

Who or What is Leading You? ~ Part 2

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Sunday, March 3, 2019

Rom. 8:14(NIV)~ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

- Who or what is leading you?
- Who or what is leading me?
- Who or what am I following?
- Who or what has the most influence in our life?

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Whether we realize it or not, we are all following someone or something. We may deceive ourselves thinking we are independent and doing it our way-but we are all followers.

Being a follower is not a bad thing, unless we are following the wrong person or wrong thing.

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1). Some people follow money

Matt.6:24(NKJV)~ ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

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Maybe you know someone stuck in a job they despise; they can't change, though they want to-because of financial obligations. ~ they are serving money. Money is determining their daily fulfillment and future.

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Someone pays off their credit cards but are driven to buy more stuff. Within a few months they are back in the same situation-pressured by consumer debt. Within 12 months they are paying on credit cards and can't remember what the charge was for- they are serving money.

Jesus informs us that money (riches) has a spirit attached to it-it's called mammon.

Hazards of Being Slaves to Mammon:

- The spirit of mammon creates a craving in us that is never satisfied or content.
- People who are being led by the spirit of mammon, never have enough.
- People who are led by the spirit of mammon are unable to pursue God fully.

Matt.6:24(NKJV)~ ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matt. 6:31-33(NKJV)~ ³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’
³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

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- Being led by mammon (riches) will eventually lead you to spiritual poverty.

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1 Tim.6:9-11 (Passion)- But those who crave the wealth of this world slip into spiritual snares. They become trapped by the troubles that come through their foolish and harmful desires, driven by greed and drowning in their own sinful pleasures. And they take others down with them into their corruption and eventual destruction.

¹⁰ Loving money is the first step toward all kinds of trouble. Some people run after it so much that they have given up their faith. Craving more money pushes them away from the faith into error, compounding misery in their lives!

¹¹ Timothy, you are God’s man, so run from all these errors. Instead, chase after true holiness, justice, faithfulness, love, hope, and tender humility.

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- 1). Some people are led by money
- 2). Some people are led by the approval of man- guided by the fear

of man.

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John 12:42-43(NKJV)~ Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

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Prov. 29:25(NLT)~ Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.

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• Choosing to serve God fully, will often bring the rejection of others.

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Isa 53:3(NLT)~ He was despised and rejected a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.  
We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.

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Luke 9:22-24(NLT)~ ²² “The Son of Man^[a] must suffer many terrible things,” he said. “He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”
²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. ²⁴ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you

give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

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1 Peter 4:12-16(NLT)- Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

<sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. <sup>16</sup> But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

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1). Some people are led by money

2). Some people are led by the approval of man- guided by the fear of man.

3). Some people are led by their wounds, unforgiveness and addictions

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A person's wounds, unforgiveness and addictions can determine their attitude and their behavior. A person's wounds, unforgiveness and addictions can determine your rhythm in life and your interaction with others.

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2 Cor. 10:3-4(NKJV)- For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds
The word "stronghold" is interesting-it's literally the word "fortress."

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A stronghold is anything evil used by the devil to bind us and hinder us from receiving God's best.

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2 Cor. 10:3~4(NKJV)~ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds

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There is an anointing/power in Christ to pull down, tear down these strongholds/fortresses.

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- 1). Some people are led by money
- 2). Some people are led by the approval of man~ guided by the fear of man.
- 3). Some people are led by their wounds, unforgiveness and addictions
- 4). God's plan for every child of God is to be led by the Spirit of God.

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Rom. 8:14(NIV)~ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

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John 16:13(NIV)~ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

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- Every child of God should expect to be led by the Spirit of God!

Numbers 9:15-23(NKJV) ~ ¹⁵ Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire.

¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents.

¹⁸ At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the Lord they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle, they remained encamped. ¹⁹ Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the Lord and did not journey.

²⁰ So it was, when the cloud was above the tabernacle a few days: according to the command of the Lord they would remain encamped, and according to the command of the Lord they would journey. ²¹ So it was, when the cloud remained only from evening until morning: when the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they would journey; whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud was taken up, they would journey. ²² Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud remained above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would remain encamped and not journey; but when it was taken up, they would journey. ²³ At the command of the Lord they remained encamped, and at the command of the Lord they journeyed; they kept the charge of the Lord, at the command of the Lord by the hand of Moses.

- God is always available to lead us-we must learn how the Spirit of God leads.

1). The First way God leads His children is by the Word of God:

Matt. 4:1~4(NKJV) ~ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

⁴ But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God

Luke 5:1-6(NIV) ~ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

• The Word of God supersedes any sensational_experience:

2 Peter 1:16~21(NKJV)~ For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is my beloved Son, in

whom I am well pleased.”¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed,^[a] which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.