

HOW TO BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT SERIES

THE INWARD VOICE OF

THE HUMAN SPIRIT

We have touched on the five witnesses of the Holy Spirit in two parts. If we learn to be obedient to the inward witnesses of the Holy Spirit, we will progress to hearing the inward voice. The inward voice is the voice of the spirit man. It's not the voice of the Holy Spirit, which we will also touch on. But it's the voice of the human spirit that works in our lives. The voice of the human spirit is the sensation that vibrates in the sub-conscious and the conscious corridors of our mind. Let me illustrate: the sounds that we speak come from the air in our diaphragm. Our diaphragm pushes the air, which then vibrates through the vocal cord, and is formed into articulate sounds by our lips, our teeth, our tongue and our face. So we realize that a spoken word or our human natural voice is formed through an intricate set up.

As we look at the voice of the human spirit, the human spirit when it began to speak will bring forth understanding to our soul and to our spirit. I am talking about the human spirit speaking in tongues directly to God. We know that the human spirit does speak to God and according I Cor. 14:14-15 Paul says, *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.* Yet for the human spirit to speak forth notice Paul says *I will*. He still has to will to pray with the spirit.

Now the human soul consists of three areas. One is our intellect, second is our emotions that is the part of us that feels. See when somebody speaks a word that is perhaps too strong or sharp you feel hurt. That's not your body reacting. Words do

not hurt the body. But it hurts the soul's emotion. The second area of your soul is your emotions. The third area is volition the part of us that chooses, the *I will* or *I will not*.

The human spirit consists of three areas too. One area is called the conscience. Another area is communion and the third area is intuition. These three areas function together when the inward witness is operating. Communion, intuition and conscience operate together. They are the basis of the function of the human spirit. Before the human spirit can be released into the physical realm, it must pass through the soul. For example if you speak in tongues, your spirit is speaking yet we realize that your voice is being used. So somehow, any connection between the spirit and the physical realm must pass through the soul. It is the soul's volition that decides whether to allow your spirit man to use your vocal cords to pray in tongues or not. Paul says, *I will pray with the spirit... I will sing with the spirit*. (We are talking about persons who already are exercising the gift of tongues. Some individuals who first receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues may experience some overwhelming force or power that make them speak in other tongues uncontrollably.)

Let us cover the connection between the human spirit, the human soul and the human body in some detail. The human spirit would communicate to God according to I Cor. 14:14-15. We realize that when the human spirit speaks forth, it receives utterance from the Holy Spirit and so the human spirit communicates to God but it ends up in our body. When we pray in tongue, it's our voice, our lips and our tongue moving to articulate the words that are given onto us. So somehow, between the spirit and the body the human spirit must have touched the soul. For there is no way we can affect our body without affecting the soul. There is no way God in the spirit realm will affect the body without passing through the soul area. Its just like for example this is a platform and this is the aisle area and there are the seats. There is no way you can get to the platform without passing through the aisle. God places the human soul inside the human body. Then God places the human spirit inside the soul. There is no way you could touch the spirit without touching the soul. There is no way the spirit can touch the body without passing through the soul. It is in essence an impossibility. It must always pass through the soul.

When we pray in tongue, it passes through the will of our soul. Paul says I will pray in an unknown tongue, I will pray with my understanding. Do you notice he says, "I will"? His human soul chooses to allow the spirit to get to his body. For the spirit to get to the body the soul must choose. So there is no way some of us are going to say, "If God wants me to pray in tongue He will make me do it." He won't, He has given us free choice.

Then we ask the question, "What about the tangible anointing of God that we sensed that affects the five senses of the body? Did that take place by bypassing the soul?" No, because you choose to yield by worshipping God and by choosing to spend time with Him, you have positioned your human spirit to allow God's Spirit to work through your spirit to bypass and to pass through the soul area and touch and affect your body to give you the sensation. See your free choice is still involved. The will is still involved. There is no way the Holy Spirit is going to work without passing through your human spirit. The human spirit will always be the avenue of which the Holy Spirit passes through. There is an orderly world we are talking about in the spirit realm. So when the human spirit wants to bring forth an understanding to the human soul so that we could get our body into obedience, the human spirit will have to somehow communicate to the intellect, emotion and will in the soul area.

Lets look at Genesis 2 the human soul came into being because of the implantation of the spirit within man. Gen.2: 7 *Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* The Hebrew word says *and man became a living soul.* See the soul came into being as the result of the work of the Spirit. When God's Spirit contacts human flesh, there is a creation of a soul. Man became a living soul. Thus, the place and the position of the soul are to be a means of communication between the spirit realm and the physical realm. The soul was created as a primary communication point between the body or physical realm and the spirit realm.

Having that understanding we can now read Romans. Rom.8: 14 *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.* We realize that chapter 8 was built upon chapter

7. Even in chapter 7, it talks about the struggle of the soul. Then in the first part of chapter 8, it has reference to the importance of being led by the Spirit. Rom. 8:1-11. *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life is Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. For God had done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do; sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

In Romans 8: 14 Paul tells us those who walk in the Spirit or led by the Spirit these are the sons of God. But notice in verse 4 he is introducing the subject where he contrast walking in the flesh with walking in the Spirit. He is talking about walking in the flesh first before he moves into walking in the Spirit. Paul is introducing the subject about being led by the Spirit of God. Then he goes on quickly to verse 5 and suddenly he began talking about the mind. The very next scripture he starts talking about the mind. Tell me, what is the connection between the mind and walking in the Spirit? The mind, which is part of the soul, is created as a communication center between the spirit realm and the physical realm. And there is no way we are going to be led by the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, unless our mind is renewed. That is the purpose of him mentioning about the carnal mind being at enmity with God. The carnal mind is against the spiritual mind. Why does he mention all these? Why does he put those scriptures in? Because he is associating the importance of the mind and the thought life to being led by the Spirit.

Verse 5, For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set their mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Notice that the context of being led by the Spirit in verse 14 is the importance of what goes on in the mind, the thought life, the soul realm. What is the mind so important? Our mind was originally created to help us lead spiritual lives and not carnal lives. Our mind was originally created to function as one with the spirit realm. But somehow, after the fall of Adam where the mind has been darkened, the mind was divided into the sub-conscious and conscious mind. But as we look into this aspect of the mind that God has created, in its original sinless state, it was a perfect avenue into the spirit realm. Since the fall, it was not. Notice our mind can be a focus only for natural things, or it can be a focus for spiritual things. Paul himself says that. You could dwell on natural and carnal things and it produces death. The liberty we feel in our spirit depends a lot on the level of our thought. If we dwell on physical earthly things with our mind, there is heaviness and a gravitation force that pulls our whole life down. But when we dwell our mind upon the things of God peace, joy, liberty comes upon our life. So, our mind is like being pulled two ways since the fall of man.

Since our mind functions as a receiver of things in the spirit realm, to a certain extent it still has an element of death. Let me give an example from your experience. When Satan tempts you, how did you hear his temptations? Satan and demons are spirit beings they are not flesh and blood. How do you hear their temptation? Everybody here has been tempted in some ways. When the temptation came how did you hear it? Temptations come as thoughts. Temptation comes from the enemy realm, spirit realm, and spirit being. Have you ever wondered how is it possible that demons and Satan could affect the thought life, which is a part of the soul and not a part of the spirit? Our mind and our thoughts are a part of our soul. How is it that the spirit realm is affecting our soul in the negative stream? Because our mind was created as a communication point between the physical realm and the spirit realm. Satan knows that and he tries to intercept our thoughts. Its just like those people who were broadcasting the Good News into communist lands. When the communists find out you know what they do. They try to broadcast on the same frequency. They either jam your frequency out and you hear nothing or you end up hearing their propaganda. Satan tries to come at that frequency and affect our thought life in order to block us from hearing God.

We can easily show from scriptures in Acts 5 how people like Ananias and Sapphira fell when they chose to tell a lie in deception for self-glorification. As Ananias came

before Peter, Peter said, "Is this all the money that you have sold the land for?" And he says yes. Peter replied, "You are lying. This is only a part of it. If you have sold it and if you have not given, it would have been yours. But since you gave it, you told a lie." For whatever reasons the judgment of God came upon him. But this is a statement made by Peter in Acts 5:3 *Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.* Notice he contrived or conceived it in his heart. It was a thought. Ananias and Sapphira may not even have known that the deceptive thought came from Satan. But it's the thought, the wrong thoughts, and the wrong broadcasting station they were listening to that caused them to fall.

Acts 8 in the case of Simon who was a born again Christian but he was not very matured in God and he still have some carnality in him. It is possible to be a Christian and still be carnal. In Acts 8 when he asked for power Peter says in verse 20 *Your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money.* That's a wonderful stand. Peter says get rid of your money it means nothing in the spirit realm. Money may be a means of doing the ministry work but it is worthless when it's carnal. It could be the most important thing outside to the people of the world but not in the kingdom of God. So Peter says you keep your money. His power is not obtained that way. But he made this statement and said, "Why have you thought?" See it was his thought life that was still not renewed. It says here *because you thought*, wrong thoughts were the cause of his problem. And he even says in verse 23 you are still in bondage. You are bound by iniquity and poison by bitterness. Philip baptized him in water. So, he was born again but his thought life was still causing bondages in his life. The thoughts cause his downfall.

Of course we know II Cor. 10 where Paul says the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty to God in pulling down strongholds, arguments, reasoning and bringing every thought to the obedience of Christ. We have given the scriptures to show that it's the thought life that Satan infiltrates and he is a spirit being. So bad thoughts, evil thoughts come from the enemy. Sometimes good thoughts and good ideas are actually bad thoughts like the wolf clothed in sheepskins and the devil tries to make them look good but they are still from the enemy. All those bad thoughts are from him.

The wonderful thing is that we must realize that some good thoughts, revelation thoughts come from the spirit realm from God. Bad thoughts come from the enemy; then where do good thoughts come from? There are three involved, there is us, there is the devil and there is Father God. So some of our thoughts come from the enemy. Some of our thoughts come from ourselves. We have the ability to think our own thoughts. We have that ability to dig into the resources of our experience and bring those thoughts. All we have to do is to talk about buffet and straight away pictures of lovely food come steaming into our minds. That is caused by the soul. Thoughts can come from the soul realm, either generated by us or generated by fellowman.

Then there are real thoughts that come from the Spirit realm of God. Those thoughts that come from the Spirit realm of God are revelation thoughts and they will revolutionize your life. They are always good thoughts, pure thoughts, and powerful thoughts. One thought from God can set you free. One revelation from God, one revelation truth, just one thought can keep you going. The wonderful thing is people do not realize the role of the mind in the spirit realm. The mind is to function as a receiver. It's also a transmitting station. But that is another topic altogether. Since we are concentrating on how to be led by the Spirit, we focus our mind as a receiving station. And it receives frequency in the thought realm. We need to tell the difference between the thoughts. The problem is not so much in the receiving as in the discerning. For God will be speaking all the time. By now, you would have reached the conclusion that the inward witness is a soft and gentle thought that rises up from your spirit to your soul. The sound and the voice of the inward voice of your human spirit are like a gentle thought. You hear it as a thought. But right now, if we were to be quiet we could listen to our own inner voice speaking. That's more our soul. You could sort of think to yourself. Try that just close your eyes for a moment. And say Jesus is Lord about five times quietly. Don't move your lips, don't move your physical being. You hear some thing inside. That is roughly what the inward voice will sound like. It's from the inside coming out. From the inside bubbling forth. The inward voice is a thought that bubbles from within us.

We need to differentiate because there are also external thoughts and internal

thoughts. We need to differentiate between them and also we need to differentiate thoughts that we cause ourselves. So, the problem and the key are to differentiate the three. What thoughts are from the enemy; what thoughts are from ourselves and what thoughts are from God. I first discovered the importance of thought life when I came across the scriptures in I Cor. 2:11 *For what person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him. So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit, which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.* Notice he says the things, which is from the Spirit freely given to us by God that we might know them. How do we know them? *And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit.* Now obviously he is talking about hearing things from the spirit realm. The things, which the Spirit teaches. He is talking about receiving in the spirit realm. We realize that the inward witnesses cannot teach. There are only five sensations but they do not teach you. But the inward voice teaches us. The voice of the human spirit teaches us a lot of things. The Holy Spirit teaches too but we are talking first about the human spirit.

Then look at verse 14 *The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.* His conclusion is powerful. Verse 16 *For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him? Then he quickly turns around and says, But we have the mind of Christ.* The mind of Christ operating in us. The paraphrase version is not a very accurate version but once in a while you get some verses that render the idea very beautifully but other times it just render out of context. The paraphrased version in I Cor. 2 it mentioned this in verse 16, "Who has known the thoughts of the Lord that he may instruct Him but we have the thoughts of Christ." So, the thoughts of Jesus are occurring to us. The thoughts of Jesus are being implanted from our spirit into our soul. We are receiving thoughts from Jesus.

Sometimes people thought as if they only know the devil's voice.

"The devil has been after me all day long."

"What did he tell you?"

"He told me to do this, he told me to do that. Morning he told me this; afternoon he

told me that.”

“You seem to be a very good friend of the devil. Didn’t God tell you anything?”

“No, I only hear him the devil.”

Sometimes people say, ‘The devil has been after me all day long bless his holy name.’ I know they don’t mean that. Sometimes the way they talk that’s what they are doing - glorifying the devil. Those people say it so fast I know they don’t mean it they mean bless God’s name. But sub-consciously that’s what they are doing. Isn’t it strange that the majority of people can tell when the devil tempts them but they cannot tell when God speaks to them? You ask any Christian Tom, Dick and Harry, “Do you know when the devil tempts you?” They will say yes. “Do you know when God speaks to you?” “Sometimes.” Isn’t it funny we have slanted the wrong way? And the opposite is true when somebody comes and says, “I sensed the Lord speaking to me.” We think that person is weird, oddball, and screw gone loose, extremist, and fanatic. But when people say, “The devil told me this.” They say, “O yes, my sympathy is with you.”

We should live in the realm where we recognize God’s thoughts as easily as the devil’s temptation. We have the thoughts of God occurring to us. When I began to realize this truth, from morning till night, I recorded every thought that occurred to me. And at the end of the day, I would sit down and look at it and say, these are from the enemy; these are from myself; these others probably from God but let me check further. So, at the end of the day I will go through my thoughts. I analyzed them until I began to detect and recognize thoughts that are from God. How do you feel like when it came? Was it really bubbling from inside? And through time, you train yourself to know the difference between the thoughts occurring inside and the thoughts occurring outside. You could feel the difference very great. Just like some people, if they are tone deaf they cannot tell the “C” note from the “D” note. You play “C” you play “D” and they don’t know the difference. Tone-deaf people cannot hear small differences in tones. But if you play “C” chord followed by a chord further up like “G” then they could tell the difference. Such people are not trained to differentiate finer things.

So in the same way we need to be trained to differentiate between the sounds of inner silent thoughts that come silently, I mean inaudibly that that comes from the inside and thoughts from the outside. And it's very obvious when the thought is from the outside. It sounds very different from the thoughts that are from the inside. Basically, we have reached this conclusion proving from the scriptures that the inward voice that we hear is thoughts that are from the human spirit. The human spirit communicates to us what he received from the Holy Spirit, it communicates to our soul, and we hear it as thoughts. Those thoughts can occur any time. We are going to focus more on this area.

Guidelines

But before we go on, I just want to list these points with you so that you could be shielded and protected from the enemy's thoughts. There are certain ways and certain keys in order to guard and help us to discern which thoughts are from God, which thoughts are from the enemy.

No.1 you can ask the question: is it in line with the Word? If it's in line with the Word of God then you at least come to the second phase.

No. 2 does it glorify the Lord Jesus Christ? Any thoughts that originate from God are for one sole purpose to bring glory to Jesus. That is why sometimes I hear people's ideas in the kingdom of God. Sometimes people try to do God's spiritual work with soul-manufactured ideas. Some time I hear people bringing good ideas. But I picked up in my spirit that the end of it has a little element of self-glorification so it cannot be from God. No matter how good I will not move into that. I want to make sure that it's from the Spirit. For anything that is not born

of the Spirit will not be blessed by the Spirit. Only what is born of the Spirit will be able to continue in the power of the Spirit. What is born of the soul is soulish. What is born of the flesh is flesh. What is born of the Spirit is Spirit. And that is the only thing that God looks for in eternity. So No. 2 does it glorify the Lord Jesus Christ?

No. 3 is it in line with nature of God, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and temperance? For against such there is no law. When Galatians talks about being led by the Spirit, the context is the fruit of the Spirit. If you read Galatians 5, you notice that the context is walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh, contrasting the two. He talks about the fruit of the Spirit against the works of the flesh. Don't miss the context. The context is being led by the Spirit. So No. 3 is it in line with the nature of God with the fruit of the Spirit? If you have a thought that causes you sleepless nights and it continues to take away your peace or torment you, no matter how good it sounds it is not from God. These are also areas that you could check for deception.

No. 4 is it from the inside or from the outside? Some people find it hard to differentiate it. But if you grow in God, you can differentiate the two. See the Holy Spirit lives in you and the devil is outside. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. And through time, you will be able to differentiate between inner thoughts and outer thoughts. If you have not been aware of them, now that I have mentioned it, you can start

being aware of them. So, is it from the inside or is it from the outside? That's another area for us to differentiate the thoughts of God.

No.5 does it produce fear or does it produce faith? Any word from God, any *rhema* you hear has to produce faith. God's *rhema* always produces faith. The devil 's word always produces fear. There is some consistency you can find.

In the first place, let see Ananias and Sapphira if they receive the thought from the enemy, it cannot even cross point one. They know its wrong to tell a lie. They would have thrown it out in the first place if they had this check. What about Simon the magician in Acts 8? His fault was self-glorification. It will not even have passed the second point. So, with all these checks it helps us. Is it from the inside or is it from the outside? Then thus it produces faith. Thus, it produces fear. A sub-point to this point is that he that believes shall not make haste. Hasty thoughts are also fear-filled and anxious thoughts and they are not from God. If you have a thought that bombards you like a sub-machine gun, then you should know that it is from the enemy. The Holy Spirit doesn't push. Never in the bible it says those who are pushed by the Spirit they are sons of God. I know God well enough that He is gentle. The devil will come and says do this, do that. Get into this venture. You try to delay and he will keep pressing you.

But the Spirit's thoughts are gentle. He will say softly, "Phone

this person up." Then you ignore it. It doesn't disturb you. Two hours later He speaks again, "Phone this person up." That's my experience with Him. Then you don't do any thing three hours later, "Come, phone this person up." Sometimes, it's so quiet that you just ignore it in the midst of other noises. Then at night before you sleep, He reminds you. Phone this person up. The inward voice works with the inward witness. The inward witness is the sensation that will confirm the inward voice. That's how gentle He is. I have known God sometimes stretch an instruction for one month. Because we want to check, we want to make sure it's from God. I know God stretch His repeated command, He could repeat for about five times in one month. Its just bubbles forth then it subsides. He doesn't talk to you again. He is so patient. That is in line with the point where it should produce faith and not fear. And it is patient and not hasty. He that walks in faith is not hasty.

These are points I am throwing out so that they could keep you until the next week as you experiment with your thought life. Your thought life is very important. You could use it in a tremendous way to spot the enemy. When I move into an area where there are a lot of demons, straightaway I pick it up, not necessarily with an open vision but just by a soul trained to be sensitive to the spirit realm. You walk in a place where there are a lot of angels you could pick it up because your soul is trained and sensitized to the spirit realm. You are aware and you are yielding your soul not to the carnal realm but to the spirit realm.

