

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAD?

Romans 8:14

The Issue Is Not:

Does the Holy Spirit lead?

Romans 8:14–15, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

Fact: The Holy Spirit Leads

- ▶ Jesus was “Led up of the Spirit” into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil (Matthew 4:1)
- ▶ Paul and his companions were being led on their journey by the Holy Spirit (Acts. 13:1–4) when they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, “having been forbidden of the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia,” and “they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit of Jesus suffered them not” (Acts 16:6–10)

The Issue Is: “How Does The Holy Spirit Lead?”

- ▶ Does the Holy Spirit act miraculously in leading to salvation and sanctification, without means or instrumentality?
- ▶ Does the Holy spirit lead men to speak in tongues, heal, make utterances (preach) as the Spirit gives it to them, and even direct in various experiences of life?
- ▶ Does the Holy Spirit lead like a radar beep leading, guiding, and warning always?

Fact: Holy Spirit Leads

- ▶ The Holy Spirit led Peter to the house of Cornelius. (Acts 10:19–20)
- ▶ Philip was led by the Holy Spirit to the eunuch. (Acts 8:29)

THE LEADING OF DEITY

God's Leading ...

- ▶ God led Noah to build an ark. (Hebrews 11:7)
 - God “And God said unto Noah ... Make thee an ark of gopher wood ... And this is how thou shalt make it ...” (Genesis 6:13–16)
 - “And Noah did according to all that Jehovah commanded him” (7:5)
- ▶ How did God lead Noah to build the ark?
 - He spoke to him in a language Noah understood, giving detailed instructions, and Noah followed (did) all that God commanded.

THE LEADING OF DEITY

God's Leading ...

- ▶ God led Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees. HOW?
 - Abraham received instructions from God and his faith resulted in obedience. (Hebrews 11:8-9; Romans 10:17; Genesis 12:1-4)
 - God led Abraham by speaking to him and Abraham obeyed.

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THE LEADING OF DEITY

Holy Spirit's Leading ...

- ▶ He led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted **by divine instruction**. (Matthew 4:1)
- ▶ He also led Paul in his journeys **by divine instruction**. (Acts 13:1ff; 16:6-10)
- ▶ The Holy Spirit led Peter to the house of Cornelius **by divine instruction**. (Acts 10:19-20)
- ▶ Philip was led by the Holy Spirit to the eunuch **by divine instruction**. (Acts 8:29)

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THE LEADING OF DEITY

God's Leading ...

- ▶ God led Israel out of Egyptian bondage, and through the wilderness. (Deuteronomy 8:14-15; 29:4-5)
 - In doing this he used the instrumentality of Moses and Aaron.
 - *Psalms 77:20 "Thou leddest thy people like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron."*
 - God confirmed his leadership and his appointed agents by many miracles. (Plagues, parting waters, pillar of cloud and fire, etc.)
 - God led them by choosing and equipping Moses who spoke God's will to the people and they obeyed.

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THE LEADING OF DEITY

Holy Spirit's Leading ...

- ▶ He also leads sons of God today. (Romans 8:14)
 - Does he lead differently from other examples of the leading of Deity?
 - The Scriptures show that the Holy Spirit, an intelligent speaking person, also speaks to people and they hear and obey.

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THE LEADING OF DEITY

Christ's Leading ...

- ▶ Christ made disciples by teaching, instruction.
- ▶ He commanded and they obeyed. (John 1:43)
- ▶ People became followers of Christ by being taught... hearing, learning, and coming. (John 6:44-45)
 - Jesus led people by speaking truth to them and they followed him.
 - This is the same way that God led Abraham and Israel in their day.

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Holy Spirit's Leading ... Review:

1. There were different manifestations of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
2. The apostles were promised the baptism of the Holy Spirit for revelation and confirmation of the word of truth (Acts 1:5; John 14:26; 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; Mark 16:20)

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Holy Spirit's Leading ... Review:

3. There were "*gifts of the Spirit*" (miraculous powers) used in revealing and confirming the truth, (1 Corinthians 12:1-11,28) that were bestowed on certain ones by the laying on of an apostle's hands. (Acts 8:17-18; 19:6)
4. These gifts of the Spirit were temporary and would vanish away when maturity (complete, finished revelation and confirmation of truth) was reached. (1 Corinthians 13:8-10)

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THE LEADING OF DEITY

Holy Spirit's Leading ...

- ▶ The Spirit "*speaks expressly*" (1 Timothy 4:1-2) giving instruction, warnings, exhortations through the New Testament
- ▶ The Spirit has never laid aside the agency of truth, substituting fleshly feelings, emotions, or imaginations, in the guidance of Christians.
- ▶ Sons of God are led by the Spirit of God as they hear the Spirit revealed message of truth, believe, and obey it.

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Example of HOW the Holy Spirit leads.

- ▶ **The Holy Spirit led three thousand souls to be saved on Pentecost. NOTE HOW! Acts 2**
 - The Holy Spirit came to the apostles with miraculous demonstrations, giving proof that these men were truly messengers of God.
 - Peter spoke "*as the Holy Spirit gave utterance.*"
 - Many were convicted by the truth spoken and asked, "*What shall we do?*"
 - The Holy Spirit then speaking through Peter said, "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins*" (Acts 2:38)
 - Thus, about three thousand were led by the Holy Spirit to salvation, when they heard, believed, and did just what the Holy Spirit said for them to do.

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Holy Spirit's Leading ... In Context

This is the way that Christians ...

- ▶ "*Walk after the Spirit*" Romans 8:1,4
- ▶ "*Mind the things of the Spirit*" Romans 8:5
- ▶ "*Are in the Spirit*" Romans 8:9
- ▶ "*Live in the Spirit*" Romans 8:13
- ▶ "*Led by the Spirit*" Romans 8:14

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THE LEADING OF DEITY

Holy Spirit's Leading ...

- ▶ NOTE: Redeemed people need the leading of the Spirit in living the life of a Christian as much as they did in coming to Christ.
- ▶ In leading, guiding, and edifying the Christian, the Spirit uses the instrumentality of truth – the revealed, confirmed word of truth.
- ▶ The word of God is said to be the "*sword (instrument) of the Spirit*" (Ephesians 6:17; cf. Ephesians 3:16)

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THE LEADING OF DEITY

- ▶ Deity has always led by the agent/agency of revealed, confirmed truth (God's will) being made known to man, coupled with man's faith and obedience.
- ▶ The leading of Deity never overrides the will (free moral agency of man), so that he cannot choose to do or not do the will of God.
- ▶ When we fully realize that the Scriptures are the product of the Holy Spirit, and that whenever we read the Scriptures He is speaking to us, teaching us, and leading us, most of the confusion over the Holy Spirit will be resolved.

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