

# Who or What is Leading You? Part 3

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

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Whether we realize it or not, we all follow 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 are led by money

Matt.6:24(NKJV)~ <sup>24</sup> “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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2). Some people are led by the approval of man- guided by the fear of man.

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; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

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

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

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

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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 desires to lead His children by His Spirit.

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

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!  
God leading his children supernaturally has always been a benefit of being a child of God

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Numbers 9:15-23 (NKJV) ~ <sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. <sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.

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God placed a cloud by day above the tabernacle and a pillar of fire by night above the tabernacle.

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God never forced the children of Israel to follow the cloud-He led them but never forced them.

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The provision of the Lord accompanies His leading

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1 Kings 17:1-9(NKJV)- And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

<sup>5</sup> So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. <sup>7</sup> And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, <sup>9</sup> “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.”

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Twice God gave Elijah direction on where the blessing would be provided-but it was up to Elijah to be obedient and follow.

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Matt. 2:13-15(NKJV)~ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

<sup>14</sup> When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Matt. 2:19-21(NKJV)~ Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel

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Acts 16:6-10(NKJV)~ Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. <sup>8</sup> So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

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Good news~ we are not required to get every step perfect as we follow

Psalm 37:23-24(NKJV)~ The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down;  
For the Lord upholds him with His hand.

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As we endeavor to follow God's plan and leading in our lives-if we make a mistake and miss it, God will hold us up and take care of us.

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- We should anticipate and expect the Spirit of God to lead and guide us in every season of life, until the end of life.

Psalms 48:14(NIV) - For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

Psalms 73:24(NIV) - You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

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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. <sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

<sup>4</sup> 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

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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. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

<sup>5</sup> 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."

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

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Psalms 119:105(NKJV)~ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Prov. 4:18(NIV)~ The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

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2). The second way God leads his children is through the inward witness

Rom. 8:14-16(NKJV)~ <sup>4</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

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1 Kings 19:1-12(NKJV)~ And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” <sup>3</sup> And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

<sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!”

<sup>5</sup> Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise and eat.” <sup>6</sup> Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So, he ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.” <sup>8</sup> So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

<sup>9</sup> And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>10</sup> So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for

the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

<sup>11</sup> Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

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“still- means “silent expectation.”

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Rom. 8:16(NKJV)~ <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Phillips- endorses our inward conviction

Knox- assures our spirit

New English Bible- the Spirit of God joins with our spirit in testifying

Taylor- the Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us.

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Col. 3:15(NKJV)- And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful