

The Leading of The Spirit

Part 7 Romans Chapter Eight

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

We've now arrived at Romans Chapter Eight and here we are, already Justified – declared righteous by God. We're born-again of the Spirit. We have the Newness of Life. We're Blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus ... accepted in the Son of His love ... raised with Jesus and seated with Him far above all demonic powers. So here we are with such incredible gifts and graces ... feeling blessed as we rest under God's grace. SO NOW, GOD SAYS TO US ... 'HEY GUYS. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO START TO WALK WITH ME. TO WALK THROUGH THIS PRESENT LIFE AS THE WONDERFUL, SPIRITUAL ... BLESSED, LOVED PEOPLE I'VE MADE YOU. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO WALK OUT THAT WHICH I'VE PUT WITHIN YOU – **TO WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE.**'

Romans 6:4 KJV **SLIDE**

*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.***

Ephesians 4:1 (Paraphrased)

*... **Walk worthy** of the vocation with which we are called.*

HOWEVER, LIKE ANY NEW BORN BABY WE DISCOVER, WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO WALK.

Many Christians start to walk as they used to walk ...but it's all wrong.

We are to **walk in the Newness of Life.**

MANY TRIED TO DO IT BY THEMSELVES BUT ENDED UP **FALLING FLAT ON THEIR FACES.**

PAUL TRIED and ended up being lowered down a wall in a basket and running for his life.

A few young Christian's spun off into fanaticism ... **rebuking the world around.**

I ONCE REBUKED A YOUNG LADY in a jean-shop because they had an anti-God poster on the wall of the change-room.

IT'S TRUE ... **THE WORLD IS A HOWLING WILDERNESS** WITH EVIL LURKING AT EVERY TURN.

... BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO WALK THROUGH IT; we either end up hiding in some esoteric corner in fear, or militantly shouting out in condemnation and anger.

BUT HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS ... YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO WALK THIS WALK ALONE.

GOD KNOWS, EVEN WITH EVERY BLESSING WE'VE BEEN GIVEN, WE'LL STILL STUFF IT UP.

John14:16

Jesus said, *I will pray the Father and He will give you **another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

The Greek word for Helper is “paracletos” means ‘one called alongside to help’. **A paraclete is one who does something for you that you cannot do for yourself.**

SO ROMANS 8 IS THE CHAPTER OF ‘THE HELPER’ and here the Holy Spirit emerges from the background where He’s been hidden throughout the seven previous chapters and only been mentioned twice up until now. Here in Romans 8 he explodes onto the pages ...

BEING MENTIONED 20 TIMES.

THAT’S BECAUSE THIS IS THE CHAPTER OF WALKING OUT WHAT GOD HAS PUT WITHIN
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN LEAD US THROUGH THIS HOWLING WILDERNESS OF EVIL AND DANGER.

SLIDE SO WE ARE INTRODUCED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE ONE WHO WILL ...

INSTRUCT US HOW TO WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE.

INSPIRE US SO WE DESIRE TO WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE.

EMPOWER US WITH THE ABILITY TO WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE.

God hasn’t just given us a new life ... **HE’S GIVEN US OUR OWN PERSONAL GUIDE** ...
TO INSTRUCT, INSPIRE AND EMPOWER US TO WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE.

THOSE WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT... **SLIDE**

Better translated, ‘Those who are being led ...’

The verb ‘**led**’ is in the ‘Passive Voice’ which means ...

IT’S NOT SOMETHING WE DO ... **IT’S SOMETHING THAT’S DONE TO US.**

So we don’t have to think about where we should go, and how we should go, and worry and ask the Spirit to Help us ...

NO! HE IS LEADING AND WE ARE FOLLOWING. HE IS IN CHARGE. HE IS STRONG, WISE AND HAS THE WHOLE JOURNEY THROUGH THIS WORLD COVERED.

NB: GOD THE FATHER AND JESUS THE SON **HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT ... AND NEITHER SHOULD WE.**

- He is the active member of the Trinity.
- He’s also the active Person of our salvation, revealing it to us and regenerating us.
- He’s also the active power of the Gospel, revealing it to us.
- He’s also the Presence of God in our church services.

In fact, He is the one who makes everything in God relevant and real to us.

WITHOUT HIM, EVEN THOUGH SALVATION HAS BEEN PURCHASED WE COULD NEVER EXPERIENCE IT. WITHOUT HIM, THE WORD OF GOD WOULD BE A DRY TEXT BOOK. WITHOUT HIM, OUR SINGING WOULD BE EMPTY AND OUR MEETINGS LIFELESS.

So, being led by the Spirit of God is one of the great ministries He has for us.

- A few weeks ago we saw that He also brings LIFE to our mortal bodies.
- Last week we saw ONLY WITH HIM can we put to death the evil deeds of the body.
- Today we see, we do not know where to go or how to go without His Leading.

HOW DOES HE LEAD US?

He leads us **comprehensively, exhaustively, expansively and carefully.**

He leads us **in every area of life** as we journey through this present world.

He gives us **personal guidance** as to **where to go ...**

He speaks to us **divine wisdom** as to **how to go** and **when to go.**

He instructs us as to **the right decisions** we have to make and lovingly leads us back onto the right path when we have gone astray.

BUT IN THIS CONTEXT HE LEADS US IN OUR DIVINE SONSHIP.

HE LEADS US JUST AS HE LED JESUS ... LIVING AS A SON OF GOD IN EVERY AREA OF LIFE.

The small things ... **when to wait and when to go ...**

The seemingly insignificant things like giving a cup of water to somebody ...

Having a kind, significant word for someone ...

We smile with Him ... We weep with Him ... **We learn to say NO to things with Him ...** And say yes to things we once would have shied away from.

OUR LIFE ISN'T CONTROLLED BY HIM AS HE IS NOT A CONTROLLER.

HE IS A GENTLE LEADER AND IT'S UP TO US TO SUBMIT TO HIM AS OUR WISE LEADER THROUGH THIS LIFE.

HE LEADS US IN WALKING RIGHTEOUSLY.

- We've had righteousness **imputed** to us.
- We've had righteousness **imparted** into us.
- Now, He leads us in paths of righteousness. (Psalm 23:3)

This is Christ's righteousness not ours. A righteous path for those who have been made righteous so they can begin to walk in righteousness.

INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE WORD OF GOD

But someone says ... the word of God instructs me how to live and I just do what the word of God says. How does that fit in?

Like many new Christians, I was always taught, I had a responsibility to live according to the instructions and commands of the Bible ... So I tried and kept failing. Not only that ... I kept on discovering more and more instructions (there are over 800 different instructions in the New Testament) and I painstaking tried to connect them.

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For example: The Seven "Abstains" - Abstain From:

1. Idols (Acts 15:20)
2. Fornication (Acts 15:20, 29; 1 Thess 4:2-3)
3. Strangled meats (Acts 15:20)
4. Eating blood (Acts 15:20)
5. Meats offered to idols (ACTS 15:29)
6. All appearance of evil (1 Thess 5:22)
7. Fleshly lusts (1 Pet 2:11)

And the Seven things to avoid:

1. Troublemakers (Rom 16:17)
2. Profane and vain babblings (1 Tim 6:20)
3. False science (1 Tim 6:20)
4. Unlearned questions (2 Tim 2:23)
5. Foolish questions (Tit 3:9)
6. Genealogies (Tit 3:9)
7. Arguments about the law (Tit 3:9)

THESE ARE JUST A FEW ...THERE ARE HUNDREDS MORE.

HOW CAN WE REMEMBER THEM ALL? IT IS IMPOSSIBLE.

Then I got confused as some of them seemed to conflict ... Like ...

Ephesians 5:15 NASB SLIDE

... Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ^{16 KJV} redeeming the time, because the days are evil....

Matthew 6:34 Berean Study Bible

... Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Instructions from the Holy Spirit: Even though they are the same, instructions written in the Word of God are given and received very differently.

The spoken word is personally spoken. It has inflection and tone and emphasis ...

Like the difference between a phone call and a text. (Text can easily be taken the wrong way.)

For example: 1 Thessalonians 5:22 *Abstain from every form of evil.*

This could be read as a stern command or as a caring exhortation.

The written word of instruction in the Word of God is the 'Logos'.

The internal spoken word of the Holy Spirit is the word 'Rhema'.

BUT WHICH COMES FIRST?

A QUESTION OF PRIORITY

IF WE PUT THE WRITTEN INSTRUCTION FIRST then we will ask the Holy Spirit to help us do what we know we should be doing and indeed what we want to do. We ask him to empower us. **THIS HOWEVER, IS NOT BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT.**

IF THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES FIRST, we hear his inspiring voice which quickens our desire and we sense his peace and power ... then we look at the written word that He directs us to and see the same instruction that He has already told us and inspired us to do, so we rejoice at this confirmation. **THIS IS BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT.**

The Written word only confirms we are on the right track ...

The written instructions in the New Testament are only there to assure us we are on the right track and to confirm we are hearing the leading of the Holy Spirit correctly.

Thank God, He has not left us alone to try and do everything He has instructed us to do.

God has given us His Holy Spirit who leads us INTO all Truth.

- He speaks softly ... He never yells ... **SLIDE**
- He exhorts ... He never commands ...
- He grieves ... He never rebukes ...

THE SPIRIT LEADING AND THE WORD OF INSTRUCTION

OUR TEXT TELLS US THE RIGHT WAY TO LIVE FREE AND GODLY IN THIS PRESENT AGE: THIS IS TO HEAR THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BE LED BY THE SPIRIT – NOT BY TRYING TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE WRITTEN INSTRUCTION IN THE WORD OF GOD.

*It's like going somewhere we have never been before. We put it in the GPS and we hear **personal instruction** ... 'at the next roundabout take the first exit onto **Alexander Drive**.'*

*So, we follow and there is **a signpost** telling us the name of the street is **Alexander Drive**.*

SLIDE *What confirmation we have ... internal and personal leading step by step on the way ... And when we get there ... we see the same name externally ... What assurance we have.*

In this regard, God has given us His written word to confirm what we're hearing is correct. The problem is, when people trust in the external instruction without the internal leading.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS NO LONGER TO TRY AND FIGURE OUT WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING BUT TO RESPOND TO THE INNER VOICE.

THE SPIRIT WITHOUT THE WORD

A great movement in Pentecostalism today is to hear from 'The Spirit'. We often hear the phrase 'The Spirit told me ...', and sometimes 'the Spirit' says the most bizarre things.

THIS IS WHY WE NEED TO CONFIRM ALL WE HEAR BY HIS WRITTEN WORD.

Isaiah 8:20 NLT

*Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who **contradict his word** are completely in the dark.*

Jesus spoke of 'the Law and the Prophets'. (Matthew 22:40) **THE TWO MUST ALWAYS AGREE.**

Luke 16:29 Berean Study Bible

But Abraham replied, 'They have **Moses and the prophets**; let your brothers listen to them.'

But you say, we're not under the Law.

Galatians 5:18

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Yes, but we haven't re-written the law ... we don't disagree with it. Neither will The Holy Spirit ever contravene the Law or God's written instruction in the New Testament.

THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD WORKING TOGETHER

THE SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS WORK WITH THE WORD OF GOD. HE WROTE IT AND HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN IMPLIMENT IT CORRECTLY, EFFORTLESSLY AND WONDERFULLY.

2 Peter 1:21 **SLIDE**

*For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit.***

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

All Scripture is God-breathed ...

NB: We are not talking about the Doctrine in the Word ... We have been talking about Instruction. THE WORD OF GOD CAN BE DIVIDED INTO DOCTRINE AND INSTRUCTION (Indicatives and Imperatives).

NOW, OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO A PERSON NOT TO A PRACTICE.

The Holy Spirit who lives inside us brings personal instruction as to how we live day by day.

HE TEACHES US AND INSPIRES US HOW TO ACT / HOW TO RESPOND.

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAD ME? SLIDE

1. BY GENTLE PERSUASION ... not domination. (He asks questions ... He works with us ... *He asked me, 'Where does it say, "we must die to self"?'*)
2. BY JOYFUL INSPIRATION ... not condemnation (2 Peter 1:21 ... Holy men were emotionally *MOVED* by the Holy Spirit – not driven – not warned or threatened.)
3. BY AMAZING ILLUMINATION ... not assertion (He reveals mysteries that change our thinking ... this is exciting ... energising ... motivating ...)

WHAT IS OUR PART?? SLIDE

LET GO ... LEAN ON ... LOOK AT ... LISTEN TO ... BE LED

Let go of your ambition.

Lean on His superiority ... wisdom and strength.

Look at His goal ... aspiration.

Listen to His 'moment by moment' direction.

Love His Inspiration.

Be led by His motivation.

GIVE HIM YOUR FIRST THOUGHT IN THE MORNING WHEN YOU WAKE

ESTABLISH YOUR THOUGHT PATTERNS FOR THE DAY ...

SAY, '*HOLY SPIRIT I SUBMIT MY THINKING AND WILL TO YOU TODAY ... LEAD ON*'