

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.

- Herod died while Joseph and his family were sojourning in Egypt and the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream communicating that it was now time for him to leave Egypt because those who sought the child's life had been removed.
- Joseph is on his way from Egypt to the Land with Mary and their son.

Matthew 2:22 – Joseph is on his way back into the land. Not headed for Nazareth. He is headed for Bethlehem – the place from which he departed when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him to depart for Egypt.

God has been directing his paths – Joseph has been malleable to the will of God operating on positive signals.

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

"Afraid" - φοβέω

PHOBEO—"to be afraid, frightened or alarmed"

- Like Joseph, we may question the Lord's leading with our human viewpoint. Why?
- Because following the guidance of the Lord requires faith.
 - Your trust in the Lord despite the unknown.
 - Despite things that you hear about.
 - Or threat of fearful circumstances that lie ahead.
- And so you really don't see sometimes or understand why the Lord is directing your path in the way that He is leading.
 - You question how He will provide for you when you get there.

Joseph was rightfully afraid.
Archelaus was extremely ruthless – on his coronation he had 3,000 Jews sacrificed in the temple during Passover. A bloodbath!
Joseph is up on his current events.

THAT IS NOT YOUR PROBLEM!

The Lord is capable of providing for you regardless of whether you can see where the provision coming from our not. It is not ours to reason why!

Ours is to apply FAITH to the promises in His word and walk in dependence on the Spirit.

Trusting that He will provide because this is where He is leading us.

Remember what Gabriel told Mary –

Luke 1:37

(37) "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Matthew 19:26

(26) "...with God **all things** are possible." 

“All things” – What does that not apply to?

There is a huge difference between **knowing** – the truth in the word of God - and **believing** it.

Believing what you know affects the manner in which you walk.

The manner in which you live this life for the glory of God.

Faith is a prerequisite to walking in a manner worthy of our calling in Christ.

Should there be any doubt the provision you need is going to be there when you arrive at the place God wants you to be - through the leading of the Spirit? NO!

Is there any reason to be afraid that the Lord is going to let you down? NO!

God is your Heavenly Father and when we doubt in the fact that He is going to provide for us, in effect we're telling Him that we don't believe He is capable or that His promises are true.

Failure to trust in the promise that **“All things are possible”** is a subtle form of telling the Lord that you don't believe that what He has revealed to us in His word is true.

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

What do you have to do when faced with something like that in life?

You're being led by the Spirit in the **geographical** will of God – you know where it is that God wants you to go or you know what it is that God wants you to do, **operationally**.

- Geographical – discernable will of God.
- Operational – discernable will of God (including Spiritual Gift function).
 - You know the command to **“Keep on growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...” (2 Peter 3:18)**.
 - You know that you are not to grieve the Spirit (**Eph 4:30**).
 - You know that you are not to quench the Spirit (**1 Thess 5:19**).
 - You know you are to **“...walk by means of the Spirit.” (Gal 5:16, 25)**.
 - You know that you are to be malleable and dependent – maintaining situational awareness of what God the Holy Spirit was sent to do in your life.
 - You know that you are to be consistent with intake of the word of God and application of it.
- You know that God has a place for you as He did for Joseph – but that place is not revealed in the Word of God, but you must determine where that is . . . HOW?

The Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit!



1 Corinthians 3:16 – Indwelling of Holy Spirit

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

- The Holy Spirit dwells *within* the believer.
- The believer is not going to receive any more of Him than he already received at salvation.
- The issue in the post-salvation spiritual life is God the Holy Spirit securing more of you to manifest a controlling influence from within you.
- THAT is determined by your volition!

The Holy Spirit's Bearing Witness & Leading Ministries

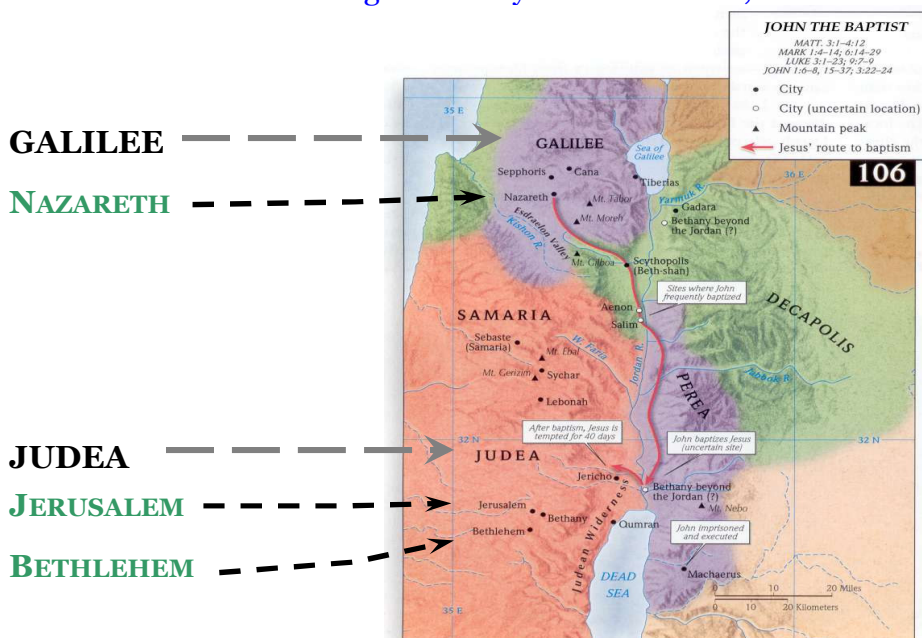
These both occur from *within* the believer – they only occur when *filled*.

That is how you know FROM WITHIN where to go!

These are supernatural and must be determined within the privacy of your priesthood.

So while they are on the road to Bethlehem God warns Joseph...

...Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee,



God revealed to Joseph what he needed to do when he needed to do it & Joseph was malleable.

Thus the importance of stepping out in faith when directed by God – no need to be afraid!

Remember- - **“With God all things are possible.”**

God is going to provide for you if He is leading you to a certain place even though you cannot see where the provision is going to come from.



“Without faith it is impossible to please Him ...” Heb 11:6

“The guidance (leading of the Spirit) must be so convincing it will not be doubted in days that follow, when per chance times of testing may come. That leading that takes one to his particular field of service must be of such a definite nature that suffering and hardship can be endured without any questioning of the step by which one reached the place of testing.”
Systematic Theology Vol. 6 pp. 227-228 L. S. Chafer

Matthew 4:1

(1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

- What is in the wilderness? Nothing!
- Was this the plush region of Galilee with a bountiful amount of fish?
- Is this in the comfort zone that He grew up in? No.
- This is God's will though.

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit...”

- This is the humanity of Jesus Christ that is being led and He was being led then just as we are led today by God the Holy Spirit.
- The path of God's own choosing – to be where God wants us to be, when God wants us to be there, to do exactly what He wants us to do.

So what is the prerequisite for doing that? **MALLEABILITY** - Willingness on your part.

Is God not willing to speak loud enough to make a willing soul hear? Yes!

So what is the condition? **To be that willing soul**

It's not about what *I* want to do.

It's not about where *I* want to live.

It's not about *me*.

Reciprocal love in application – sacrificing your will to God because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross.

A willingness to conform your will to what God wants you to do.

The **substitutionary spiritual death** of Christ on the cross satisfied the righteous demands of God as a payment for all our sins.

It paid the price to free all of us from that **slave market of sin** we were sold into at physical birth.

It restored you to the relationship that God intended for you to have with Him as His creation.

He paid for every sin that we have ever committed or will ever commit.

But knowing these things and believing these things are two different things – believing is essential. Trusting in what the word of God says!

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