

Presence

HOW TO BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT SERIES

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT

We have talked about the inward witness and inward voice of the spirit man, what they are like and how they play about 90 to 95 percent of the leadings of God in our life and the daily decision of life. As have covered two, the inward witness and the inward voice, we are covering on the third area of being led by the Spirit, which is the voice of the Holy Spirit Himself. The Holy Spirit lives inside us. He makes His home in our spirit. Most of the time, our leadings consist of the inward voice of the human spirit that receives direction from the Holy Spirit. The leading is very indirect onto our lives. But sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks directly into our lives. Though the voice of the Holy Spirit is still from our human spirit realm from inside us, there is a difference in the tone and the quality of that voice. Most of the time people will ask, "What is the difference between the voice of the human spirit and the voice of the Holy Spirit?" Before we could tell the difference and know how to recognize it we need to know what are the actual differences that are involved.

The first difference of the voice of the Holy Spirit from the voice of the human spirit is in the area of what I call presence. There is a different presence that is involved. The Holy Spirit has connection with the Lord Jesus who sits at the right hand of Father God. And every time the Father wants to speak anything to tell me, the Holy Spirit will communicate it to the human spirit and the human spirit will communicate it to me. So I would feel and sense the voice of the human spirit. I learn to recognize the voice of the human spirit. I learn to recognize the inward witness and all the sensations of the spirit man. Let me give an example in the natural first. Some people's hands are rough and some people's hands are smooth. As I feel a person's hands, I recognize his hands. When I am blindfolded, I would be able to tell who the person is from his hands. Likewise, there is a different feel

from Holy Spirit to the human spirit. Most of the time, the human spirit will communicate to me so I recognize the touch of the human spirit. I learn to recognize the voice of the human spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit reaches directly through the human spirit but His hands are stretching right through. This is what happens sometimes in the spirit realm. The Holy Spirit reaches out through the human spirit and His voice resonate through. It is not just the voice of the human spirit; it's the voice of the Holy Spirit. We need to know what is the difference.

So the first difference is what I call presence. Whenever the Holy Spirit speaks, He carries a different presence. Every one of us carries a certain presence. Our voices are generally speaking very different. So, we recognize the difference in the voices. Remember the human spirit and the Holy Spirit are two different persons. They are one for the bible says that they who are joined to the Lord are one spirit with the Lord. One in a sense of union but there are still two separate different personalities involved. The personality of the Holy Spirit is different from the personality of the human spirit although in nature they are the same. There are two separate entities. And the Holy Spirit carries a very commanding strong presence.

We said in the five witnesses of the human spirit that when the Holy Spirit operates a gift there is sensation of *sunecho*. *Sunecho* is a word that means the Holy Spirit is involved and it carries a very strong presence. Another word when the Holy Spirit speaks there is a measure depending on the degree of the anointing upon. All the time when the human spirit speaks, it's only the anointing within. The anointing within operates all the time. But the anointing upon comes as the Spirit wills. And every time when the Holy Spirit speaks which includes of course every time when Jesus speaks, or when the Father speaks, they carry with them an anointing upon.

That's where we begin to recognize between the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. There is an anointing upon sometimes its just a small measure but there still is an anointing upon and it is a great difference. And I realized that possibly that the average Christian cannot differentiate between the anointing upon and the anointing within. That's why it makes it more difficult for them to differentiate between the voice of the human spirit and the voice of the Holy Spirit. If we cannot differentiate between the anointing upon and the anointing within, we will find it very difficult to differentiate between the voice of the human spirit and the voice of

the Holy Spirit.

So what do we mean by a presence. As I go into details in this area we do not want to give you the impression that, that is the only type of presence or the only atmosphere He brings. But I bring you some illustrations to help you understand what its like. But its not limited to that. Sometimes when you have a prayer meeting, at the end of it there is a certain type of presence that is hanging over the air. That presence is the presence of the anointing upon that has a reason. Just sense what is it right now in the atmosphere. What we have now is normal. A normal level means that the teaching anointing is upon me but it has not really come upon you in your life. Right now, you close your eyes for a moment and pray very softly in tongues until we get that presence and atmosphere so that I could illustrate it with your actual experience. Notice that there is a certain atmosphere in the air right now. This type of atmosphere that we are having right now is what some Christians describe this way, "I feel like crying, I feel like weeping." What are they talking about? It is the anointing upon. Sometimes when you step into a place the anointing upon comes on you, you just cry. This kind of atmosphere people call touching. It is not a natural thing. This is a spiritual realm. It is a natural duplication of that but its nothing like that. So, that is what I call the atmosphere. What we have right now as we worship God and as we sang and spoke in tongue together was create an anointing upon in the atmosphere. Usually I will never operate that gift until that kind of atmosphere is there. If its not there I will not operate that gift. You need the anointing upon to come when you operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And it depends on the level. This is what I call the experience of *sunecho*. You experience what the anointing upon is like. And unless it is there, you cannot operate. You could only operate on the human spirit level but not on the Holy Spirit level. This is what I mean atmosphere of presence. When the Holy Spirit speaks, He carries with Him that kind of atmosphere. We could sense that the atmosphere touches our emotions. And sometimes you feel like crying. Or you feel like just being filled in His presence. This is what we mean by presence and atmosphere that is brought forth by God.

Another way we could illustrate is to let you experience this. We have shared in the last session that we could discern some things with the human spirit. As you pick up some things with the human spirit it is not the voice of the Holy Spirit yet. We do not prophesy with the voice of the human spirit speaking to us. In prophecy we

need to use the word, "I perceived," and not so much as, "Thus says the Lord." For we are only perceiving line upon line and precept upon precept.

(Praying over somebody in the congregation.) My spirit is perceiving that he is reaching out into some things and at times that he felt that there is something in his life that he felt is hindering his spiritual life and he is reaching to overcome them. Some times, he feels a bit self-condemned. That is in his past. As I see into his future, I perceive that he has an active role in a certain fellowship and I could perceive that God is going to use him and train him into a position of leadership in church. All these are perceiving in my human spirit. As I reach out further onto God then it comes a time when the Holy Spirit starts speaking. That's different for that has an anointing upon. As I minister, first it's my spirit perceiving. My spirit receives it from the Holy Spirit. As my spirit from the Holy Spirit, I could say, "I perceive," and say, "This is the thing that I sensed." This is where the voice of the Holy Spirit starts speaking, *"Thus says the Lord God that He has called you and He has pulled you out from the miry clay and He has taken you out of circumstances that were beyond your control and placed you into circumstances where you are in control."* And God says that He is going to continue to anoint your life and you are going to note a measure of His presence. And you would be able to reach out into the realm of the Spirit and you will be a light-house onto others and there are times where you would have opportunity that you would go off and you will be able to lay hands upon the sick and they shall recover. And there will be those around you who will share their problems with you. And the Spirit of God will rise up within you and you shall reach out to them and say I believe I have a word of the Lord for you. I believe that I have got something to say about you. And you shall be able to go forth and lay hands upon them and cause them to recover and cause them to be edified. Yes, I will send you to the aid of other men of God and you will be almost like a right hand onto them. And you are used. You will be that encouraging role. And there will be men of God who need you and rely upon you. And you will stand in the position that I have called and chosen you in Jesus name."

That's is different that's a prophecy. Do you notice the atmosphere is different in the two? "I perceive," and "Thus says the Lord," are different. And we need to know the difference between perceiving and the gift operating. Perceiving is with the human spirit. The gift operating is with, "Thus says the Lord," and it carries a different presence. There are two ways the presence can come. It can just come because the Holy Spirit speaks to you. And He can do it anytime He wants. His presence is

always announced. It's just like in a wedding you know when the bride comes. When the bride comes the music sounds. But when you hear the music, you may not see the bride yet. You won't see the flower girls come and then wait for another hour before the bride comes. They always come together. In the same way when the Spirit speaks He always accompany it with His presence. You could sense it some times just before He speaks. It can be any time anywhere any place.

I mentioned that there are two experiences of His presence. Some times His presence is experienced as a result of our fellowship with Him and we build ourselves to that presence where it's easy for Him to speak. The other time is other activity. It could be any time. Perhaps you are just about to take your lunch or you are just in the middle of your food. But you get the presence before you get the voice. Just like Kenneth Hagin in his biography, he mentioned how he went to his kitchen, as he took his cup of coffee and on his way from the kitchen to his living room, there was His presence. And with the presence came a voice. There is a presence that accompanies the voice. It would be a split second or some times, it could be long hours. Or some times weeks. I have mentioned how about a week or so before the Lord appeared to me I could sense something building up in the spiritual atmosphere. I don't know what it was but I know that something was building up. Just like one of my friends who had Jesus appeared to him also, He said three weeks before Jesus appeared, he sensed God's dealings in his life. Remember in the Old Testament in the book of Exodus before God spoke to them God said, "Sanctify yourself for three days." So some times, it's a long time. Some times, it's just a split second. We just sense His presence like the ringing of the telephone. That's what I call the anointing in the atmosphere that comes. And you know the Holy Spirit's voice is going to operate.

Now the human spirit just speaks all the time and just telling you things all the time because we have to live in the anointing within all the time. But the Holy Spirit speaks at special times and it carries a strong presence. Some times the presence is sent forth to us before He speaks. Some times the presence is built up before He speaks.

Lets look at the book of Acts 5:32 *We are His witnesses to these things, and so also in the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.* Peter declares that the Holy

Spirit is also a witness together with them. That tells us that many times when Peter was speaking forth the voice of the Holy Spirit could be heard in that voice. Now just turn back to chapter 4:8 *Then Peter filled with the Holy Spirit said to them.* He said powerful things to them that really convicted them. Notice that Peter was filled with the Spirit and he spoke. Why does the bible record that phase? What Peter sensed was an anointing coming upon him. He sensed a presence coming upon his life. The Holy Spirit would probably communicate something to him. He was filled with the Spirit, he heard some things, and I believe he spoke some of the things that the Spirit spoke to him. Being filled with the Spirit is an atmosphere. We have to be filled all the time but these are special occasions where the Spirit's anointing upon came.

There are other incidences in Acts 13:9 *Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit looked intently at him.* Again, he uses the expression Paul filled with the Spirit. As Paul was preaching and ministering suddenly there came this special presence. And he did a very unusual thing, which we normally don't do. He pronounces judgment on Elymas, which we normally will not do without an anointing upon. It's a special operating of the gift of faith. One of the operations of the gift of faith is an anointing to speak words. It would be like the words you speak would be like the words of God. So, that is an example of the atmosphere coming. I remember when we were starting off in the ministry. We were doing all we can in the mass media. We printed some magazines. We just printed it by faith and the bill came to about two thousand dollars. That was a lot during that time. A group of us were attending a certain house fellowship. In the house fellowship, I could sense His presence. I quickly got all of us from that team together because I sensed the Holy Spirit was speaking, "Pray now for finances." It was like this urgency that is involved. We joined hands together and prayed for finances. Within the next week or two, a check came for the exact amount. He will announce, He will send the bridesmaids, you will hear within your human spirit. You could almost describe the experience of His presence coming like being filled with the Spirit afresh. So some times, there is a difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit. The first difference is presence. The presence can come sent by Him.

The presence can come built by us. Like in Acts 13:1-3 The presence was more built up. It was more the leadership of the Antioch church coming together and as they

were ministering to the Lord and fasting, they created an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to speak. I can tell you, we can create an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit if we were to spend time with the Lord. That is why in the over-night prayer it's very easy for the Holy Spirit to speak especially at the end of the meeting. Why, we have built an atmosphere. Like the song says, "Jesus we enthrone You." We have enthroned and created an atmosphere that He could easily speak. He carries a presence with His voice. That is why every time when you build a presence He is not obligated to speak to you but He usually does.

Authority

The second difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit is in what I call authority. The first is presence and the second is authority. When the Holy Spirit speaks, you don't argue, you don't question. You only obey. Some times, He doesn't explain why. It's left to your human spirit to find out why. Depending on our maturity in God our human spirit knows why. As I have shown in I Cor. 7:12 *But to the rest I, not the Lord say.* Verse 10 says *Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord.* Notice the difference verse 10 and then verse 11-12. He says I am commanding. I am telling you something. It is not only I but this is with a "thus says the Lord". That means you cannot change it. You understand now why God has to mix the instructions to our lives so that He gives opportunities for all of us to function in Him. Imagine if all our life we function with, "Thus says the Lord." I come to you and say, "Thus says the Lord: make a cup of coffee for me." You cannot even change it to a chocolate drink. Imagine if somebody goes around with, "Thus says the Lord," all the time, you cannot argue. Imagine in all our committee meetings I go with, "Thus says the Lord there is no more discussion." Because if you discuss it means disobedience. When the Lord says, "Thus says the Lord," do it there is no more discussion. We only have once choice - obedience. In fact, the other choice is disobedience. Which is why we don't conduct our committee meetings or annual general meeting with the, "Thus says the Lord." Neither do I when we fellowship with other ministries you will find that very seldom I say, "Thus says the Lord." Why because I want to give you an opportunity to hear Him too. Some times, I may hear from the Lord but I don't want to tell yet. If every time I tell I become like God to you, which is not what God wants us to be. Imagine every time I say, "Thus says the Lord," there is no more discussion. The only possibility of discussion is this you say, "I perceived it

would be good to have a carpet of this color.” That means that perception is still subject to other perceptions coming in. When it’s our human spirit perceiving, it’s just like a worm’s eye view of circumstances.

It’s just like the three blind men touching the elephant. One of them touched the elephant’s tail at the back and said, “I perceived that an elephant is like a rope.” Another guy puts his hands around the elephant’s leg and said, “I perceived that an elephant is like a tree.” Then another guy touched the elephant nose and said, “I perceived that an elephant is like a snake.” Perceiving is like that worm’s eye view.

So, Paul from his contact was perceiving into the marriage relationship and trying to get sub-laws to govern people’s life. He said, “I perceived in this situation it could be this way.” That means you could add sub-laws to it, as we perceive situations in times through our contacts. One of the guys comes around and touches the elephant’s leg and say, “Thus says the Lord, an elephant is like a tree.” The only way we could argue with that guy is to say its not, “Thus says the Lord,” which means rejecting that that person heard from God. We don’t want meetings that way. We always give chance for people to sense what is right. When the Holy Spirit speaks, you cannot change. To change it is to disobey. I have some times some instructions given to me from God and I don’t compromise on that. When I hear a, “Thus says the Lord,” don’t try to change me. You will never succeed. I am not persuadable if I hear, “Thus says the Lord.”

There are other times when it was my human spirit perceiving. Let me illustrate with a concrete example. The last time we have half of this auditorium filled up, I knew, “Thus says the Lord its time to expand.” Or when we were having our meetings in a hotel, I knew that we have to move into a new place. That was with, “Thus says the Lord.” But when we were renovating this place and thinking of buying plastic chairs that probably cost about fifteen dollars or so, one brother rang me up and said, “I perceive that we should get better chairs. Get banquet chairs like those in the hotel.” I said, “Brother do you know the cost?” “Yes,” but this is the way he put it, “Pastor pray about that.” And since the Lord said, “Thus says the Lord, move in,” He didn’t say in details move in with what chairs. It was left up to our human spirit to decide. I said I would pray about it. The Lord spoke to me two days later and said go ahead. Do you know what the Lord said? He said, “You get

the chairs that you can believe for.” If all you have were faith for a tree trunk cut off and put it there, you would have a tree trunk. The Lord said, “Get whatever your faith level allows you to.” So, we went ahead with these chairs.

If that brother rang me up and said, “I don’t think it is God’s will for us to move out of the hotel,” I would have said, “Sorry you heard wrongly.” When we were starting this church, a sister rang me up and said, “The Lord told me to tell you that you are not to start the church.” In fact I had about four people told me, “Thus says the Lord.” And I told them, “Either you heard wrongly or I heard wrongly. There is no compromise.” When I say, “Thus say the Lord,” and you say, “Thus says the Lord,” there is no compromise especially when there are different directions. And I said, “The Lord told me to start it and the Lord had given me a name for it. And He had given me the plan for the organization. And He had given me the structure.” I said, “Sister you didn’t hear from the Lord; you heard from your own self.”

See there are some things that say, “Thus says the Lord,” and there are some things that just the human spirit picks up. When the human spirit picks up some things its like the three blind men having one aspect of truth. Now God makes our leading in that direction so that we can grow. Imagine if all the time He speaks to you, “Thus says the Lord,” our human spirit will never grow. You become like a robot. Everything you need to do you goes to the Lord. “Lord, what’s next?” Our spirit will never grow to be like God. God wants our spirit to grow like what Robert Liardon said in one of his books. He said that our spirit must grow until what we perceive in our spirit is exactly what God wants. That is growth where our every spirit becomes matured in the senses, in the nature, and in the will of God. Without even the “Thus says the Lord,” your spirit knows this is what God wants. When you know what the Lord wants to do even before He speaks. That’s maturity.

That’s the second area between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit, authority. The Holy Spirit carries authority that you cannot question. Some times when people say, “Thus says the Lord,” when there is no anointing, you know it. Some times, it could be the human spirit and there is no anointing upon so you know it’s the human spirit but he says, “Thus says the Lord,” which is actually a wrong usage. Your human spirit says, “I perceived.” But if it’s really the

Holy Spirit then you say, "Thus says the Lord." And I have mixed it in helping people. Some times when I counsel people I say, "Thus says the Lord; this is the vision that I see." Whether they agree or not my responsibility is just to give it. But if I perceive it, I will tell them so. So, we have to be sensitive to both His presence and His commanding authority and presence.