

# THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, “The Leading Of The Holy Spirit”

## INTRODUCTION

The Scriptures speak of the Christian being led by the Holy Spirit. Those led by the Spirit are described as the sons of God:

**Romans 8:14** *“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*

Those led by the Spirit are not under the law:

**Galatians 5:18** *“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.”*

-- So it is important that the Christian be led by the Spirit of God.

How does the Spirit lead the Christian? Is it by the Word of God only? Is it through feelings, impressions, visions, dreams, etc.? There is much confusion as to how the Christian is led by the Spirit.

Conflicting ideas on this subject is one reason for much religious confusion. Many justify their beliefs and practices saying, "The Spirit led me to this..." Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal, non-Pentecostal, all claiming to be led by the Spirit.

Yet the Spirit of truth does not lead people into confusion:

**John 16:13** *“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”*

**1 Corinthians 14:33** *“...for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”*

How then does the Spirit lead? Here are some thoughts regarding...

## I. HOW THE SPIRIT LEADS THE CHRISTIAN

### THE SPIRIT LEADS BOTH EXTERNALLY AND INTERNALLY...

**1. David Lipscomb and J.W. Shepherd, A Commentary on the NT Epistles, Vol. I, Romans, p.149 (commenting on Romans 8:14):** "The leading is both internal and external. To whatever extent the Holy Spirit by its indwelling strengthens the human spirit to enable it to control the flesh, to that extent the leading is internal; to whatever extent the motives of 'the law of the Spirit,' when brought to bear on the heart in the New Testament, enlighten and strengthen,

and so enable it to keep the body in subjection, to that extent the leading is external. The leading, then, consists of the whole of the influences of every kind exercised by the Holy Spirit on the human spirit, enabling it to keep the body under (subjection).

**2. Moses Lard, A Commentary on Romans, p.264 (commenting on Romans 8:14):** "But what kind of "leading" is here meant--an occult, internal, inexplicable leading, or an external, explicable one by the truth? Before replying, let us ask, who are led? Certainly not the unconverted, but Christians. In those led, then, the Holy Spirit already dwells. What kind of leading then is it? I answer, both internal and external. To whatever extent the Holy Spirit by its indwelling strengthens the human spirit, to enable it to control the flesh, to that extent the leading is internal. To whatever extent the motives of the gospel, when brought to bear on the mind in the written word, enlighten and strengthen it, and so enable it to keep the body in subjection, to that extent the leading is external. The leading, then, consists of the whole of the influences of every kind, spent by the Holy Spirit on the human spirit, in enabling it to keep the body under. More definitely than this it would not be wise to attempt to speak."

**3. J.W. McGarvey and Philip Y. Pendleton, Thessalonians, Corinthians, Galatians and Romans, p. 361 (commenting on Romans 8:14):** "The Spirit leads both externally and internally. Externally, the Spirit supplies the gospel truth as set forth in the New Testament, and the rules and precepts therein found are for the instruction and guidance of God's children. Internally, the Spirit aids by ministering strength and comfort to the disciples in his effort to conform to the revealed truth and will of God."

**4. Robert Milligan, The Scheme of Redemption, p.283 (commenting on John 7:38-39):** "...Christ most likely refers here to an influence of the Spirit, over and above that which it exercises through the word of truth and the ordinary workings of Divine providence; an influence, by means of which it helps our infirmities (Romans 8:26); strengthens us with might even into the inner man (Ephesians 3:16); and enables us to bring forth abundantly in our lives the fruits of 'love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, fidelity, meekness, and temperance' (Galatians 5:22, 23)."

-- Note the distinction made between an external and internal influence by which the Spirit leads; now let's take a closer look at this distinction...

THE SPIRIT LEADS **EXTERNALLY** THROUGH THE WORD...

The Word is the instrument used by the Spirit to instruct and convict...

The Spirit was sent to convict the world:

**John 16:7-11** 7 *“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”*

The Spirit guided the apostles into all the truth:

**John 16:12-13** 12 *“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”*

**Acts 20:27** *“For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.”*

**2 Peter 1:3** *“...seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”*

What the Spirit revealed, the apostles received and preached:

**1 Corinthians 2:9-13** 9 *“...but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”*

What they received, they wrote that we might understand:

**Ephesians 3:3-5** 3 *“...that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit...”*

Thus the early church continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine:

**Acts 2:42** *“And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

Thus the Word is the "sword" (instrument) used by the Spirit:

**Ephesians 6:17** *“And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

To resist the Word is to resist the Spirit...As when Israel resisted the inspired word given through prophets:

**Acts 7:51-53** *51 “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. 52 Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; 53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it.”*

As when we resist the inspired word given through apostles:

**1 Corinthians 14:36-37** *36 “Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only? 37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment.”*

When one sets their mind on the things of the Spirit (i.e., His revealed Word), they will live according to the Spirit:

**Romans 8:5** *“For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”*

They will experience life and peace:

**Romans 8:6** *“For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace...”*

When one walks in the Spirit (by heeding His Word), they will not fulfill the lust of the flesh:

**Galatians 5:16** *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”*

They will be thus led by the Spirit:

**Galatians 5:18** *“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.”*

They will so produce the fruit of the Spirit:

**Galatians 5:22-25** *22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”*

-- Do you desire to be led by the Spirit? Then let Him lead you through His Word!

THE SPIRIT ALSO LEADS **INTERNALLY** THROUGH HIS INDWELLING...

By strengthening the inner man...God is at work in the Christian:

**Ephesians 3:20** *“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us...”*

Even as we are working out our own salvation:

**Philippians 2:12-13** *12 “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”*

**Philippians 4:13** *“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”*

The instrument by which God strengthens the Christian is His Spirit in the inner man:

**Ephesians 3:16** *“...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man...”*

By His indwelling Spirit, we are able to put to death the deeds of the body:

**Romans 8:13** *“...for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”*

In this way the Spirit likewise leads us:

**Romans 8:14** *“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*

**Romans 8:11** *“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.”*

In conjunction with the Word, when we make effort to heed the Word, the Spirit aids us, supplying what strength we may need, so that which is produced may rightly be called the "fruit" of the Spirit

To illustrate, consider the development of a Christ-like character. Peter reminds us of the need for diligence on our part:

**2 Peter 1:5-10** *5 "Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble..."*

Paul explains these qualities produced are the "fruit" of the Spirit (read earlier):

**Galatians 5:22-23** *22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*

-- Do you desire to be led by the Spirit? Then let Him strengthen you as you obey His Word!

We understand that the Spirit leads both externally (via the Word of God) and internally (via His strengthening). But there are some misconceptions about the Spirit's leading that we should be careful to note...

## **II. HOW THE SPIRIT DOES NOT LEAD THE CHRISTIAN**

### **...HE DOES NOT LEAD THROUGH FEELINGS, INTUITION**

Many people believe their feelings or intuitions are "leadings" of the Spirit. Yet the Spirit did not lead people through such subjective means (example of Paul and Silas in the scripture reading):

**Acts 16:6-7** *6 "And they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 and when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them..."*

If Paul and his companions had been led by their own feelings, they would have gone to Asia or Bithynia. In some audible or visible way, the Spirit forbade them

Much religious confusion is the result of failing to note this distinction. People appeal to "feelings" to justify their beliefs and practices. The heart (emotions, feelings) can be a deceptive guide:

**Proverbs 28:26** *"He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered."*

**Jeremiah 17:9** *"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"*

What may "seem" to be right, may not be right:

**Proverbs 14:12** *"There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."*

**Acts 26:9** *"So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."*

Rather than appealing to the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit. Remember that God is not the author of confusion (read before):

**1 Corinthians 14:33** *"...for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."*

He has provided an objective standard by which to know the truth:

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** *16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

That standard is the Word of God, not one's feelings. Don't let feelings of the human spirit keep you from following the teachings of the Holy Spirit!

HE DOES NOT LEAD THROUGH **VISIONS, DREAMS**

Yes, God did at one time reveal truth through such means, as exemplified in the example we just considered:

**Acts 16:9-10** *9 "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them."*

This was part of the Spirit's work in being poured out:

**Acts 2:17** *“AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says, ‘THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS...”*

But this was part of the process of revealing and confirming God's truth, along with signs, wonders, and miracles:

**Hebrews 2:3-4** *3 “...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”*

The signs and wonders confirmed whether such visions or dreams were from God, which was a temporary process, finished when God's Word was complete:

**1 Corinthians 13:8-10** *8 “Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.”*

Even when dreams and visions were used by God, tests were provided, such as whether it was in harmony with God's revealed Word:

**Deuteronomy 13:1-5** *1 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.”*

Such as whether the dream came to pass:

**Deuteronomy 18:20-22** *20 “But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. 21 And*

*you may say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' 22 When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."*

The Scriptures warn against the danger of being led astray by dreams. They can be vanity:

**Ecclesiastes 5:7** *"For in many dreams and in many words there is emptiness. Rather, fear God."*

They be the tools of false prophets:

**Jeremiah 23:25-32** *25 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a dream, I had a dream!' 26 How long? Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even these prophets of the deception of their own heart, 27 who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal? 28 "The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain?" declares the LORD. 29 "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock? 30 "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who steal My words from each other. 31 "Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who use their tongues and declare, 'The Lord declares.' 32 "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the LORD, "and related them, and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the LORD."*

**Zechariah 10:2** *"For the teraphim speak iniquity, and the diviners see lying visions, and tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep, they are afflicted, because there is no shepherd."*

They can be the product of our imagination:

**Jeremiah 29:8** *"For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream.'"*

We have God's Word fully and completely revealed; let it be your guide, and not the dreams and visions of others or your own!

HE DOES NOT LEAD THROUGH **ENLIGHTENMENT-**

...In order to understand the Word.

Some may believe that they need the Spirit's leading to understand the Bible, based upon a misapplication of **1 Corinthians 2:14** (*"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."*)

They conclude that one cannot understand the Bible without the leading of the Spirit. This leads to much religious confusion, because everyone claims the Spirit led them to this interpretation or that. The context is contrasting the apostles with philosophers. Philosophers cannot know God's will simply by wisdom:

**1 Corinthians 1:18-20** *18 "For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?"*

The apostles have received God's will by the Spirit (some read before):

**1 Corinthians 2:6-14** *6 "Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; 9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."*

The "natural man" is simply one who does not have the benefit of the Spirit's revelation, whereas the "spiritual man" is one like Paul who did!

The Spirit has revealed God's will to us through the apostles and prophets, and when we read their writings, we can understand:

**Ephesians 3:3-5** *3 "...that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit..."*

When we read the apostles, we can know:

**1 John 5:13** *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life."*

We don't need the Spirit's help to understand what the Spirit Himself reveals! We simply need to have good and honest hearts:

**Acts 17:11** *"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so."*

We can certainly pray that God would help us to be free from preconceived ideas so as to be completely open to His Word:

**Psalms 119:18** *"Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law."*

Let the Spirit's Word, revealed that we might know and understand God's will by a simple reading and contemplation of it, be your guide!

**HE DOES NOT LEAD THROUGH ENLIGHTENMENT-**

...In order to be led to "new truth".

Some may believe the Spirit is leading His church into new truth, based upon a misapplication of **John 16:13** *("But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.")*

They believe the Spirit is still guiding us into new truth, which leads to much religious confusion, as people say the Spirit tells them to now accept homosexuality, leadership of women in the church, etc.

The context in John 16 is the work of the Spirit in the lives of the apostles. Jesus is preparing them for their work as apostles:

**John 16:1-7** *1 "These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling. 2 They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. 3*

*And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me. 4 But these things I have spoken to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."*

Together with the Spirit, they would be witnesses:

**John 15:26-27** *26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, 27 and you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning."*

The Spirit would aid them in this task, reminding them of what Jesus taught, revealing the rest of what Jesus wanted them to know:

**John 14:25-26** *25 "These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."*

**John 16:12-13** *12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."*

The Spirit led the apostles into "all" the truth, just as Jesus said He would. Paul had received the "whole" counsel of God:

**Acts 20:27** *"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God."*

Peter had received "all things" that pertain to life and godliness:

**2 Peter 1:3** *"...seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."*

Jude said the faith was "once" (literally once for all) delivered to the saints:

**Jude 3** *"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."*

The Spirit fulfilled His work of revealing and confirming the truth. With the aid of inspired Scriptures, we have what is needed to be "complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work":

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** *16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

Those who claim to be led by the Spirit to new truth, need to back up with the same sort of signs, wonders and miracles the Spirit used to confirm the apostles! Let the "sword" of the Spirit be your guide, not the pronouncements of human councils, synods, or individuals who claim to be led by the Spirit, but unable to prove it!

## **CONCLUSION**

1. It is a wonderful blessing to be led by the Spirit...

- As He guides us through His revealed Word
- As He strengthens us through indwelling our bodies

2. It is a blessing to know...

- That we have a Guide to direct us as we live in this world
- That we have a Helper to strengthen us as needed

3. But this blessing is only for those:

- Who become the sons of God:

**Galatians 4:6** *"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!""*

**Acts 2:38** *"And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

**Acts 5:32** *"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

- (But this blessing is only for those) Who are willing to set their minds on the things of the Spirit:

**Romans 8:5-6** 5 *“For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace...”*

- (But this blessing is only for those) Who are willing to diligently work out their salvation:

**Philippians 2:12-13** 12 *“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”*

Are you willing to be led by the Spirit? Then walk in the Spirit by heeding His Word and praying that the Father strengthen you by His Spirit in the inner man!

## **INVITATION**