Lord the grieving produces a deep sorrow that causes you to turn to God to travail to pray and cry to the Lord. When king David crossed the line and violated the Word of God by falling into the sin of adultery, for three days he didn't eat anything because he knew he had grieved God's heart. II Sam. 12:16 *David therefore besought God for the child; and fasted, and went in and lay all night upon the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground; but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. On the seventh day the child died.*

Those who are sensitive to God when you are grieving the Holy Spirit this is your experience: sorrow, loss of appetite and loss of sleep. When you have crossed the line and you are grieving the Spirit these are your sensations. When you made a wrong decision, a dumb decision that is not in line with the Word of God and you compromise the principles of the Holy Spirit, you will lose your sleep. You know why out there in the world people are suffering from insomnia? They keep moving out of God's will. At first they experience the anger then more and more they step further and further away from God. They get sickness, they get insomnia, then they survive by all kind of pills and drugs. People who suffer from insomnia need to get back to God. There is no other cure. That is grief related to the violating of God's Word in your life. When you cross the boundary that's when the grief starts.

3. The Inward Sensation of Quenching

Quenching is a different form. In I Thess 5:19 *Do not quench the Spirit.* The word quench is from the Greek word *sbennumi*, which means to extinguish a fire. It's like something that is coming up and you extinguished it. I would describe it as a loss of zeal. And it is not only a loss of zeal. When you lose your zeal you try to remove

zeal from other people's lives. Quenching the Spirit is crossing the line again and it relates to the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. A lot of people don't differentiate between grieving and quenching. There are ways that we distinguish grieving from quenching. Grieving is when you are supposed to be doing something and you don't do it. You do something opposite or you do the wrong thing. Quenching is when you are supposed to do it and you don't do it at all. Grieving is when you do the wrong thing. Quenching is when you just stop it. You don't do it at all. You just push down the gifting of the Spirit. It's related to the gifting of the Holy Spirit in your life. Or maybe we do not allow the Holy Spirit to move the way He wants in a meeting. We quenched the Spirit.

In order to encourage people we need to give room for a little bit of liberty. If you are too tightly regimented and tightly controlled because you want perfection you end up with no action. You have to give room for a little mistake here and there to encourage participation. If you want perfection you won't get any action at all. For example you notice that in an altar call always it takes the first person to come up before everybody come up. People need encouragement to make the first move; when nobody has made a move it is not easy for the rest to follow.

And we must be careful not to quench the Holy Spirit or the gifting of God. How do we quench the Holy Spirit? For example if God is telling somebody to do something and you give your counsel not to do it, you have just quenched the Spirit. Nobody begins to operate the gift perfectly. Our heart could be perfect and right but our method may not be perfect. We have to give a little bit of room for mistakes otherwise you frighten people away.

For example you are training to be a speaker. If I said that you must speak perfectly and you must not make any error in theology, you may not want to speak any more. But if I give you room and say since this is your first time it's O.K, you will feel encouraged. We need to be people to encourage the Spirit in people's lives. Maybe God is telling them to do something and you start giving them all the negative advice, you have quenched the Holy Spirit. I am amazed at people's lack of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

For example a young person wants to go into full time ministry. Just because this person is very young every counsel this would-be minister receives from others is based on head knowledge. When someone is studying a secular course and halfway through the course he or she receives a call from God, in the natural most people would advise him or her to complete the course first. But we must be sensitive to the working of God in people's lives. I am surprised that in one particular case a person gave counsel to the one receiving the call from God not to go into the ministry without even considering what that person is saying. This person came to me and I said to him, "Go straight in for I discern this calling is from God," and that person is succeeding now in the full time ministry. If he had listened to the negative advice, he may never have gone into the ministry God has for him.

In my own personal life God called me at the age of seventeen. I went to the seminary and I was among the youngest at eighteen plus. I was considered underage but the seminary officials made me a special case. Because I was the youngest I had a probation period of one year and I fulfilled it and then they let me continue. When I look back now I realize one thing. My mind and my spirit were developing at that time. If I had gone into the university straight away I would never get back to what God had in store for me. I know a lot of Christian parents whose children are called to the ministry but who do not allow their children to go to the ministry. The kingdom of God is the highest vocation. Some people may get upset when I share my heart about the important things of God. That's why God calls a preacher, to preach, to warn, to counsel.

One day when you stand before God on Judgment Day, none of your children's university degrees, even the best university degrees will stand for anything. Some of you may lose your children out there in the world especially if God has called them. Your children may bring you worldly and materialistic wealth; you would have all the money you want, you will have all the fame you want, but you are living in spiritual poverty. I would rather have spiritual prosperity and have a moderate lifestyle than all the luxuries in the world. Maybe some of your children could have the same kind of personality like mine. If they pursue the things of this world for five years you may never get them back into God. So Christian parents don't ever stand against your children going into the ministry. I know that you are considering things like food, clothing and shelter. I am a parent too. That's all we

ever think about. When will you ever break free from the bonds of this physical world and realize that the spiritual world is more important? If one of your parents produces a son like Sadhu Sundar Singh who may not even have a property to his name but who may be such a spiritual man of God walking up and down that change the world, I would think that the best legacy you could leave behind for the kingdom of God. Let's not quench the Holy Spirit of God.

At the same time I don't mean for the parents to push their children into the fulltime ministry when they are not called. No, we need all the people out there in the secular world. But people are called to different things. Those who are in the ministry also should not push your children into the ministry just because you are a minister. Let your children find their own calling and choice of life. We need a balance in that but what I am against is people who don't even pray. People who don't even seek God and they said, "No," without even considering whether it is from God or not. Then we may end up quenching the Spirit without knowing it.

So that is the area of quenching the Spirit. It relates to the gift of God in our life. If you have a gift of the Spirit already operating in your life and if you don't yield to the Spirit of God every time it manifests, God is only going to tolerate it for a certain time. You have a prophecy and you hold back, when you cross that certain time you quench the Spirit. If God has been telling you to go for mission in certain area and you put it aside, you will only have a certain period of time. When you cross that period of time, you have entered into the quenching of the Holy Spirit.

Now what does the quenching of the Spirit involve? I Thessalonians 5: 19-20 *Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies.* You develop an attitude. People who quench the Spirit, what are they like? They despise spiritual things. They despise spiritual methods. When they hear something that is of God and something that will work they say "ha". These are the people who are quenching the Spirit. It is a cynical attitude. It's an attitude that causes you to look down at the things of the Spirit. The feeling is the feeling of despising. An arrogant, cynical, critical spirit shows forth in a person who is quenching the Spirit. Whenever anything spiritual comes they say "ha". And they look down and despise. That's the people who have quenched the Spirit and don't know it and that's how they react. Every time we find ourselves saying "ha" to the move of God we have just quenched the Holy

Spirit. When you look down at spiritual things; when you look down at the ministry; when you look down at spiritual ways, you have quenched the Holy Spirit. When you put natural ways above spiritual ways you are quenching the Holy Spirit. And that's where we have to understand where the line is drawn and not quench the Holy Spirit.

If you hang around with people who quench the Spirit you will lose your zeal in a few months. And God wants you to be either hot or cold. He wants you to be full of zeal. Why do a lot of people lose their fire? They hang around people who quench the Spirit. You want to do something they will tell you not to get too emotional. You hang around for some time you will be as dry as them. You quench your Spirit. What are the other signs for quenching the Spirit? Dryness, spiritually you become dry. All Christians have their wilderness. I don't believe in remaining in the wilderness; I believe in living by the rivers of living waters. Psalms 23 doesn't promise any desert. The Lord is my Shepherd He leads me besides the Sahara Desert. No, He leads me besides still waters, besides green pastures. There is no promise of any desert or wilderness. Then why do Christians experience periods of dryness? It is because during those periods they have not move on into something that God is showing them. When you quench the Spirit you experience dryness. If you are sensitive to dryness there are two ways you can react to it. Like grieving in the Spirit you can react in two ways. You can react in anger or you could react in repentance. When you quench the Spirit you can react by becoming a cynic. You become cynical about anything. Or you can react by becoming more hungry and thirsty for God because you are experiencing dryness. And that dryness drives you to all the prayer meetings you can find in order to fill the spiritual thirst. That's the positive reaction. You realize your dryness. That is where we make sure we don't cross the line.

4. The Inward Sensation of Warmness

Let me speak of some positive side now. In the book of Luke chapter 24:32 *They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?"* This is when they were with Jesus and they were talking with Jesus. It's the words *did not our hearts burn within us*. The Greek word is

the word *burning*. The first three I mention being *smote*, *grieving* and *quenching* is on the wrong side. On the positive side when something is right and you move into the right place and the right thing, it's like a warm feeling that goes all over your being. A sense like an anointing flows through you. And some times when you move into the right place and do the right thing, and when you step into that it looks like that warm feeling all over your being. I sense it as a real burning. And I know this is of God. It's like some thing is drawing the fire out of me and I know that's God. That warmness is a sensitive feeling to His presence that God is present in what we are doing. You see they were with Jesus and they didn't know it was Jesus. But it was something in them that made them knew that God was speaking through this stranger. As we draw near the line and as you walk into that line you sense His presence.

How do you sense His presence? We don't always sense His presence by the anointing upon. You could always sense His presence by the warming within. Your heart warms up towards Him. And every time you are doing something like buying a house or a car, or launching a new business or a ministry and you are stepping out in faith, can you sense that warming on your inside? When there is this warming on your inside you know this is God. I didn't say that all the circumstances would work perfectly because you still need faith but you know this is God and you just walk into that which is God. Moses pleaded with God that His presence should go with him. Like Moses, I would say as long as His presence goes with me and God's angels go with me and I could sense their presence, that's it, I would say, "Let's go." You don't consider anything else. You consider whether God is in it. And when God is in it, go. That is a real physical warming. A thermometer cannot detect it but that's the sensation. When I had sensation like that I will go 100 percent for those things. All of us will have a measure of that. The positive side is what I call a warming of the heart. It's related to the presence of God.

5. The Inward Sensation of Sweetness

There is another sensation in Acts 15:28 *For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us*. That sensation of goodness has to do with fellowship and harmony. All these are separate sensations. You sense the warming without sensing the goodness. Now there is a sensation of goodness. You know that it is good. As you analyze Acts 15 it

was a decision that harmonizes. There was an initial argument and debate. But they tread on what they felt was a good thing. It was the right thing and a good thing. That's a different sensation altogether. Not the warming this is a sense of goodness, good feeling I can put it this way. It's a sense like it's a good feeling on your inside. You feel good when you feel the goodness of God. How does the goodness of God feel like to David? David says it is like honey in the rock.

Let me describe it a bit more so that I can be more subjective. It is like sweetness. The other is like a warming and this is like sweetness. You feel sweetness in your spirit. There is sweetness about things that are done. And that has to do with working with the body of Christ, working with relationship, working with people. It is related with fellowship and harmony with people. Some people sense a warming in their heart and they hurt everybody else. But there is sweetness about the things of God and you know this is the sweet way to do some things. And it's a different sensation. If you walk with this sweetness and this goodness of God it will guide you to walk in harmony with people.

A lot of people are right but they are wrong in their methods. For example you could have a big convention and you are an usher there. The people are not lining up properly. You shout like a military commander to them, "Get into line or else." You are right and they are wrong. But you are not sweet. See being right and being sweet is different thing. At the same time there is a false way of being sweet. Some people are wrong and they seal their mouths about it, never mind, just compromise. That is wrong. I am not talking about natural thing I am talking about spiritual sense of sweetness. When you flow along with that God will take care of the rest.

The moment they made a decision in Acts 15 they alienated some people. The bible tells us in Acts 15 that when the word was circulated throughout all the churches in verse 31 *When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement.* Those who were discouraged because there was no decision made become encouraged. Those who have been playing the wrong game doing the wrong thing of course they will be discouraged. And when you flow with God there is a sense of goodness about the whole matter. That's the sense of goodness that we have.

Last one as we close in Acts chapter 18:19 *And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there; but he himself went into the synagogue and argued with the Jews. When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined; but on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God will."* As we explore the return to Ephesus in Acts 19:1 *While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"* That was the second time Paul came to Ephesus. And that was where he established the great work and the great church of Ephesus that became a mighty lighthouse in all the regions about.

How was Paul's sensation when he moved into all these things? Let's look at some of his personal statement in the book of II Cor. 11:27-28 *In toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches.*

You see the word *my anxiety for all the churches*. Now this is not worry. The New King James translated it as *concerned*. And that's the kind of sensation that is like a caring, a loving sensation. A loving feeling. We have the warming, we have the goodness, which is the sweetness, and then we have the concern, a sense of care, a sense of concern and a sense of love. And it comes basically based on love. In this world it is not possible to relate to a million people closely. But if every one of us who have our own circle of friends and relationship would be faithful to show the love of God to whatever circle of relationship that you have, the world would be a better place. And God in His divine economy has placed in each one of us in our heart a kind of concern not the type that worry you but a concern that comes and occupies you where you sense a loving tender care for one another. That is also a sensation of the Spirit. And that sensation can lead you to many areas like it led Paul into Ephesus.

There have been people who have been led by that way. In other words when we say go with the flow it means go where the things that concern you most and which flows smoothest along. And in every one of our hearts the Spirit will never lead you until you learn how to walk in love. Part of the leading of the Spirit is learning to

yield to this love in our heart. When you yield to the concern and care in your life by reaching out to somebody who is hurt and who needs the love and you are the instrument whom God chose to anoint with the love to go and care for that person and you respond you will be rewarded. The Spirit of God is leading you into that. There is a sense of care, a sense of concern. Sometimes that concern can cause you to make an international call that costs you some money. Sometimes that concern can make you take a whole trip all the way to your hometown. Maybe the burden for somebody has been laid on your heart.

How does God lead us? Remember God can lead you in many methods. God can place in your life a concern. Suddenly for no apparent reason you are concerned about your parents. Every time you pray the concern comes. Not really a worry but a care and when you think about it you have a loving thought towards them. You seem to care about them very much. That may be the Holy Spirit working on your life to flow along with that concern and when you go there you find that you are needed there.

It can be the same for an organization. Maybe suddenly you got concerned for an organization. Maybe God is speaking to you to do something. Maybe a concern about another country or another town or another church somewhere. Maybe God is speaking to you to do some caring work. And we need to flow with God. Some times that concern comes before you cross the line and some times it happens as you crossed into the line. In other words you may shake hands and meet ten people. Out of the ten people you are drawn to care for one person that you meet. It suddenly occupies your time and your mind. It could be God speaking to you to do some thing. You may not have the warm feeling or you may not have the feeling of concern but some times they all flow together. But flow along with that flow of love. It's related to the love of God.

Next week we will cover sensations that come before you reach the line. The reason we are sharing this is to give you as practical as possible the sensations that some of us are receiving that our earlier series have not been enough for you to learn to be led by God.

