

# a study of the *Holy Spirit*

## Lesson 5: The Leading of the Holy Spirit

**Romans 8:14** – "What does a person mean when s/he says the Holy Spirit is leading them?"

The phrase "led by the Spirit" is the basis for the religious practices and beliefs of many (Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:1; Acts 16:6, 7; 10:19, 20; 8:26, 39).

### The Leading of the Spirit is understood from how the Godhead "led" in the past

- God the Father led (Hebrew 11:7-9; Genesis 6:13-15; 7:5; 12:1-4; Deuteronomy 8:14, 15; 29:4, 5). How? (Psalm 77:20)
- God the Son led (John 1:43; 6:44, 45). How? Jesus used truth and taught so they understood.
- God the Spirit is presently leading people (Romans 8:14). How? The Holy Spirit leads today in just the same manner as did the Father and the Son (2 Thessalonians 2:14; Revelation 22:17; Hebrews 3:7).

### The Holy Spirit does not operate directly to "lead" through feelings and thoughts

- Religious error regarding the Holy Spirit
- Error in understanding the Scriptures
- The Scriptures teach that one will not be "led" by the Spirit until thought and study of the Word has been given (Isaiah 1:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; Romans 1:16).

### How the Holy Spirit "leads" the alien sinner to salvation (Titus 3:5-6; John 3:3-5)

It is via the written Word of God (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:17).

A direct operation of the Holy Spirit in conversion is illogical.

- Why the question of Acts 2:38 if the Holy Spirit mystically led them to salvation?
- Why should Scripture urge the publishing of the gospel to the lost if it is not necessary for salvation? (Romans 1:16; Mark 16:15, 16).
- Why are there lost souls still in the world?
- Why does the Scripture emphasize personal choice in salvation if the Holy Spirit will "draw" one to salvation? (Isaiah 1:18-20).

### The "leading" of the Holy Spirit in the alien sinner's life is summarized

Romans 1:16  
Acts 17:11, 12  
1 Corinthians 4:15

James 1:18  
Matthew 13:15

## How the Holy Spirit "leads" believers

---

- **Miraculous Means**  
When the church was established there was a need for miraculous leading (Acts 8, 10, 16)
- **The Scriptures**  
The Spirit guides believers through to avoid error (1 Timothy 4:1, 2), obtain all spiritual blessings (2 Peter 1:3), and spiritual security (1 John 5:13). The truth is only found in the New Testament so it must be preached (Galatians 1:8).
- **Providential Means**  
The Holy Spirit acts providentially in the creation of favorable environments (1 Peter 3:1, 2), to open avenues of escape when tempted (1 Corinthians 10:13), preventing temptations that are overpowering (Matthew 6:13), and guarding from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

## Summary: the Holy Spirit "leads" men and women today

---

- God has "led" man by imparting Truth and inviting man to act upon that Truth.
- Whenever man listens, reasons, and acts upon truth he is "led" by God.
- The miraculous "leading" was only temporary and no longer exists.
- The instructional ministry of the Spirit is still being used by the Spirit to "lead" man.
- Those who follow the Scriptures are those who are led by the Holy Spirit!

### Looking Ahead

**Lesson 6:** The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Suggested Reading:** Acts 2; Acts 10; 1 Cor. 12;  
Mk. 16:19-20; Gal. 3:2