

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Introduction to article by Daniel B. Wallace

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies to our spirit that we are children of God,

- Birth of Christ 4BC.
- Circumcision on the 8th day – in Bethlehem.
- Mary's offering of two turtle doves in order to be cleansed ceremonially.
- Redemption of the 1st born – in Jerusalem at the temple before a priest.
- Return to Bethlehem.
- Magi arrive in Jerusalem in royal caravan with military guard.
 - The Glory of the Lord reappeared to the Magi on their way to Bethlehem & led them to the exact house where Joseph and Mary were living.
- Herod is in the process of exterminating all babies two years old and younger in an attempt to wipe out any competition to his throne as King of Judea.
- The Magi depart Bethlehem on another route to avoid Jerusalem & Herod.
- Joseph is told in a dream to depart for Egypt.
 - Joseph does as directed – remaining in Egypt until he is directed to return to the Land.
 - Joseph executes on the Lord's commands.

Matthew 2:19-22

(19) But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said,
(20) "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead."

- The angel of the Lord tells Joseph, with no specifics, to return to Israel.
- With human viewpoint, Joseph heads for Bethlehem – that is where the Child was born, it is their ancestral city, he has a home there, so Bethlehem is a logical destination.
- Note that dreams are the means by which God is revealing His will to Joseph – he's had three dreams.
 - Mt 1:20 – Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; betrothal and conception
 - Mt 2:13 – Flee to Egypt
 - Mt 2:19 – Return to the Land – **GOD'S GEOGRAPHICAL WILL FOR JOSEPH AND MARY AND THEIR SON.**

God has a geographical will for every born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ living today.

The issue is, how are you going to determine the geographical will of God?

You can study the Bible until you are blue in the face and it will not tell you where to live!

Note that in every single case Joseph responds with positive volition to the Lord's direction.

(21) So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

Principle of Application – As God directed the paths of Joseph so He directs the Church Age Believer's path through the leading of the Spirit from within and His providential direction from without.

It's important to understand that God does not communicate to us in dreams or by angelic visitation in the Church Age.

- In reality the Church Age Believer has far more to his spiritual life than dreams and angelic visitation could ever offer – he has the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit!
- Better the believer learn the Spirit's ways than to rely on dreams and visions. A process of learning how to be led by the Spirit – by being led you will find yourself exactly where God would have you.

Bibliotheca Sacra, 1941 (DTS) – “In the plan of God the present age is evidently void of angelic manifestations. This could easily be due to the fact that in no other age the saints of God are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and are subject to His leading which leading is more constant, vital and exalting than angelic visitations could possibly be”.



1 Corinthians 3:16

(Interpretive) **Do you not know that you are a temple of God AND SO the Spirit of God [permanently] dwells in you?**

Because of His indwelling presence the leading of the Spirit comes from within – and you must learn to identify that as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ to be where God wants you to be.

That is a supernatural dynamic!

You have the same power available to you to live this life for the glory of God that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

- There are two ministries that are symbiotically involved in God directing your path as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The BEARING WITNESS MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT – Rom 8:16; 9:1
 - The LEADING OF THE SPIRIT – Gal 5:18; Rom 8:14

Since the Holy Spirit indwells every believer (1 Cor 3:16) the leading and bearing witness ministries of the Holy Spirit occurs **from *within* you**.

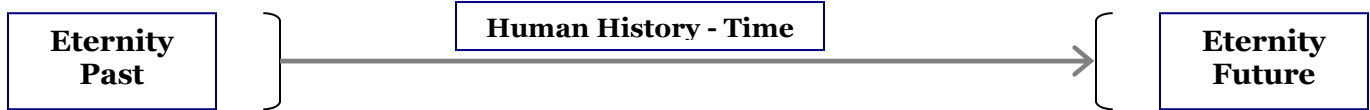
How does the Spirit lead you from within?

1. Through a conviction of the will – a will rendered to the Will of God.

A willingness on the part of the believer to go where God wants him to go, and do whatever God has prepared beforehand for him to do.

Ephesians 2:10

(10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works, which God prepared beforehand (eternity past)** so that we would walk in them.



- God prepared things in eternity past for you to do after salvation– you are His workmanship.

The Believer Priesthood
1 Pt. 2:5-9; Rev. 1:6

Occupation w/ Jesus Christ
The Exemplar, Our Great High Priest

Self
Speech Sharing Substance
Good Works

Invisible Altar
Heb. 13:10

Phil. 2:13

Worship (Jn. 4:24)
W/G (2 Tm. 3:16) + FHS (Eph. 5:18ff)

Situational Awareness (Gal. 5:25)
Mentorship Resp./God the Holy Spirit

F A I T H - 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:6; Gal 5:16

PRAYER
Individual Heb. 4:16
Intercessory Eph. 6:18

SPiritual Gift
CMD STEWARD BFT
1 Pet. 4:10 1 Cor. 12:7

Rom. 12:1
Heb. 13:15
Phil. 4:18
Heb. 13:16

DIVINE WORKS OF GRACE

E Grace	Imparted EL	Adopted	Drafted	Raised
Sealed	Secured	Guaranteed	Issued	Enslaved
Regenerated	Forgiven	Employed	Qualified	Grafted
Filled	Created		Predestined	Seeded
Gifted	Commissioned		Elected	Called
Baptized	Appointed		Presented	Glorified
Indwelt G/HS	Transferred		Perfected	Healed
Indwelt G/F	Delivered		Rooted	Confirmed
Indwelt G/S	Empowered		Completed	Anointed
Reconciled	Rescinded		Circumcised	Enlightened
Redeemed	Liberated	Provided	Crucified	Blessed
Sanctified	Freed	Placed	Died P	Enriched
Imputed +R	Granted	Nationalized	Died E	Bulwarked
Justified	Related		Buried	Seated

Time Package
The will of God
Prepared “beforehand”

1. Geographical will – where you should be
2. Operational will – what you should be doing
3. Vivendi will – what you should be
 - a. Spiritual gift?

Discernable will of God

Expressed will of God – the expression of what the Word of God says.

- “Keep on being filled”
- “Love one another”
- “Do not quench the Spirit”
- “Do not grieve the Spirit”

And just where is that discerned?

In the privacy of your priesthood under the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit who has been sent to permanently indwell you – and lives IN you.

And He has a witness to you – to YOUR spirit. Rom 8:16; 9:1

Jeremiah 10:23

(23) I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

Inherently you are incapable of figuring out God's will for you, in time, regarding that which is discernable – the things that God prepared beforehand for you to do.

But you have been given One who indwells you – and is He not God?

The Spirit knows the will of the Father for you and has been sent to reveal that to you!

Spiritual Dynamics - Supernatural

Think about this verse in light of Joseph –

- Was it in him to know to take Mary as his wife?
- Was it in him to know it was God's will for him to depart for Egypt?
- Was it in him on his way back from Egypt to go to Nazareth instead of Bethlehem?
- No – No – No – It was God who communicated to Joseph when and where he needed to be.
- And God revealed it just in time.

The leading of the Spirit comes from WITHIN!

What has not changed between the dispensation that Joseph lived in and the one we live in?

MALLEABILITY, DEPENDENCE, & FAITH

And where does the Word of God fit in here?

Psalms 119:105

(105) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Is it the Word that is leading you? No. But the Word of God provides illumination to the path that you are being directed in by God the Holy Spirit.

We are not of the Word or of the Spirit – we are of the Spirit and the Word
John 4:24 – The balanced equation.

The leading of the Spirit is never contrary to the Word of God!

So you carry it with you as you are being led – discernment as you are being led.

“The leading of the Spirit is only for those who are already committed to do the will of God. He is able to speak loud enough to make a willing soul hear. The guidance of the Spirit will always be in harmony with the scriptures which in their primary application direct the life of the believer in this dispensation. The Christian seeking guidance may go to the scriptures with prayerful expectation yet the Bible is not a magic lottery. The will of God is not found by opening the Bible to some chance verse and abiding by its message. Such notions disregard the essential truth that leading is from the Holy Spirit, who being the indwelling One, manifests His guidance within the believers heart and mind but not now by signs or dreams of visions. The Spirit may use outward things, events or circumstances nevertheless it is still a matter of His leading and not of the mere instrument which He may employ. A general knowledge of the Word of God as a whole is most to be desired since leading is in harmony with all that the Bible presents and not usually centralized in one particular text by itself.” *Systematic Theology, Vol. 6 pp. 259-260 L. S. Chafer*

We need to learn two things as believers –

- The Word of God – **Objective**.
- The Spirit’s ways with us – **Subjective** – because those ways are intrinsic.

Leading of the Spirit “involves a non-discursive (not marked by analytical reason) presence that is recognized in the soul.” *Daniel B. Wallace*

“God is certainly able to speak loud enough for a willing soul to hear.” *Systematic Theology, Vol. 6 pg. 227 L. S. Chafer*

“George Mueller taught and testified out of a very rich experience in fellowship with the Holy Spirit that God leads not by signs or outward things but by means of willing expectant mind. He sways the judgment itself and then one becomes clear and convinced about the course God would indicate.” (Chafer, 227)

Learning the Spirit’s ways is something that occurs over the course of your life as a born-again believer.

- So Joseph is returning to the land because god has made it apparent to him that it’s His will for Joseph to be there.

(22) But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was **afraid** to go there...

“**Afraid**” - φοβέω

PHOBEO – “to be afraid or frightened”

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.