

BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8:14

Introduction: There are a lot of Church members around. Lots and lots of Churches and lots and lots of different beliefs, denominations, creeds and faiths. So, with all these people who "say" they are "of the faith" just who really is a true believer, a Christian, and how can what makes the difference? The presence of the Holy Spirit in one's life makes the difference. The text identifies the true Saint of God.

I. WHO ARE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (Obviously some are not)

1. The Scriptures reveal very clearly WHAT people should stay away from or go to, but WHO are the ones being led by the Holy Spirit?
2. Many seem to think that they are being led by the Holy Spirit, but really aren't.
 - Some follow the advice of their natural conscience. Remember Cornelius and the rich young ruler, and even Paul?
 - People may be honest, upright, conscientious, yet not be led by the Holy Spirit.
 - Some have experienced a change in his/her views and affections. Every Christian has experienced this, yet some are like "stony-ground" hearers, they can be moved by a sermon, etc., yet not make a very lasting change, if any at all.
 - Some profess Jesus Christ openly but again like "stony-ground" hearers, they openly join God's people, be counted among them, bear similar fruit yet not be led by the Holy Spirit.
3. There is a sure way to prove one is being led by the Holy Spirit.
 - He/she comes daily to Jesus Christ as a "hell-deserving sinner." Many talk of it, but those who actually do are led by the Holy Spirit. *"...No man can come unto me, except the Father, who hath sent me, draw him..."*
 - He/she who is willing to let Jesus Christ be Lord of his/her life, daily submitting to the yoke of Jesus Christ, daily seeking the will of the Lord, daily dying to self and doing so cheerfully. *"...No man can say Jesus Christ is Lord, but by the Holy Spirit..."*
 - He/she who detests all sin without reserve and if has secret sins, he/she is not being led by the Holy Spirit. He/she who decries all sin but one or some are not led by the Holy Spirit. *"...It is through the Spirit alone that we can mortify the deeds of the body..."*
4. If there be no sin overlooked, no sin dear to the believer, no sin useful, no sin the believer is not trying to destroy, THEN the believer is being led by the Holy Spirit.

II. THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER

1. Believers are called by God, His "Children."
 - Once believers were called the "children of wrath", children of the "wicked one."
 - Are now numbered among God's Children, have been adopted, regenerated, begotten, partakers.
 - Once God was only their creator and Judge.

- Now God is Father, Most High God of the believer.
2. Believers enjoy all the privileges of being God's Children.
 - Whatever any believer thinks he/she is, it is far short of what he/she really is.
 - In this world the lost say "mine, my, ours" while the believers know that all things are Gods, and that all things of the world will one day pass away.
 - Have access to all that God has, all God is, His wisdom, His love, His power, etc.
 - Have a place reserved in the world to come, and all that God has will be the believer's.
 3. So, are you led of the Holy Spirit or are you just "talk?"

CONCLUSION:

1. What spirit leads you?
 - What spirit leads to worldly pleasure, immersion in cares of the world, leaving no time for God?
 - What spirit takes all thoughts and affections and puts them on the world to one's dying hour?
 - What spirit leads one to speak, act, showing pride, conceit, vanity? Leads some to pursue only favorite ideas and things, mostly for self?
2. Honor the Holy Spirit whom we believers profess to follow.
 - Walk worthy of being led by the Holy Spirit.
 - *"...Put on as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another and forgiving one another..."*
3. Living Christianity is to walk as Christ walked. *"...And by this shall all men know that ye are the disciples of Christ, the sons and daughters of the Lord almighty..."*