

The Witness Of The Spirit

Romans 8:16, "The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God."

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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."

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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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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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What is a witness?

One that tells something he knows.

- ▶ Jesus said, *"We bear witness of that which we have seen."* John 3:11; cf. 3:12
- ▶ Apostles – *"because ye have been with me from the beginning."* John 15:26-29
- ▶ Had to *"witness with us of his resurrection."* Acts 1:21-22.
- ▶ We were *"eyewitnesses of his majesty."* 2 Peter 1:16

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Two Witnesses Required.

- ▶ This is a requirement of the OT Deuteronomy 17:6; cf. John 5:31; Hebrews 10:28
- ▶ Also a requirement of the NT Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19

- ▶ Our text presents two ...

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How Testimony Is Born.

- ▶ Men bear witness by means of words. 1 Kings 21:10; Matthew 18:16; 26:60-62
- ▶ God bore witness the same way. Hebrews 1:1-2
 - Examples: Abel. Hebrews 11:4
 - The Father witnessed of Christ. John 5:37; Matthew 3:17; 1 John 5:8-10
- ▶ John the Baptist did likewise. John 1:7; 32-34; 3:25ff
- ▶ OT bears witness in words. John 5:39
- ▶ Apostles gave their testimony. Matthew 10:18-19
 - People believe "through their word." John 17:2, 20
 - Comanded to testify through their word. Acts 10:39-43

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Application:

- ▶ The Spirit "speaketh expressly." 1 Timothy 4:1; cf. John 16:13; Acts 20:23
- ▶ He spoke through the prophets.
 - Old Testament prophets. 2 Samuel 23:2; Nehemiah 9:34; 1 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 1:21
 - New Testament prophets and apostles. Acts 2:1-11; Acts 11:27-28; cf. John 14:26; 1 Peter 1:12; Matthew 10:19-20
- ▶ He speaks through the gospel. 1 Corinthians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

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Agreement of the Witnesses. Romans 8:16, "The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God."

NOTE: "The Spirit himself beareth witness **WITH** our spirit." ... **not TO our spirit.**

- ▶ Spirit says, "Believe." Acts 16:31 - Our spirit accepts.
- ▶ Spirit says, "Repent." Acts 17:30 - Our spirit accepts.
- ▶ Spirit says, "Confess." Romans 10:9-10 - Our spirit accepts.
- ▶ Spirit says, "Be baptized." Acts 2:38 - Our spirit accepts.
- ▶ Spirit says those who do these are "children of God." Galatians 3:26-27; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; 1 John 4:14

▶ **Our spirit says we have done them.**

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Disagreeing with the testimony.

- ▶ To say we can be saved without conditions. Hebrews 5:8-9
- ▶ To say we can be saved by faith alone. James 2:24
- ▶ To say confession is not necessary. Romans 14:11
- ▶ To say baptism is not essential. 1 Peter 3:21

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Conclusion:

To disagree is to resist the Spirit.

- ▶ People were condemned for this. Acts 7:51
- ▶ Condemned for resisting the truth. 2 Timothy 3:8; Luke 7:29-30

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