

LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

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For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14).

The Christian is to yield himself to “the still small voice” of the Holy Spirit. Yet a word of caution is needed at this point, for in our day there are many fanatics and impious people who do that which is grossly dishonouring to God under the plea that they were “prompted by the Spirit” so to act. To be “led by the Spirit of God” does not mean being influenced by unaccountable suggestions and uncontrollable impulses which result in conduct displeasing to God, and often injurious to ourselves and others. No, indeed; not so does the Spirit of God “lead” any one.

There is a safe and sure criterion by which the Christian may gauge his inward impulses, and ascertain whether these proceed from his own restless spirit, an evil spirit, or the Spirit of God. That criterion is the written Word of God, and by it all must be measured. The Holy Spirit never prompts anyone to act contrary to the Scriptures. How could He, when He is the Author of them! His promptings are always unto obedience to the precepts of Holy Writ. Therefore, if one claimed “guidance” in assuming an unequal yoke by marrying an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6:14) this would prove conclusively that it was not the “guidance” of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit fulfils His office of Guide by three distinct operations. First, He communicates life and grace, a new “nature;” second, He stirs that life unto action, and gives “more grace;” third, He directs the action into performance of duty. Life, motion and conduct are inseparable in nature and grace alike. First, the Holy Spirit quickens us into newness of life, infusing gracious habits into the soul: “A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you” (Ezekiel 36:26). Second, He moves upon the soul and assists the new nature to act according to its own gracious habits and principles: He “worketh in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). Third, He directs our actions by enlightening our understandings, guiding our inclinations, and moving our wills to do that which is pleasing to God.