

LED BY WHICH SPIRIT?

Romans 8:1-14

Introduction: By our own experience, we who are Christians, know that one doesn't just happen to wander into becoming a Christian. We are drawn by God's Holy Spirit gradually (for some) step by step until we are confronted with a decision time whether to believe and accept what we have learned about Jesus or not. Also as Christians, we know that that is not the end of the work of the Holy Spirit for we know that it is the purpose of the Holy Spirit to then help guide us day by day to live as God wants us to live. However Satan also wants to guide us, the way he wants us to go and it certainly is not the way God wants. So often there is a pull as to which way for a person to go.

I. WHO IS LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. Some marks are insufficient to clearly distinguish.

- a. A person follows his/her conscience is one "mark."
 - Every Christian listens and obeys.
 - Cornelius did too, even before Peter did.
 - The rich, young ruler kept all the law.
 - Paul (Saul) before his conversion.
 - Anybody can be honest, sincere, upright AND YET be lost, not led by the Holy Spirit
- b. One changes his/her views and affections.
 - Jesus spoke about there being different kinds of soils in a parable.
 - People can be emotionally effected by sermons, songs, events but none are proof of having salvation.

2. Marks that are clearly distinguishable

- a. Daily Falling on one's face before Christ.
 - feeling as a hell-deserving sinner.
 - with a broken heart and extreme sense of a need of mercy.
 - feeling a disgust and hate of sin.
- b. Willing to live under Christ's Lordship.
 - it's human nature to rebell.
 - it's human nature for SELF to rule.
 - in complete and total obedience to Christ.

3. Every sin is mortified.

- Secret sins, favorite sins.
- Only the Holy Spirit can enable a person to do this.
- Give up the favorite sins.
- No hidden or dear sins.
- No sin one is not watching and laboring to put away.

II. IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHICH SPIRIT IS LEADING

1. Many are led by the Spirit of the World.

- Contrary to the Holy Spirit and is fatal.
- What spirit leads to drugs, theft, sex, etc?
- What spirit causes adults to become so immersed in world things that there is no time for God?
- What spirit causes those in advanced years to still be attached to worldly things?
- Most of the generations follow the Worldly spirit.

2. Many profess to belong to Jesus Christ.

- Their manner of living contradicts their profession.
- They follow their worldly heart but want the benefits of those who follow the Holy Spirit.

3. It isn't always easy to know which Spirit is leading.

- Jesus said, "*...not everyone who says, Lord, Lord, shall enter into heaven, but he who does the will of the Father...*"
- Examine yourself, do not deceive yourself, be honest.

CONCLUSION:

1. Those who profess to belong to Jesus Christ:

- are claiming honor as being God's Child.
- think what manner of life you should be living.
 - blameless conduct.
 - a light for Jesus in a dark world.
 - holy, merciful, kind, humble, meek, long-suffering, forgiving, loving.
 - walking as Jesus walked.

2. It is one thing to think one is a child of God.

3. Jesus made it clear that to be a child of God, one must be led DAILY by the Holy Spirit.....

ARE YOU?