

Being Lead by the Holy Spirit

Pr. Diane Waghorne

First Things First

First, you must be “Born again!”

First, we must establish the truth that in order to have “Life in the Spirit” requires one to be “Born Again” or what is called the “New Birth; Being Born of the Spirit.” All 3 mean the same.

John 3 is so awesome! Jesus reveals the secret of a having TRUE LIFE. Jesus speaks to, Nicodemus, a prominent religious leader and teacher of the Jewish Law and reveals to him that “You must be born anew” or “born again” of the Spirit to see and to enter the Kingdom of God! Nicodemus did not understand how one could go back into his mother’s womb and be “born again?” Jesus replies, “...what is born of the flesh is flesh (physical life) and what is born of the Spirit is spirit (spiritual life).” You must be born again (a spiritual birth must take place; not another physical birth) There is no other alternative to enter into God’s KINGDOM. Basically, you must become a child of God THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. Your religious works, training, duties, penance, sacrifices; theology will not attain a right standing with God for you. None of these things give you spiritual life. YOU MUST HAVE A “NEW BIRTH” that only comes by having FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) is a “born -again” child of God.

2 Cor. 5:17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

And you must be born again no matter how religiously zealous and proper you are on the outside. Jesus Christ must be your Lord and Savior to enter God’s kingdom.

John 3:3 ... you must be “born again.”

Outside of having this “new birth” we are spiritually dead and do not belong to the family of God.

Then and only then is God’s Spirit, the Holy Spirit, given to “dwell in your heart.” This gives us spiritual life! Now we have eternal life! Now “abundant life” is opened up to us ... His divine life! We now belong to God!

The New Testament Promise: Ezekiel 36: 26, 27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you... I will put My Spirit within you. Hallelujah!

Second Experience

Second, the “Baptism with the Holy Spirit” is for you who believe!

I could speak on the “Baptism of the Holy Spirit” forever! It makes such a dynamic change in the life of the believer!

The “Baptism with the Holy Spirit” is not to be confused with the “Born Again” experience.

The “Baptism with the Holy Spirit” is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us following the “New birth.”

Matthew 3:11 “I (John the Baptist) indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me (Jesus) is mightier than I... HE WILL “BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE!””

“Baptism with the Holy Spirit” does not impart spiritual life... BEING BORN AGAIN does, but rather It Gives Empowerment for the Christian Life!

We are given the power to overcome the devil and his temptations. We are given power to overcome sinful habits. We are given power to be a light and a witness to the world for Christ... power to walk in love and forgiveness... power to overcome the lust of the flesh, etc.... power to minister and to become all God desires for us in Christ.

Acts 1:4,5 And being assembled together with them, Jesus commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the “Promise of the Father”, which, He said, you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but “you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit” not many days from now.

Acts 1:8 Jesus says: But you shall RECEIVE POWER when the HOLY SPIRIT HAS “COME UPON” you and you Shall Be Witnesses ...

It is a very definite experience after being “born again,” whereby the Holy Spirit which is “The Promise of the Father” “comes upon” the believer to anoint and empower him to be a witness for Christ; to minister, and to live as a child of God!

It is referred to as the Spirit “falling upon”, “coming upon”, or “being poured out” upon the yielded believer in a sudden and supernatural manner.

The “Baptism with the Holy Spirit” causes one to have a radical life changing experience. IT IS NOT JUST A RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE! It is a revolutionizing life-changing experience THAT ALL WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS NEED! It WILL INTENSIFY the ministry and work of the indwelling Holy Spirit in your life!

It is yours for the asking!

Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those ‘who ask him’!”

The Holy Spirit: What does His name mean? Our paráklētos (Gr.) *pará*, “from close-beside”; “alongside” nearness, intimacy, and *kaléō*, “to call” – especially called to ones aid. He is the One who has been summoned or called to come alongside us to our aid or be our Helper.

John 14: 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever...

The Wonderful Person of the Holy Spirit according to John 14, 15, 16 has many important ministries to fulfill in the life of the believer. They are all needed by each one of us!

The Amplified Bible gives name to each ministry:

In **John 14:16, 17** (Amplified Bible) He is the called the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Strengthener, Standby, Advocate, Teacher, Intercessor) and Spirit of Truth who “guides” or “leads” us into all Truth.

This morning we will be concentrating on “The Spirit of Truth” Who Guides You.

The Bible teaches that one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to Guide and Lead us into all Truth.

*Guidance by the Holy Spirit is a Promise
to the Believer.*

Romans 8:14 For as many as are “led by the Spirit of God” are the sons of God.
(Continuous Present Verb Tense)

Its meaning: As many as are regularly lead, guided, and directed by the Holy Spirit these are the “sons” or children of God.

The Sons: Gr. wd. “huioi”... Equally refers to females ... These sons are the “ones who have the very nature of their Father” directing them!

Unfortunately, it does NOT say “All the sons of God are lead by the Spirit”, but rather, “All who are lead by the Spirit are the children of God.” Therefore, it is our responsibility to carefully yield our hearts to the leadership and instruction of Holy Spirit who lives within us.

Some children of God are misled by their fleshly impulses, selfish ambitions, by the sway of the world’s ways, etc.

John 16:13 When the Spirit of Truth comes, “He will guide you” into all Truth. For “He will not speak” on His own, but “He will speak” whatever He hears...

The Holy Spirit speaks the Truth of God’s Word to us and the Truth of God’s will for us.
This is so important and so beautiful!

You can hear and be guided by the Holy Spirit if you are a child of God!

You don’t have to be in the dark for we are now children of light. You are not to live in confusion. You don’t have to be directionless.... or just drifting....uncertain.... toss to and fro... You are promised that direction and guidance are part of your spiritual inheritance in Christ!

Proverbs 4: 10- 12 Listen, my son. I am teaching you the way of wisdom; I am “guiding you” on straight paths.

As Believers we are students or disciples in the “School of the Spirit.” He is our Teacher and the Guidance Counselor all in one.

It Is our responsibility to learn “to hear”, “ to listen”; be “attentive to” and discern the Holy Spirit’s guidance as He communicates to us the Truth of God’s Word and the Truth concerning God’s will for our life. Glory!

Examples of the Holy Spirit’s Direct and Personal Guidance

The Holy Spirit Speaks.

Acts 8:29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.”

Acts 10:19, 20 Meanwhile ... the Holy Spirit said to him (Peter), "Three men have come looking for you. Get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation. Don't worry, for I have sent them."

Acts 13:2-3 One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them."

Are We Listening?

Rev 3:6 "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches."

John 10:27 My sheep, Jesus says, listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

How attentive are we to the voice of God in our lives?

It is our glorious privilege of God's children to be lead, directed and under the guidance of the Spirit of God! It is our personal birthright to have this kind of communion with the Holy Spirit.

Guidelines for Being Led By the Holy Spirit

- ***First, we must "believe" that we can be and are to be lead by the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit is to be our Guidance Counselor and constant Helper in this life.***

Romans 8:14 For as many as are "Led by the Spirit of God" are the sons of God.

Jesus Himself did not live independent of the Father or the Holy Spirit's guidance. He continually listened to the Father receiving and perceiving what to do and say. (John 12:49; John 5:19)

John 8:28 "Jesus therefore said, I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me,'... **John 5:19** ... the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

Luke 4:1 Then Jesus ... full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness...

There was a plan and prepared path of the Father that Jesus was to follow, and the Holy Spirit was the One who led Him in God's way.

We must believe that we are as dependent as Jesus was to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

We must believe that that is a plan and are paths prepared by the Father for us that the Holy Spirit is to lead us on.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].

We must "Believe" that we are to be daily lead by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was.

- ***Second, we must want the Holy Spirit's guidance and desire it with all our heart.***

In order for the Holy Spirit to govern or guide us daily we (the soul) must give Him consent to do so. We allow Him entrance to direct our everyday life by desiring His guidance.

1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, but earnestly desire spiritual (gifts) and especially that you may prophesy

Jeremiah 29:31 You will seek Me and find Me when you seek for Me with "all your heart." A wholehearted pursuit...

To have an earnest desire and wholehearted pursuit of the things of the Spirit is important.

We must not be so set in our own determined plans that we shut the Holy Spirit's help out.

- ***Third, it is important not to grieve the Holy Spirit if we want His divine guidance.***

Sin in our life causes Him deep sorrow and pain of heart.

If we want His guidance we must stay clear from sin and stay in close communion with Him. Otherwise, all we will hear is "Repent", and will not be able to make much progress in God's will for our life.

Ephesians 4: 30-32 ...Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and

slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

A primary way to grieve the Holy Spirit is by mistreating people and not walking in love.

Anytime and all times when we walk in Love towards others we can rest assured that we are being led by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5 God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.... (The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Love because He is the Spirit of God)

1 John 4:16 ... God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:7, 8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

It is of utmost importance to walk in love with others in order to receive the Spirit's guidance in our life. The number one way we grieve the Holy Spirit is to willfully disobey the command to love one another.

Grieving the heart of the Holy Spirit causes us to miss out on God's best for our life.

- **Fourth, we must "Stay Filled" with the Holy Spirit.**

Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...

Jesus being full of the Holy Spirit was lead. So it is with us. We must be full and stay full of the Holy Spirit to be lead.

Keeping God's "Word" alive in our heart with a willingness to obey is the primary way we can stay filled with the Holy Spirit.

John 6:63 ... The words I have spoken to you they are Spirit and Life.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. (Gr. pneuma/ breath, Spirit)

The Holy Spirit speaks to us and leads us through the Word of God because the Word is Spirit Breathed. The Holy Spirit is one with the Word. The Holy Scriptures comes straight from the Holy Spirit Himself. He is talking to you by God's Word.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear testimony in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these “three are one.”

We must not ignore God’s written guidance (Holy Spirit’s Voice) in the Scriptures and look for some special word from the Holy Spirit that will go contrary to His written Word for our special case.

Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

We must guard our heart to be guided by the Spirit. Be careful as to what you are filling your heart and head with. Guard against the filling of worldly distractions, pleasures and entertainments. Guard against being filled with greed, jealousy, lust, anger, pride, unforgiveness and such things.... They rob us of God’s best.

Filling the heart with the wrong things will “lead you astray” but being filled with the Word of God will “lead you in God’s Way.”

- ***Fifth, Proverbs 20:27 The human spirit is the candle (lamp) of the LORD that sheds light on one’s inmost being.***

The spirit is the immaterial part of man that was imparted when God “breathed into man the breath of life.” Your spirit is the principle of life breathed into you by God Himself (Genesis 2:7).

The human spirit is the candle... What does a candle do? A candle illuminates the darkness.

Psalms 18:28 For thou will light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.

Our human spirit is a candle waiting to be lit! It is a candle that has in a great measure been snuffed out by the sinful nature of man and is waiting for the light of the Holy Spirit to ignite it!

The Holy Spirit enlightens or speaks to us in our spirit man when we are a born again child of God. He personally illuminates and communicates truth, guidance and direction to our spirit concerning God’s truth and God’s truth for our lives. (To our inner most being)

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit, in the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God...

Since the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts and mind of God and we are one with Him through the “New Birth” we can have access to God’s thoughts or mind and will towards us.

He communicates to us inwardly the thoughts and Truth of God. He enlightens our spirit because that is where He abides!

We must learn to turn inward, listen and fine tune our hearing to know His inner voice. What are His thoughts? What are His promptings? What is His pulling in my heart?

We must not be so busy that we are too distracted to discern what is His direction. He does not SHOUT, most of the time! He speaks within. He guides within. It can be a gentle guidance... A gentle thought... A gentle drawing... A gentle knowing...

We are to maintain an alert, prayerful and open heart to receive.

The Holy Spirit does not speak to us audible in our ears. The Holy speaks to our spirit ... heart to heart... and then it finds entrance into our soul (our mind and thoughts), so a lot of people miss this thinking it is just their own ideas or thoughts that surface.

When He communicates to us we come to know things; have an inner perception, or have a Holy Spirit nudging, intuition, God thoughts, it just seems right; without figuring, struggling or calculating everything out in the mind.

You may get a thought, an understanding, an internal nudging, perception, an idea, a drawing, or leading, etc

You may get a green light (Go Ahead) or red light (Don’t Go Forward) or Yellow light (Wait) in your heart (spirit).

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

It does not have to make complete good reasoning or line up with your understanding. You just know it seems right in your heart and thoughts; it bears witness with your conscious; you have peace; and it is not contrary to the Word of God.

Acts 15:28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord, with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding and He will direct your path.

- **Sixth, Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.**

As you take delight in God He will lead you through desires in your heart. The desires in your heart (spirit man) will become God's holy desires for direction in your life because you have become one spirit with Him.

1Cor. 6:17 However, the person who unites himself with the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Your selfish thoughts and desires will be replaced with what pleases Him.

In delighting yourself in the LORD He becomes the most important One in your life? At the end of the day have you pleased Him?

Holy and unselfish desire in the pure heart of a Christian is one great way He will personally lead or speak to you.

If you are wondering if it is God speaking then your desire needs to be checked out by the Word of God. There is a check and balance with God's Word. It must not violate His Word. Is it the way Jesus would go? Will it bring glory to God or me? Will It benefit others or just me? Will it promote Jesus or me?

Quite time spent with God as well as prayer and fasting, and praying in tongues helps us fine tune and discern the guidance and voice of the Holy Spirit in our life.

- **Seventh, For the most part being led by the Spirit of God is not as difficult as people make it out to be. If we are in union with Christ, loving Him and others the best we know how then being led by the Holy Spirit will most often be our normal experience even when we are not clearly conscious of it.**

Example of Simeon (A just and devote man of Jerusalem):

Luke 2: 27, 28 That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the Law required, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God...

The Spirit guided Simeon to the temple at the very moment when Mary was about to present Jesus in the temple according to Jewish Law. Little did Simeon know that the Christ Child he had been waiting for, he would hold in his arms that very day as he made a visit to the temple!

We know that Simeon was lead by the Spirit into the temple that day, but I don't think he knew he would be meeting the Christ child at that moment on that day! He was going about a normal day and making a visit to the temple.

Little did he know that the Spirit was leading him to meet baby Jesus at the very moment of Christ entrance into the temple!

So often it is the same with us when we abide in Christ. Many times the Holy Spirit leads us in paths and we are not aware that they are actually God appointments planned for us to encounter because we are following the Spirit's lead!

The Holy Spirit can lead through a number of ways we have not mentioned. He may speak to you through another person and you just know that what was said strikes your heart to be the truth!

He may speak through dreams, visions, and prophecy or through your circumstance. He is God.

If our hearts are one with Him He will speak and communicate to us all the days of our life till we have safely made it home with Him. Anticipate His guidance and His voice. Study His Word, be still, listen and know He is God who promises to lead, guide and speak to you.

Psalm 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will **guide thee** with mine eye.

Dear Friends in Christ,
May all grace abound to you that you may be secure in knowing His perfect guidance, His voice, His lead, His ways and His love all the days of your life. May you without fail know the paths of God for your life and daily fulfill His eternal purposes in Christ for you. May you mature in your awareness of the gentle guidance of the Holy Spirit and walk hand in hand with Him, knowing that you are never alone; understanding that He is your constant Helper, Teacher, Counselor, Comforter, Strengthener, Standby, Advocate and Spirit of All Truth,. He will guide you into all Truth. Rest assured that He will never leave you nor abandon you. You have a constant Helper forever! And He loves you with an everlasting love!

Love in Christ,
Pr. Diane Waghorne
Glory to Glory Life Ministries
www.glorytoglorylife.com / 940-8269