

HOW TO BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

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1. GUIDANCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

In counseling with many people, it began to dawn on me that at least 99 percent of counseling is for guidance. People want to know what is God's will. People want to know what God is speaking to them and how to make the decisions in their life. It began to dawn on me that 99 percent of the time in all areas of counseling most people just want to know how to be led by the Spirit. They want to be sure that it is God who really is leading them in the decisions of this life. So, we will go on a teaching series that we have not done before on How to be Led by the Spirit.

What we are first going to see is the Old Testament guidance. Old Testament guidance is different from New Testament guidance. But yet, we need to understand the Old Testament guidance that we could picture where we are today since the Old Testament is a shadow of the real thing today. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. So there is a form of teaching and principle in the Old that is applicable in the New.

Circumstantial Guidance

As we look at guidance, we realize that some people are dependent on the Old Testament kind of guidance like circumstantial guidance. Yet, circumstantial guidance needs to be defined. For example, if you are about to go out of your house to maybe witness, pray for the sick, or do a certain work for God, suddenly, a tree branch drops on you. Or maybe you live in a place where there are a lot of coconut trees. As you walk out it happens that a strong wind blew and a coconut dropped on your head. There you are wondering whether God is speaking to you through that coconut. So you are wondering, "Is it God's will for me to go out or not? Was it God trying to speak to me through the circumstances?" Circumstances are no indication of God's direction. When we are in God's will God does control circumstances. However, by themselves they are not correct indicators.

The person who had the coconut dropped on the head on the way out to evangelize or witness or on the way to do a certain project, could interpret it both ways. He could say, "Maybe God is speaking to me that it's not the time for me to do it." So, you interpret by the circumstances that is not God's will. The opposite could be true. A person who had the same experience of a coconut dropping on his head may say that the devil is trying to stop him. So, the person becomes more determined and says, "Coconuts or no coconuts I am still going out to preach the Word of God."

There are two ways to interpret it. So, we can not just depend on circumstances to lead us. Neither can we depend on God to open the door before you go. **The problem is God does open doors but men also can open doors.** See doors can be controlled by man and not just by God. And the devil also can open some doors. **So we can not just go by saying, "God if it's Your will for me to go, let the door be opened."** Sometimes it's God's will but the door is closed. So, what do I do then? The door seems closed but as you come right at the door then only it opens. So, we **can not even tell by circumstances of opening of doors or closing of doors.**

If you are called to be an evangelist, you can not tell that if God opens the door then it must be His will. There are several times when certain doors are opened and I sensed in my spirit the Spirit says, "Don't go." Don't go because it may not be His time.

There are other times the door is still closed and its difficult and then says God says to go. I ask God, "How about that situation?" I could sense in my spirit that I am supposed to go. As I seek the direction to move into that area then other doors start opening. We can not even tell by doors opening or doors closed. We can not even tell by all these outward circumstantial evidence. **They can confirm God's working but they can not be relied on by itself.**

Some people say they receive God's guidance by what Smith Wigglesworth says, "Take the bible and throw it open" and they get a scripture that God directs them to do some thing. If it falls on a wrong scripture, you read all the scriptures until you find something you want so there is no difference. So, this method is not good. It does not tell God's will. **You have to be careful when you open the scriptures because you may get a scripture that tells you to go and betray Jesus.** We can not just rely on this kind of method. These are all circumstantial method. I know people can come to you and share their testimony how when God spoke to them they came back, found the bible opened it and found a passage and the passage lighted up and shone on them. That is a small possible confirmation but it can not be relied as a main method. These are all things that will happen as you begin moving in other more concrete forms of guidance or how to be led by the Spirit.

In the Old Testament, there are three main ways that God will guide them. In the Old Testament, they were not born again. They don't have God's Spirit living in them. So, they rely on three methods of God's guidance.

Urim and Thummim

Exodus 28:29 So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breast-piece of judgment upon his heart, when he goes into the holy place, to bring them to continual remembrance before the Lord. And in the breast-piece of judgment, you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goes in before the Lord; thus, Aaron shall bear the judgment of the people of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually.

That's one of the first records that God mentioned the Urim and Thummim. The Urim and Thummim actually are two stones. The first word Urim comes from the Hebrew word Ur, which means light, to be lightened, light that shines. So, Urim would be plural for lights. The other word Thummim comes from the Hebrew word Thum, which means to be complete, to be perfect. So, the plural form would mean perfections. The two Hebrew words mean lights and perfections.

These two stones are kept inside Aaron's breastplate. The use of these two stones are more like a yes, no, answer. Yes or no. These two stones are used all the time. Whenever you read the Old Testament where they cast lots with the breastplate involved, it refers to these two stones. Nobody is exactly sure how this is done, whether they shake the stones and if the yes stone falls out then it's yes. I am talking about Old Testament method. Don't you try this in the New Testament. This is only the first part of a whole long series. Don't just hear this message today and go out and look for two stones, name one yes and the other no. And every time you need guidance shake the stones. Whichever drops out, that's God's will; it is like the tossing the coin, head or tail kind of guidance. The devil could be there and just blow on one side to make sure you get the tail.

So this is the Urim and Thummim they will shake until one stone falls out, that will be God's will according to them. Yet, in the Old Testament it was important. See the priest had an anointing upon his life. And the whole process was very consecrated and very dedicated to the Lord. The bible speaks about the use of Urim and Thummim in the book of Numbers.

They are mentioned again Leviticus 8 but it's the same kind of mention so we look at the book of Numbers chapter 27 verse 18. Moses was instructing Joshua regarding the conquest of the Promised Land. And the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand upon him; cause him to stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight. You shall invest with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey. And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation.

So it tells us that Joshua before he goes in and he goes out he had to consult Eleazar and those stones will mean yes or no. That kind of guidance is applied one step at a time. And every time you read about the casting of lots, it is these stones that are used. You read in the book of Joshua chapter 17 that the land was divided by casting lots before the Lord. What they did was they divided the land into plots and they bring it before the priest for him to cast lots.

Lets read Joshua chapter 7 about the sin of Achan. This is the background, remember Numbers chapter 27 already qualified that all Joshua's guidance was mainly by Urim and Thummim, besides the Lord speaking to him. In chapter 7 of Joshua verse 11 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant, which I commanded them; they have taken some of the accursed things; they have stolen, and lied, and put them among their own stuff.

God knows who was the culprit but God didn't want to tell them. God could have named that person but yet, God always works by His established methods of guidance. God has given certain methods of guidance, and one of them is the Urim and Thummim, the other is by prophets and another is by dreams or direct revelations from God. So, God sometimes uses a mixture of guidance. As we look at them in the Old Testament, it should encourage us to realize that God can direct us by visions, dreams or inner witness or inward voice of the Spirit. But God usually use a whole variety of methods. He makes it interesting to be in relationship with Him.

Even though Joshua could hear God's voice and Joshua could discern God speaking to him and giving him instructions like for example the ark crossing the river Jordan into the Promised Land, yet, God did not reveal every thing to him the same way. His methods vary. Now God told him there is sin but He didn't tell him who. And they actually took a long process of deduction to find out whom.

So, in Joshua 7:12, Therefore the people of Israel can not stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies because they have become a thing for destruction. I will be with you no more unless you destroy the accursed things from among you.

Now this is what they did in verse 14 In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. Now there are twelve tribes. So all the tribes have to come one by one. And the tribes which the Lord takes shall come near by families; and the family which the Lord takes shall come near by households; and the household which the Lord takes shall come near man by man.

Do you know how long that process took? In the New Testament God could just give a word of knowledge and say Achan. But God doesn't do things that way all the time. Why, He wants us to learn obedience. It will be good if all the time every thing God tells us in great details. But He doesn't so lets learn the nature of God. Our guidance in the New Testament is different from the Old. But God has the same nature; His nature never changes. And His principles still remain. He never limits us to just one method and what a long process it was. They had to cast lots for all the twelve tribes. It would have been easy if Achan belonged to the first tribe and then straightaway they could get him. But let's suppose his tribe was number twelve. So Eleazar will keep on casting lots one by one till they come to the last tribe. After that, Eleazar will then have to cast lots for each family. If Achan belongs to the nine hundredth family, then Eleazar had to cast lots nine hundred times.

Couldn't God reveal straightaway, so as to avoid this tedious process? He could. But such are His method sometimes testing our obedience using the Urim and Thummim. Finally, they got Achan's clan and all the clan would have to come one by one. Here Achan was singled out and it was the Urim and Thummim that exposed him, using the two stones symbolizing a yes or no answer.

Even David used that method. In the bible it tells us how when king Saul killed the priest in the book of I Samuel 22:6 Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him. Verse 9-10 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Abimelech the son of Ahitub, and he inquired of the Lord for him, and gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath Philistine." Then the king sent to summon Abimelech the priest, the sons of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob; and all of them came to the king. And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." And Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me." In verse 18 Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and fall upon the priests." So the priests were killed. In verse 19 And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword. In verse 20-21 But one of the sons of Abimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord.

So, when Saul killed all the priests Abiathar ran with whatever he has and the story goes with the Urim and Thummim to king David. It is after that time that you read how David inquires of the Lord. He took the Urim and Thummim and went to king David. And that is why after that in I Samuel 23 you began to read about David inquiring the Lord about fighting in verse 2 Therefore David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah. So, **David many times relied on the Urim and Thummim. So, David also uses the Urim and Thummim in those days. Now he had the Spirit upon him as a prophet and as a king. But yet he relied on the Urim and Thummim to a certain extend.**

When King Saul wanted guidance later on, he could not find it. In I Samuel 28:6 And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dream, or by Urim, or by prophets. He did not have any more guidance systems. That is why in the end he went to this witch. Most of the people who claim to have connection with dead spirits, they get into a trance and then they began to speak details of a person's life. They operate with the help of familiar spirits. Those are demons that impersonate people who were formerly alive. They could even impersonate the voices. Normally these witches would operate in that manner. So, when she was trying to deceive Saul, we see that she herself was shocked. Under a special strange permission of God Samuel was permitted to come up. Not because the witch called him. Normally the witch would get her favorite demon to impersonate people. We realize that the actual Samuel appeared that even the witch was shocked. **No it was a demon, Saul never saw it, only the witch. God doesn't break his word.**

In I Samuel 28:12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. Think about it for a moment. If she were expecting the spirit, why would she be shocked? She was expecting one of her normal familiar spirits. When the real one came, she got a shock. The reason why I accept what the bible says that it is the spirit of Samuel because the word Samuel is used in verse 15 Samuel said to Saul.

In Moses blessings it says in the book of Deuteronomy 33:8 And of Levi he said, "Give to Levi thy Thummim, and thy Urim to the godly one, whom thou didst test at Massah, with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah. So, he refers to the tribe of Levi carrying the Urim and Thummim.

So, in the Old Testament one of the methods that God used was the Urim and Thummim, the two yes or no stones that they relied on a lot. They used it as a step-by-step guidance. **Today in the New Testament, the Urim and Thummim represent the inward witness that is within us.** The Urim and Thummim in the New Testament is the red light and green light, not a voice. There are actually two red lights, two green lights and one orange light. But for now lets consider the inward witness as the red light and green light. If you read Kenneth Hagin's book on "How To Be Led By The Spirit" he talked about the inward witness as green light or red light. We will see how later that is bigger than that. We see that the Urim and Thummim are now a part of our nature of the spirit man. It's inside us not outside. And all the time the Urim and Thummim is supposed to operate. You could tell by the sensation yes or no. Isn't it wonderful but most Christians don't realize its importance.

The Urim and Thummim guided priests, guided prophets, and guided kings in the Old Testament. They may have prophecies in dreams and visions but the system of God's guidance in the Old Testament Israelite's dispensation was the Urim and Thummim. In the New Testament, we have many forms of supernatural guidance and manifestations. We even have confirmation through the gift of prophecy and the gifts of the Spirit. But we have inside us Urim and Thummim, lights and perfections, the light of the Spirit within us and the perfection of the guidance in our life. So, in **every thing you are doing in your life you could tell yes and no from the inside.** You could tell whether you are in the right place or not from the inside. You could tell whether you are doing the right thing from the inside. When we begin to see the inward witness and the Urim and Thummim, we begin to rely on it more.

You could be going for an interview for a job and you are wondering whether God is there. Again, the Urim and Thummim in the Old Testament you have to go right to the situation before you could sense it. They had to bring all the tribes one by one. Then bring all the families of the tribe. Then get the right family. Then bring the person one by one. They had to actually go in a hands-on experience. The Urim and Thummim, which is the inward witness in the New Testament, is a hands-on experience. And sometimes you are in the situation before you sense it stronger the yes or no. You could be going for a job interview and all the time, you are thinking about it. The red light flashes. It's not so strong yet. But as you began to move closer and the day of interview comes, you go right there and your spirit stirs. You could detect that is the red light. As you sit there under the interview, the red light flashes so fast and so strong that you feel so uncomfortable inside, although on the outside everything looks peaceful. You could be in a business deal. As you are thinking about the business deal the red light flashes. And right when you are sitting at the same table negotiating the business deal the red light turns on flashing. Just as you are about to put your pen to the paper to sign the contract, the red light flashes even more. Isn't it wonderful we have an Urim and Thummim inside us guiding us? The opposite of it would be the green light, which is peace. This is the confirmation and you could sense it strong inside you. You know there is a rightness or wrongness. In everything that we do, there is a sense of rightness or wrongness. We are not talking about the sensation of your physical body. Your physical body may think that is the right thing just because of the good feeling. But it's your spirit man that we are talking about. Your spirit man could tell right or wrong in a situation. The Urim and Thummim is in your life all the time. We are kings and priests of God.

Dreams and Prophets

The other method of guidance that they have in the Old Testament is by dreams and prophets. Dreams are supernatural direction, so are prophetic utterances. These are the three main forms. See God did not speak in all these three to Saul at all. Yet, dreams and prophets have to be checked by other principles. Even this kind of circumstantial guidance God puts a check on it.

Lets look at the book of Deuteronomy chapter 13:1. If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder which tells you comes to pass, and if he says, "Lets us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them, you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or to that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

So, they have outward guidance with dreams and prophets whom they could rely on for guidance. Yet, God said that they are not the final answer in the Old Testament. Even if their prophecies or dreams come to pass or are accurate and they said to go and worship idols, which contradict the written Word, throw the dreamer, throw the prophet out. If that is the judgment that God gives in the Old Testament how much more in the New, we should not be led by just any prophecy. If in the Old Testament, dreams and prophets play such an important role and yet, the written Word checks them, how much more in the New Testament when we not only have the written Word, we have the Spirit of God living inside all believers. Some time it's remarkable how foolish many believers are when they just follow prophets and so called prophets without checking the inward witness, without checking the written Word. Sometimes

they say, “Well, it all came to pass, therefore it must be true.” No, if it comes to pass and it still contradicts God’s Word throw it out. Doesn’t matter what it is. In the old covenant and in the new covenant the written Word takes precedence. God says you shall kill the prophet and the dreamer of dreams if they contradict the written Word.

Now some people just take Deut. 18 the last verse and they are satisfied with that. Remember this book is one book. If for example, I am writing a letter to you, which is about four or five pages. In the first page, I tell you that if any sort of prophecy comes to pass and it asked you to do some thing, which is contradictory to God’s Word, don’t do it. Later on in page five of my letter I tell you that the confirmation of any true prophet or dream is that it comes to pass then what I say in page five is qualified by page one. You don’t take my page one and ran away with it because I qualified it to you earlier in the same letter. And many people just take Deut. 18 last verse and run off with it without realizing it’s part of the same sermon that Moses teach which he already qualified certain principles in chapter 13.

Lets read chapter 18 verse 22 **When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously**, you need not be afraid of him. It tells us that the test of a prophet that He gives here is that what the prophet says will come to pass. Lets read in verse 20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. So, the true test of a prophet is that what the prophet says will come to pass. But that test is subject to the other tests whether he spoke in the name of the Lord or in the name of other gods, or whether he contradicts the written Word.

Lets get back to chapter 13:4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and cleave to Him. So, it tells you that if any prophet or any dream contradicts the written Word you take the written Word. You take His commandments. Even though one of the tests of a prophet is that what he says comes to pass that is still subject to this. In the Old Testament God leads by prophets, God leads by dreams. When you bring that over to the New Testament God still confirms by prophets. Prophets still operate in Acts 11 Agabus the prophet signified by the Spirit that there was going to be a famine. In Acts 21 Agabus the prophet came to Paul and prophesied that he will be imprisoned in Jerusalem. So, the prophets still operate in the New Testament. I still believe in personal prophecies. Yet, **personal prophecies are subject to the written Word of God and subject to the inward witness**. The same way God told them in Deut. 13 how they are to hold fast to God’s words in verse 4. Hold fast to Him that is to His word. In the New Testament, we are told in I Thess. 5:21 But test everything; hold fast what is good. We are exhorted to test. To test means to examine carefully and to double-check it with some thing else.

How do we test a person’s knowledge? We ask questions, which we know the answer. And if the answers are not according to what its supposed to be we know that person does not know; he failed the test. How do we actually test prophets, prophecies, dreams, or visions? By the Word. The Word is the test of every prophet, of every dream and of every vision. If they contradict the Word, forget them. We are told to test not once, not twice but all the time. We have to be constantly testing and testing. Yet, in our testing we must not go to the other extreme in I Thess 5 verse 20 of

despising prophecies. Some people go to the opposite extreme where they just despise prophecy. They are very cynical about the whole thing. God does speak in prophecy but we just need the right perspective. That's the New Testament and it has the same principle. Since we are looking at Old Testament guidance, we realize that in dreams, in prophets, or by Urim and Thummim that the underlining foundation is still the written Word. Just as we see the Urim and Thummim, how God guided them step by step. In the Old Testament when God gives a dream or a prophet's leading He also does it step by step. That is a constant fact I could find. God does not reveal everything at one time. He always reveals a step at a time, even in all these three forms of guidance.

Let take one example of each. In the book of Genesis in chapter 12 speaking of spectacular guidance whether God speaks to him by voice or by dreams or by visions we are classifying altogether as spectacular guidance, supernatural guidance, directly from God to Abraham. In Gen. 12:1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from our country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. So God spoke to him get out. Then God did not speak any thing else until he obeyed. He obeyed in verse 4 but he didn't obey completely by taking Lot with him. And God did not speak to him again until he totally obeyed and gave up Lot in chapter 13:14 The Lord said to Abraham, after Lot had separated from him. God did not want to speak any more if there was no total obedience. One step at a time.

Some people are just sitting down in the house waiting for God to give dreams and visions all the time. But they are not faithful to whatever God has revealed. If you are not faithful to what God has revealed you could be like Abraham. You have obeyed God 90 percent of that first vision or first dream actually it was his second. And you are wondering why doesn't God speak to you some more. It's because you didn't check whether you obeyed His instructions clearly. God's instructions are very explicit. You have to obey Him explicitly then only He will begin to reveal other things. For example, He started speaking to me about going to Singapore many years back. When I was there, He gave me more instructions explicitly what to do. I remember about two years ago I was ready to go down every week. Then the Lord said not to start until the next decade so we waited. See God's instructions are explicit. We have to sense His direction. So now is the new decade so God began to give many details, what to do, how to do it. Then other details began to come. But if we are not obedient to begin moving in the direction He has already given us, God will not reveal the rest. He waits for us to obey completely. Some times in His first instruction He tells us get out of your family. We get out three quarter left one quarter. Nothing happens until that one quarter is obeyed, until your Lot has left. Then along the way God will prove our faithfulness to the vision, He had given us.

Genesis 15 verse 1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision. After what things? After Abraham made a confession of faith and showed his dependence on God in verse 23 chapter 14. I would not take a thread or a scandal-thong or any thing that is yours, less you should say, "I have made Abram rich." After all these things God saw his heart and his faithfulness, God revealed to him again.

God says He is the one who wants to bless Abraham. Abraham had an opportunity to take it the natural way. But he says no you keep your money. I don't want any thing from you I want it from God. The moment he did that, after these things, God spoke to him again. Abraham of course had his failures and his successes. When he listened

to the voice of Sarah and had Ishmael by Hagar, there was a period of 12 years silence. Imagine 12 years God don't speak to you. Until he was 99 years old in Genesis 17 verse one God spoke to him again. If your relationship with the Lord only brings you a silence from God and the heaven is like brass, the place to check is not heaven. Heaven is rather joyful. The place to check is on your side when you are having that silence from God. It's our side that we need to check. Finally, God did speak to him but you notice how it's step by step in God's guidance whether it's a dream or vision.

And even if God guides by prophets, prophets doesn't know all details too. Let's look at the book of I Samuel. We see Samuel who is a prophet being guided by the Lord in I Samuel 9:17 When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall rule over my people." That was a direct revelation straightaway. Samuel was a prophet who anointed two kings. The first king that he anointed was Saul. The moment he saw Saul he said O.K. this is the one. It was a specific guidance that he had. Later on when he presented Saul to the people in chapter 10:22 So they inquired again of the Lord, "Did the man come hither?" and the Lord said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." That's specific. God pinpointed right where Saul was hiding.

Yet at another time when Samuel was told to anoint king David in I Samuel 16:1 Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons. **God could have told him that it was David that He had chosen. But God just told Samuel to go to the house of Jesse. So, he goes to Jesse's house and God didn't even tell him which son was the chosen one yet. Step by step, as he obeyed the first leading,** Samuel goes to Jesse's house. And he tells Jesse that one of his sons will be a king. He didn't know which one. **He is a prophet and he didn't know. See God doesn't tell every thing all the time.** Sometimes He tells quite in detail but sometimes He doesn't. Lets flow with Him. Let's not question Him. Whatever details He gives us obey that. **Some times, He reveals very specifically and sometimes He reveals generally the first step.** It is only when you obey the first step then He will give you the second step.

We have here in I Samuel 16 that when he came to Jesse's house he had to find out which son. How to find which son? The only way was by bringing the sons one by one. Do you notice the same hands-on experience? He had to come right to the situation before God spoke. **Now some of the details that God spoke to me about Singapore only came when I went there. As long as I remained here in Kuala Lumpur, He does not tell.** Some strange ways God operates. **Some times God will speak to you something only when you obey.** And you begin to find out while you are there. I know God speaks something about New Zealand and Australia. After a meeting there, I took several days aside just to seek God because about **three years ago I had a dream about New Zealand. But there were some details that I didn't have.** So, when I went there I wanted to find out what other details were. We realize that it's a supernatural life that God has privileged us to live. There is such a thing as supernatural guidance but we need to know how to operate each one of them.

In the Old Testament guidance whether by dreams, by prophets or by Urim and Thummim they all had to operate in the end by the hands on experience. You obey a step at a time. I Samuel 16 what he did was he got the sons to come out one by one. So the eldest came up in verse 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought,

“Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.” He looked at Eliab and said surely the Lord’s anointed is before him. Even Samuel takes one look and say, this must be the one. His mind says this must be the one. But the Spirit says this is not the one. This is a prophet and he is not operating by Urim and Thummim. Urim and Thummim started in Moses’ time but here he is operating on a different level. He is operating as a prophet not as a priest although he was a priest and prophet. And Jesse has eight sons. Isn’t it a waste of time? Why don’t he line up all the eight sons and choose? But God didn’t; they had to come one by one. When the seventh one came and the Lord said “No,” Samuel was very puzzled. Samuel had to ask Jesse, “Are there any other sons?” When Jesse said, “Yes, I have one last son,” Samuel had the last chance to hit the bull’s eye. And they all had to wait for David to come he was out there in the field. Finally, he comes and the Lord said, “This is the one.” Why didn’t God just tell him straight away?

Why wait till he go all the way through the seven sons?

God doesn’t reveal details to prophet all the time though some times He does. If He did, do you realize that Elisha’s servant Gehazi would not have dared to lie to him? But Elisha’s servant knew that Elisha doesn’t know the details all the time. If Elisha knew every thing all the time, he wouldn’t dare to lie. But he was hoping this is one of those times he doesn’t know. But this was one of those times he knew in great details. So, we realize that in the Old Testament system of guidance by prophets that **God still chooses to reveal as His Spirit wills.** And we still need the hands on experience for it to sometimes quicken and come forth in great details. We still need to take a step at a time.

If I lead you, it’s different from I pushing you. It did not say that those who are dragged by the Spirit are the sons of God. It did not say those who are pushed by the Spirit these are the sons of God. But it says those who are led by the Spirit, they are the sons of God. To be led by the Spirit is a step-by-step process. So, in the Old Testament and in the New Testament when God leads He has system of pattern. It’s good for us to understand how He operates so that we could flow along with Him. Old Testament is different from New. In the old, He leads by Urim and Thummim, dreams and prophets. Urim and Thummim are step by step. Dream is also step-by-step. Prophetic leading is also step-by-step. And in the New Testament, the equivalent of the Urim and Thummim is the inward witness. Dreams and visions still continue, the prophetic office still continues but it is different today. **Dreams and visions are subject to the inward witness,** to the Word of God like the old. And prophets in the New Testament do not lead they only confirm.

2. THE FIVE WITNESSES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART ONE

1 John 2:7 But the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that any one should teach you; **as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in Him.** Here John talks about the anointing within and in the last message we saw how it ties back to the Urim and the Thummim. Both of them speaks about the green light and the red light that God uses to direct our lives. In the New Testament the Urim and Thummim is our spirit.

We also need to read Romans chapter 8:16 It is the Spirit Himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. The Spirit of God bears witness to our spirits. That is talking about our inward witness that we have within. We are going to look at the various types of the inward witness. As we have said, most people know the inward witness to be just the red light and the green light. But in the bible, we find that there are different shades of the inward witness. The inward witness as we go into it is not a voice. It is just a spiritual sensation in our spirit man of the rightness or wrongness of some thing. In a way, it is tied up to our conscience. But it moves beyond that area for there are two green lights, two red lights and one orange light that we need to recognize in our spirit man. These are the five inward witnesses of the Holy Spirit. Now among these five sensations, there are three that consist of two red lights and one orange light. As we know in a traffic that an orange light warns you and tells you to get ready to stop. A red light tells you to completely stop. Among these three sensations, two of them are red lights and one is an orange light, which is a warning signal.

Stenazo

Mark 7:34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha” that is be opened. So there is a sign that comes forth from Jesus’ life as He prayed for this person. There was a sensation that He received in His spirit man. In Mark 8:11-12, The Pharisees came and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him. And He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.

There is a different usage here in Mark 8. Notice in Mark 7 it relates to a certain healing that took place. In Mark 7:32, as He saw this person who is deaf and dumb, they begged Him to put His hands on him. When He took him aside, He put His fingers in his ears. He spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven He sighed. Here is a sensation of prayer. Jesus at that very point released an intercessory prayer for this man. The word sighed is from the Greek word stenazo. It has been translated as groaning too.

Romans 8:23 speaks about the groaning that takes place in the Spirit. Lets read Rom. 8:23 where the same word stenazo is used. And not only the creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Now here is the sensation called stenazo, which is one of the red lights. Strictly speaking, stenazo could have been translated as a groaning. Jesus literally groaned when He prayed for that man in Mark 7:32-34. The bible tells us that when He had laid His hands on that man, He put His

fingers into the ears, spat and touched his tongue. That He looked up to heaven and sighed; or He actually groaned. And He groans a prayer onto the Lord. Then after that only the manifestation of the healing took place. However, in Mark 8 there was no healing that took place. The statement made by the Pharisees caused Him to sigh in His spirit and to sense a groan deep within Him.

Embrimaomai

There are two shades of red light for the inward witness. Lets look at the second shade of red light in Matthew 9:30. And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows it.” Note the word sternly warned is the word embrimaomai. Embrimaomai is also translated groaning in John 11, which actually is not so accurate.

But lets look at John 11:33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. This is not the word stenazo. It’s not the same word as in Rom. 8:23; instead it’s the word embrimaomai”. So, the groaning He experienced here was an authoritative groaning.

Earlier we read in Matthew 9:30 how Jesus sternly warns. The word sternly warned is the word embrimaomai. The translators should have been consistent in translating that. The word sternly warned tells us that Jesus warned them with a strong tone saying don’t go and tell anyone this. There was a negative instruction where He told them not to do certain things. That is why the word embrimaomai is actually the stronger red light where there is a very strong sensation of something that is completely no. It’s a complete no inside us. It is what we call a strong sensation or authoritative feeling that says no. For example, when Jesus warned this person, Jesus would not just warn with a soft tone and say, “Don’t go and tell anybody.” The bible tells us Jesus sternly warned them.

Regarding this aspect of inward witness let’s trace to John 11:38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Now this word groaning is the same word embrimaomai. Here was a stirring in Jesus’ life, a stirring as we say to take authority. And this sensation was building up in Jesus as He came before the tomb. As this stirring grew bigger, by the time He came right to the tomb He cried out, “Lazarus, come forth.” That stirring came forth from His spirit man.

Permissive Will of God

The word stenazo is the word groaning. This groaning in the spirit can speak about a prayer burden too. Sometimes, you have a certain sensation like a prayer burden inside you. A red light does not necessarily mean that it’s not for you to go into a place. Maybe it is a wrong timing to go into a place. A red light just tells you its time to stop. Sometimes when you drive a car and when there is a red light, it just tells you to stop. It does not mean that you can not pass that way but that the time to pass that way is not right. So, a red light can mean many things. It could mean that it is completely not God’s will and it is red all the time. Every time you try to go into that area, it’s always a red light. Every time you think about that action, that thought, that work to do, or that direction to take, the red light will flash in your life. It can mean that it is completely not God’s will in your life for that area. However, the red light

also functions when it may be God's will but not the right timing. On the other hand, the red light can also show that it is God's will but the wrong motives are involved. For that we need to understand what the permissive will is.

Rom. 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

It tells us in Rom. 12 **that there are three wills of God: the good, the acceptable (the word acceptable in the Greek is the word permissive) or the perfect will of God.** So there are three wills of God. The good will of God talks about God's general will. Whether people know Him or not is God's general benevolence towards His creation. For example, God sends the rain on the just and the unjust. God has made this world whether people know Him or not men are reaping the benefits of His creation that God has made. Men are making use of resources that God has placed on this natural world. So, the good will of God refers to the general goodness of God both to His covenant people and to the uncovenanted. If God were not a good God today, those who do not know Him would not have any benefits. But we find that God does send the rain on the just and on the unjust. Many infidels and unbelievers in God are reaping the benefits of God's creation. That is God's general will. And everybody gets into God's general will as a result of God's goodness to this planet earth. That's God's general will.

The second will of God is God's permissive will. The permissive of God is not something that is contrary to God's Word as many people think. For example, some people think that the permissive will of God is like you go out and rob the bank, then you get caught, you are imprisoned and we say you have got into the permissive will of God. That's not the permissive of God. That is not even God's will. You can not even say that's God's permissive will. You go out and do some wrong things, rob, steal, kill etc and then you say I am in God's permissive will. You are not even in God's will. When you break the Ten Commandments, you are not even in God's will at all. The permissive will is doing things that are generally in the Word.

Like for example, Kenneth Hagin moved into God's permissive will. But if you read his life story carefully, this is what happened in his life. He was called to be a prophet, teacher. **But because people were not so opened to the ministry of a prophet, he tends to lean towards teaching more than prophecy. As a result, some times when the prophetic anointing came on him, he was not obedient to God to give it forth.** He prefers to hold it back. He just concentrates on teaching the Word. Finally, in one of his visions in the book "I Believe In Visions", he said how from the pulpit he fell down and he broke his shoulder. Then on his way to the hospital Jesus said I would talk to you more about this. **Then in the hospital Jesus came, visited him, and said, "You have not been living in my perfect will for so many years. You have only been living in my permissive will."** Kenneth Hagin was not robbing, stealing, committing adultery; he was not breaking any of the Ten Commandments. **He was just teaching the Word. There were people being blessed by the Word of God that he taught. But the difference was his priority.** He was supposed to be a prophet, teacher not a teacher, prophet. As a result of that, he got into the permissive will.

So the permissive will is not doing something wrong that is against God's commandments. It is when we do something out of a wrong motive that makes it permissive. For example, Paul said in the book of Philippians that all preached Christ but not all preached Christ with a good reason some out of different reasons. He says he rejoice in the fact that in the end Christ is preached. But that tells us the motivation. Some people are doing good things but their motivation is wrong. That makes them move into the permissive will.

Or the permissive is doing the good things or the right things but in the wrong time. If you do it in the wrong timing, it makes that in the permissive will. Like for example, when the Israelites asked for a king, their reasons were wrong on two counts. No. 1 they said they wanted to be like the other nations around them. So, their motives were wrong. It's not that they wanted God to fulfill His Word. Secondly, I believe that it was a wrong timing. I am sure God planned for them to have a king one day. How did we know that? It is because in the book of Deuteronomy God already gave them the commandments of what a king must do. He said when you have a king this is what the king must do. So, we know that in the end one day God will manifest a king for them. But they were ahead of God's time. They asked for a king. That is the permissive will in the wrong time. Having understood the permissive will, we will of course understand what the perfect will of God is. It is doing the right thing at the right time with the right motives. You are just doing what God wants you to do.

Stenazo: Sensation of Wrong Timing and Wrong Motives

Having looked at the permissive will lets look into this inward witness. The sensation of stenazo builds with an area where the timing may be wrong. Stenazo is what I call a grief. In fact, it's like the sensation being grieved in the spirit. It is a groaning and grieving sensation.

Lets look at Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you and be submissive to them, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

So, the word grief here is the same Greek word stenazo. So, we realize that the word grief and groan all point to stenazo, which has to do with the timing and even the motivation. It has to do with the permissive will of God. That when we are moving into the permissive of God, stenazo would sound out. There is a sensation of a groan inside. It's in your spirit. We are not talking about your soul or your emotions. We are talking about the spirit man who sensed it.

Now these sensations of the spirit man can be applied to all areas of our life, in the ministry life, in the business life. For example, if you are to sign a contract in business and you sensed a grief you better get into God in prayer and find out. That is one of the red lights. The stenazo is what I call the weaker red light. A weaker red light means it may not be that God never wanted you to move into that area. But there is a **possibility that the motives are wrong and the timing could be wrong**. Later on, God may allow you to move into that. But for the moment His answer is no, so don't get into that area yet. That is what I call the grief in the inner spirit. Some times, if you have an impression to do something but your motives for doing that thing are not pure - you will also have a sensation of a grief or stenazo in your spirit man. So, stenazo deals with the permissive will of God. Permissive will mean the timing and

the motivation. It does not necessarily deal with something that is completely out of God's will. It deals with the timing and the motivation. Be sensitive to that.

Stenazo is an important signal from God. One interesting translation of the word stenazo is the book of James 5:9. We study every Greek word when the word stenazo is used so that we could have a full meaning of the word stenazo. James 5:9 Do not grumble, brethren, against one another, that you may not be judged. Now the word grumble is the word stenazo. How come they translated it as grumble? If you replace it with the word grief, you could see it clearer: **do not grieve against one another**. So, he is talking about the relationship of causing grief to one another. Again, the meaning comes out with the word groan as well, thus, do not groan against each other. Groan and grief are the strongest interpretation of the word stenazo. We need to be sensitive to that. This red light is special red light. It's not a complete no forever. It's just a no for the time being now. Now it's a no, but it may be yes later.

Embrimaomai: Strong Disapproval

Then we look at the word embrimaomai. In Mark 1:43 And He sternly warned him, and sent him away at once. It was a negative warning. He told him not to tell anyone about the healing. Why, because there was enough publicity and if He went around Jesus would not be able to go into the cities that He desires to minister the Word. So, He strictly warned him. That's the word strictly warned and it is from the word embrimaomai.

One more word in Mark 14:4 looking at the word embrimaomai. But there were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment thus wasted? For this ointment might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply. The word criticize sharply is the word embrimaomai. In other words, they were just scolding her.

Now what happens in embrimaomai is that it feels like your spirit man is scolding you. It's not a voice but a very strong sensation of a red light blinking, like when the ambulance goes the red light is flashing all round. That's what the red light is embrimaomai. It's just a warning light. Stenazo, on the other hand, is just telling you to tread carefully, be very watchful because you may enter God's permissive will any time if you are not careful. This embrimaomai is more than that. And it's just telling you no, no, no. Now embrimaomai deals with something that is completely not God's will.

Comparison Between Stenazo and Embrimaomai

We need to compare these two red lights of stenazo and embrimaomai. Stenazo deals with God's permissive will. For example, **if you are a businessman and you are about to sign a contract with a person. But perhaps there are some things in the contract that are not properly lined up yet that God wants you to discuss it. The wisdom of God is on your life and He is telling you to correct it before you sign.** As you are about to sign, stenazo comes, beep, beep, beep. You wonder what is that. God is not telling you not to sign that contract but He is telling you that something is not right yet and it must be made right before you can go enter into that agreement. And if you were sensitive to the spirit man, you would sense the groaning and the grief. You ask, "What must I do?" Go into prayer. Postpone it. Go into deep prayer,

go into fasting and pray and say, “God what is it that you are telling me?” Ask God to show you. God may say there are few things that will get you into trouble if you sign it now. You must change it before you sign. Then you read through and you say, “Yes Lord I missed it.” And you saw the clause that may give you some problems later on. You correct it and the other party agrees to correct it too. Before that it was a bit unfair on you but now you corrected it then as you go into it you get the other green light signal. That means its O.K. And as you sign it the joy is there. That is stenazo.

Another example is if you are the same businessman. **And perhaps you have a business deal and that business deal Satan or some persons come and tell you to be a little bit dishonest in some areas, like maybe to give some bribes or kickbacks. Or a plain dishonesty that is covered up and justified. You know you are not supposed to take that bribe or favor, you know its wrong.** It would actually amount to stealing or plain dishonesty. As you move into that area, it’s not stenazo that sounds but embrimaomai. Why, because it’s some thing that is not God’s will. **It is telling you that it is wrong, don’t have any thing to do with it.** No, no, no, that’s what the embrimaomai in the spirit man is saying. Completely no. Even if you go into prayer to try to get God to change His mind, embrimaomai will still sound. It is completely not God’s will. Embrimaomai deals with things that are not God’s will completely. It’s a very powerful, strong red light signal.

If you read in the Old Testament the story of Balaam, originally when Balaam asked God, “Lord shall I go?” the Lord said no. Why, because his motives were wrong. If he went there its because of the money. Secondly, he was asked to curse them. The act itself would have been wrong to curse the Israelites. But because he persisted, he went into the permissive will and he nearly died. Later on, because of his wrong motivation, **he taught king Balak how to get the Israelites into sin and he himself was killed when the Israelites conquered the land of Canaan.** So, we realize that the permissive will is also dangerous. **God’s timing may take place many years from now, but for the moment, it is not God’s will.** It’s a sensation of grief. Stenazo is a sensation of grief.

Embrimaomai is a sensation of scolding; it’s like something inside just scolding you. It’s very close but not quite yet, very close to what I call condemnation. But its not that we know the Spirit of God doesn’t condemn. But if you read Hagin’s writings, he mentioned how the spirit man will convict us of sin. Perhaps the right word to use is strong conviction. A conviction of things that is wrong. Our spirit man does that. It convicts. It’s a strong red light.

Tarasso: Danger Sign

The third sensation is called tarasso and is an orange light that warns you of dangers. In John 11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with also weeping He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. The word troubled here is the word tarasso, which means a stirring.

Then John 13:21 When Jesus had thus spoken, He was troubled (tarasso) in spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” Remember these signals in John 13:21 regards to the extreme danger that Jesus was going to go through at the cross. Now Jesus was troubled.

John 12:27 we realize His soul was also affected. Jn.12:27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour.”

Now the word tarasso is what we call an orange light. It's a warning signal like an orange light flashing. Sometimes as you travel along the road, the roadwork workers use a flashing orange light along the way telling you to be careful. It tells you to tread carefully. It's a different signal altogether. Stenazo is grief. Embrimaomai is a conviction of things that are wrong. It ties up very strongly to the conscience convicting you to the things that are wrong. But the word tarasso is just a signal to be very extra careful. It's just like the orange light that flashes. It means tread carefully. A lot of danger points around. It seems similar to stenazo but its not. Stenazo is a red light where you are supposed to stop. Tarasso indicates that you are to continue in spite of being troubled.

You see Jesus sense tarasso in His spirit but He went on. He went on with whatever He was doing except that Jesus was facing one of His most difficult testing. He was going to be put on trial. He was going to be whipped. He was going to be crucified. And Jesus had to be walking and treading fully in God's perfect will. One wrong move, one wrong act and He would have been out of God's will. It was a dangerous mission.

When God assigns you on a dangerous mission you have to be very sensitive to tarasso; it tells you that danger is around. It tells you, you are walking into a war zone be extra careful. Sometimes when you just walk in God all you have is the two green lights. But now when you enter into certain areas that is tarasso, tread carefully. If the stenazo feels like the grieving, embrimaomai feels like the conscience convicting you of things that are wrong. Then tarasso just feels like a stirring of the waters.

The way the translators translate it is very good. They translate it as troubled. What do you experience when you feel troubled? You are bothered about some thing. You are wondering about certain things. Trouble speaks about a stirring in the spirit. But it's a different stirring from the other two green lights. The two green lights that we are going to see in the next message is the stirring that's feeling with joy and peace. But this one has no joy, no peace accompanying it. It's just like when you are in a movie, the plot thickens with danger and suspense, and the music goes on a fast pace of urgency and anticipation. That's tarasso. It's just a stirring that is not accompanied by any peace or joy. It's different from the other stirrings that we will look at in the two green lights a stirring positively to do some thing. It's just like your hair being ruffled for no reason. But for no reason not for the sake of combing, there is a ruffling. That is what its like inside your spirit. It's like somebody coming in and scratching you and you feel very uncomfortable. It's just like something scratching you inside. It's a scratchy sensation. It tells you to be very watchful.

The thing is that tarasso and stenazo can come very closely. For example, tarasso just tells you to be watchful like the orange light flashing. But maybe you are not so watchful and you allowed danger to come in, suddenly it turns into stenazo. The two sensations operate very much together, just like the orange light and the red light operate together in the traffic light. So after you prayed you find that stenazo disappears and you just feel that scratchiness to be extra careful. How do we react

when we have tarasso? Pray more, spend more time in prayer, and spend more time in the Word. It's again like what I say the danger signal.

Tarasso is like for example, the early warning system in nuclear warfare. If Russia fires the first missile, there will be early warning system that warns America. A signal will be given so that the Americans will have enough time to fire a missile to intercept and destroy the oncoming missile. So, we have what we call the early warning system. So, that is like God's early warning system in our life. When you are going through a dangerous mission, it is not a red light where you must stop. But it is an **orange light that tells you that you must tread very carefully. The signal is there all the time, you must be on guard, you must be on watch all the time as you go through that mission that God sends you to. Tarasso warns you of danger all over the place.**

Sometimes when you are driving there is this signal inside saying danger. You do not know what it is but you are sensitive to the spirit man and you just drive extra carefully. Suddenly there comes this car that is on your side of the road. Because you are there watchful, you avoided him. Why, you started paying more attention. Normally you just cruise along at high speed. But there is suddenly this signal tarasso that comes and you drive extra careful. You get into what they call defensive driving. Many times, I listen to tarasso and true enough after that there is this accident that blocked the road or it could be this huge tree across the road. Because you are extra careful, you could stop in time. But if the tarasso is there and you keep going without being extra careful, suddenly there is this bang and you are wondering why didn't God warn you. God did but you didn't pay attention. And a lot of traffic accidents by Christians you will notice that God warns inside.

Or some times, you know you got to get into a place in time. And as you travel, you got these three choices of road to take. Then as you pray there is this signal that says the other way will have a tremendous heavy traffic jam. But you didn't pay attention you go there and got stuck in a jam for two hours. Sometimes there is this careless driver and get this signal tarasso - danger, danger, one reckless driver coming. So, you are careful and you are watchful. See God protects us. God gives us communication. God signals to us all the time.

There is stenazo, a grieving that we sense inside our spirit that tells us it is red light for the time being, and the thing we are involved with is in the permissive will of God. Embrimaomai is a complete red light that says no, no. Then tarasso or orange light danger signals tells you to be extra careful and be extra watchful. For example, you are in a very delicate situation, where you could be handling a crisis. And as you handle that crisis you realize that one wrong word spoken, one careless word spoken can spoil the whole thing. I have been in many situations like that where you are helping to be a peacemaker. And you realize that if you say the wrong word or do a slight wrong action the whole thing will be aborted. Tarasso signals to you all the time. You are extra careful, extra quiet. We realize that is a part of the life all the time. Imagine if all your life you go looking over your shoulder all the time it is a terrible kind of Christian life. God doesn't want us to be all the time looking over our shoulders. But when trouble is there, God warns you through the tarasso in your spirit man, and you need to be extra watchful. God makes life so interesting. There are five sensations of the spirit man and we have looked at three of them. We need to discern between the two red lights and the orange light. Stenazo is the red light that tells me

not to get into the permissive will. Embrimaomai is the red light that tells me its not God will. Tarasso is the orange light that warns me of danger.

3. THE FIVE WITNESSES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART TWO

We are covering in some details on how to be led by the Spirit of God. We are talking about the five witnesses of the Holy Spirit. In the last message, we have examined three of them, the two red lights *stenazo* and *embrimaomai* and the orange light, *tarasso*.

In this message, we will examine the two green lights, *paroxunomai* and *sunecho*, when God's Holy Spirit leads us and tells us what He wants us to do. Remember we are not talking about the inward voice yet. We are only talking about the inward witness, which is not a voice. It is only a sensation in our spirit by which we could recognize the directions of God in our life.

Paroxunomai

Lets turn to the book of Acts 17:16 Now while, Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So, he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the market place that very day with those who chanced to be there. It says that Paul's spirit was stirred. He was provoked and that is the word that the translators chose to use. *Paroxunomai* means a stirring to do some thing. It is what Hagin would refer to in his book **"How to be led by the Spirit" a velvety feeling or sensation. He talked about a velvety sensation that he has in the inward witness so he knows that is the green light. It's a sensation and not a voice.** Its some thing that just tells us that we are in the right direction. Its just a sensation to say go ahead. Its just like when you park your car at the traffic light and you are waiting for the lights to change. And when you see the green light it tells you go ahead, proceed, move on.

What we have realized is that there are not only one green light but also two green lights. So, this first green light is a lighter green shade. Many people who teach on inward witness tend to only teach on red light and green light. But we realize that there are two red lights, one lighter red and one brighter red; one orange light and then two green lights, one lighter green light and one dark green. So we have the lighter green light which just tells us to go ahead and that is what God's Spirit is saying. It's like an inner sensation that is positive. It's totally different from the two red lights, that tell you either it is not yet or not at all. The green light is a positive sensation that you sensed that it is okay to go ahead. Hagin mentioned that he sensed it like a velvety sensation. I don't sense it that way. I sense it more like a bubbling. Sometimes accompanying it is a warm sensation in my spirit. Naturally, when you stand next to a fire you are warm physically. For me it's just like my spirit man standing next to a bon fire that the Lord has made inside. I don't say that it is hot but it is just warm inside my spirit. And there is a sensation of a stirring that comes forth from inside.

To examine *paroxunomai* we need to examine its usage in a different passage in I Cor. 13:5 where it says love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked. In other words, it is not retaliatory. It doesn't react. It is not provoked. The word provoked is *paroxunomai*. So, you could take that word *paroxunomai* positively and see the positive aspect of provoking. It's just like if someone keeps on disturbing you by calling you some provocative names, you don't react. But supposing you are like a nuclear reactor. Some people start calling you names, but you just tolerate. They

just meant to ruffle you a little bit with some humor. They provoked you continuously until you just lost your cool. You have been provoked in the natural.

That is something that can help us to understand the positive side of it. Paul sometimes uses the negative connotation to emphasize the positive truth. Like he says covet after the best gifts. The word covet has never been used positively. It is something negative where you desire, you long for, you thirst after, and you long to possess the things that are not right. That's the negative usage of covetousness. But he turns it around and uses it positively by saying to covet the best gifts in I Cor. 14. And he says to put that same desire for spiritual gifts that God has for you.

In the same way the word provoke has been used here in a positive sense. Here Paul was in Athens, he saw all these idols, and there was a stirring in him to do some thing. And it has stirred him up positively and he had this bubbling sensation in his spirit. He just knew what to do and he went forth and began preaching the Word of God in Athens when originally he was supposed to be there waiting for Silas and Timothy to come from Thessalonica (Acts 17). His purpose was to wait. But he could not wait because there was such a green light flashing and telling him to do something that he could not withhold himself. He just had to obey the Holy Spirit of God. Sometimes, we receive that sensation.

The first shade of green light called paroxunomai has to do with just a leading and a stirring to do something which may not be accompanied by the gifts of the Spirit; it may not be accompanied by an anointing upon; it may not be accompanied by a supernatural spectacular guidance. All you have is just that soft gentle prompting to do that which is right. And you know you are supposed to do it. As usual, it's the gentle leadings that get ignored the most. For it's so gentle, so quiet and faint that you could almost have ignored it. That is an important green light. For most of the time when God leads us, it may have nothing to do with the anointing upon. God's anointing upon comes as the Spirit wills to perform a specific work and a specific task in a specific time. But outside of that, He expects us to move in the anointing within all the time. He expects us to be obedient to God in our office. The Holy Spirit anointing upon may come accompanying with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But most of the time, it does not. All it does is it has an inward gentle leading in our hearts and the anointing within.

This paroxunomai sometimes is accompanied by the inward voice and an inward revelation and it works together with that. But together with that, it also works with what I call a perception of the Spirit. See the other green light sunecho works with an anointing upon and operation of the gifts of the Spirit. But paroxunomai works with a perception of the Holy Spirit. If you have a green light that comes upon you, you must know what to do with it. You must know the direction to move; you must know the direction to go. So together with the lighter green light, paroxunomai comes a perception in your spirit man of a knowing what to do. There is a specific direction. Notice that in Acts 17 when Paul was provoked in his spirit, in the very next verse, we see him going to the synagogue of the Jews and preaching the Word of the Lord there. There is direction but it is a direction that depends on a leading.

Lets look at Acts 17 and break that down. In verse 16 Paul's spirit was stirred paroxunomai was flashing in him when he saw that the city was full of idols. There is nothing mentioned that the Lord told him to minister the Word. Whereas you find in

the book of Acts 18:9 that the Lord appeared to Paul and told him do not be afraid but speak and do not keep silent. Then in verse 11 Paul stayed there a year and six months and continued preaching the Word of God. So, in Acts 18 there was a supernatural guidance. But in Acts 17:16 all he had was just paroxunomai but there was no vision, there was no voice that was recorded. There was no appearance of Jesus or appearance of an angel. All he had was a paroxunomai, a stirring of the spirit man, a green light. Verse 17 it says, Therefore (for this reason, on account of the above), he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

So, you notice that in three various places he ministered. He went to the synagogue and ministered the Word. To the Gentile worshippers in the temple or wherever it was he ministered the Word. And in the common market place, he ministered the Word. Was he told to minister the Word in those places? Not specifically. He only had a green light in him that stirs him to do some thing. And he knew that he had to do something and he did to the best of his ability. That's what the first green light does. It brings you and you are supposed to do to your best ability whatever that stirring is in your life. You don't have to wait for a specific thus say the Lord or a specific vision from God.

Notice in Acts 17:2 it says, Then Paul, as his custom was. What Paul flowed with was his custom. It was his custom to preach the Word in the synagogues. If you were to pull Paul out of the book of Acts 17 and in an interview with him, you ask Paul, "Paul, do you have a specific leading to go into that synagogue in Athens? He would say no. "Then why did you go there?" "Because it was my custom to be there." "But why do you do it?" Paul would have answered, "There was this sensation in my spirit and I was stirred to preached the Word. I was stirred to do something. And I did it wherever I can, in the synagogue, among the Gentile worshippers or in the market places." So, this green is what we may call a general green light. So at the traffic lights, if your car is facing a certain direction, the light turns green what do you do? You go wherever you were heading. When the light turns green, you don't reverse your car and go back. The green light means you go forward with what you are normally doing as you normally would. There is a certain realm where we would say that it would be normal.

For example, you are looking for a job after your graduation. And there is this stirring in you to do some thing. You know you must get a job somehow some way. You see that green light is there. You know you are not supposed to move into the ministry yet. You know you are supposed to work. But where? And you prayed and fasted and you don't seem to have any vision in the night. There doesn't seem to be any spectacular leading. You went to all the meetings you know where the minister always prophesies and you didn't have any prophecy. The only one prophecy you had was a bit general. You could not take a specific direction out of that. But you know there is a stirring, there is this green light flashing. And you know that you are supposed to do something. So what do you do? Do to the best of your ability what you know is right to do.

If I were in your position, I would just buy a newspaper and have a look at the employment column. Just look through everyday and pray, "Lord is there any jobs available and suitable for me?" Then when you reached a certain place you find that this job looks good. You are just about to pick the phone up or maybe you are talking

to the firm over there and tarasso comes. You know what tarasso is? It is an orange light that troubles you and then you quickly put it down. Then as you go along here comes another one. **It looks good and the pay looks good. And you pick up the phone and while you are talking just to find out some details, there comes stenazo. So, you just put it down. Then you look through you find another one.** Then you ring up the moment you ring up there is this embrimaomai sounds; **there is something wrong here. While you were talking, everything sounds good on the outside. But the embrimaomai sounds in your spirit man.** Towards the end, you found the catch there, that you may miss your Sunday worship. You may not have much time with your family. You may not have much time with the Word. You will literally be a slave to the company then you know why the embrimaomai was sounding.

You got to do what is the normal rightful thing to do. You don't sit around and wait for an angel to come and say, "This job is out there. The interview is between 3 to 4 pm. It is a walk-in interview. Would you please go?" This first green light may not be a spectacular guidance. So, you may find that this job that looks right about it. Then you phone and you have this paroxunomai that goes sounding. Then you know here is some thing positive there. Notice something about this first green light that you have to move in order to sense it. You have to be doing some thing. Sometimes, it could be this job, a friend tells you about it, and **you try to sense the sensation. You try and try and there doesn't seem to be anything. There is only silence in your inward witness. What are you going to do about it? The obvious thing is go, look at that place, and sense your inward witness.**

Maybe you are buying a house and you are praying. And as you are praying about buying a house, how do you know which house to buy? The bible says the Spirit of God leads us. Led by the Spirit of God doesn't mean that all the time we wait for an angel or wait for Jesus to appear. No, God doesn't lead that way all the time. Spectacular guidance is not to be sought but they will come as the Spirit wills. We are just to be obedient as much as we can. God has given us a method on how to be led by the Spirit. Let us say you are buying a house. What you do is if you are going by the inward witness, you may have to walk into the very place yourself. You may have to have a feel of that place. You may have to pray in tongues over that area to sense what your inward witness is saying. As you are praying perhaps, they have a model house going on there. And you go to the area and sense whether there is rightness about it. The interesting thing is this God gives us an element of choice. You may have to go to that area and they may have three different types of houses. As you walk around you find the light flashing. The reason is God gives you a choice. As long as its within the circumference God gives you an element of choice. God gives you the free choice whether you like the French style, the Italian style or the Roman style.

Like for example, today do you have a vision to know where you are going to for lunch? God gives us some general guidance on food. Like for example I seldom eat meat. The meat that I love is maybe fish, chicken and some of the others. Besides that, God doesn't tell you on Sunday to eat fried noodles for lunch and for dinner eat fried rice. You say doesn't God lead us by the Spirit? He does but He doesn't make us robots. God gives us a free choice. What about housewives when they have to cook for their families? Don't tell me you got to fast and pray to find out what to cook. Its rather you pray for one and a half hours for souls than you pray for one and a half

hours what to eat for lunch. God gives us a freedom within a certain boundary. For example, He tells you these are the food that you should eat more. These are the unclean food if you want once in a blue moon. So, He has general guidelines but besides that, you are free to have some element of choice. You ask, "Do we have that sort of guidance all the time?" Yes, we have the green light.

Supposing you are going to a particular restaurant, the Holy Spirit knows everything and that place is closed. You don't know that but the Holy Spirit knows that. The question is, "Will the Holy Spirit tell us that?" He will. So, as you are driving there you have the orange light first. Then as you go nearer the red light flashes. Then as you go there you find that is closed after one hour drive all the way there just for food. I was going around looking for this particular restaurant in the outskirts of town. When I went there, the area was just plain sand for long stretches of road.

As I drove for fifteen minutes, there was no habitation except a few cars coming here and there. Suddenly there was this huge big tent and there were a lot of Mercedes and BMWs parked outside. Guess what? It was a Chinese restaurant. The only reason for going there is to go to that restaurant. How did they know there was a restaurant here? They seem to know, some people's noses for good food are quite powerful or rather the word went round. The fact is that we have an area of guidance where we sort of know certain things. Sometimes when I go to a certain place and it is closed, I say, "Lord did you tell me?" And always the answer is yes. But He doesn't tell you with the inward voice just the inward witness, the red light that flashes. So in all of life we have a direction.

Like for example when we were looking for land for the church, we looked at some places here and there. We have to actually go there and then feel it out. No doubt, we could have some guidance let's say in the over-night prayer somebody saw a vision of a highway and next to the highway there is a hill. Then there is this piece of land. There are so many highways, which one? So we need some sort of guidance and go there. We need to sit with the person and discuss with the person. And feel it out with the Spirit and sense it. God does not bless lazy bums. Sometimes, we think about how to be led by the Spirit in a lazy way. Here we are just sitting down in the house and say, "Lord if its Thy will let me know." And you are waiting. Some people are waiting for a job that way. Some people are waiting to buy a house that way. Some people are going to do their business that way, "Lord if is Your will let me know." No, we need to have some effort involved.

Even when the effort is involved, there is what I call the general direction. And within the general direction, it leads you to the specific direction. Within the specific direction is what we call free choice given to you. But you may desire to go for lunch in a certain place and as you are thinking about that, you say, "Lord any guidance?" There is an inward witness that says there is a good place its nice and quiet. And you go toward that direction and you found it's nice and quiet. When you sat at the table God gives you your choice. What order do you want? You don't have to sit down at the table while every one is waiting and you are sensing your inward witness.

Imagine if you have to do it for every meal. You have your choice to eat. God gives you a certain freedom. Sometimes God guides you for example a certain type of food once in a while you are impressed to eat more of that kind of food. There is certain guidance in that area. So, we need to be sensitive to be how to be led by the Spirit. He

may just guide you up to certain place and then the rest is up to you. He gets you right to the restaurant, there are ten stalls, and He says it is up to you as long as you eat within your limits. He gets you to a certain point and then the rest is up to your free will. Think about it when we all get back to heaven one day. I am sure in heaven there will be hundreds of fruits. God is not going to say you can eat this today and tomorrow you eat that. That is part of what He has made us to be.

There is no anointing upon in paroxunomai but it's a very green light although it is a lighter shade. It's a very important green light because it deals with the affairs of this life. It deals with the car that you are supposed to drive. For example, you may be looking for a second hand car in a certain price range. As you go about it, you need that guidance. The salesman may tell you everything about that car and he still may miss some thing out that may be of prime importance. So, as you go by it, you still got that guidance inside you. You need to feel the car and then send it to your inward witness. Yet, in the general area you may be testing out three or four cars. Then God gives you the choice. The Holy Spirit will guide you in how to handle that situation. But then there are these other choices, red, green, blue and yellow. All of them are biblical colors. White is biblical because heaven is white. Red is biblical because the red blood of Jesus. At least when I am driving it I could see there is power in the blood. Another guy likes blue because the Tabernacle is blue in color. God is not concerned about all these. He gives you some free choice.

In the same when you woke up this morning, you didn't look at your wardrobe and say, "Holy Spirit, which shirt or dress should I wear today?" You just have a faint impression that this shirt or dress would be good. You have been wearing red all the time lets go for blue. You didn't stand there praying in the Holy Ghost waiting for the unction to get the right clothes. You didn't pray about that. There is a certain leading. Some people think being led by the Spirit is so regimented that they have to wait.

There was one sister that we counseled in the early days. When she first got caught on to be led by the Spirit, she was zealous. She began to hear a voice. At first, this voice was very good. It tells her do this, do that. Then slowly the voice became more and more controlling. It's a controlling spirit. "Get up now and make your tea." "Yes sir." "Now you may go back." "Yes sir." What a miserable life. If we are being led by the Spirit like that, that puts us into prison not into liberty. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. And slowly that voice dominated her until we had to take authority and cast the demon out of her life.

Remember that this paroxunomai is important because it's a sensation. A bubbling inside you, you sensed a love inside; you sensed goodness inside. Some people sensed it like honey being dropped into the spirit man. So, whatever your sensation is you have to detect. Whether we like it or not we have to develop and fine-tune all the five sensations until it's very accurate.

Sunecho

Lets look at the other green light in Acts 18:5 When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. The word compelled is the word sunecho; the New King James Version uses the word compelled whereas the Old King James Version uses the word constraineth. It is not only a green light but it's a bright green light. This bright green

light has reference to the leading of a Spirit and unction and anointing of the Spirit to do something. It's a different green light altogether.

We need to define the two green lights. The difference between paroxunomai and sunecho is that in sunecho the anointing upon comes. Whereas in paroxunomai, the first lighter green light all you have is a stirring of your inner man. It would be your inner witness being stirred but there is not necessarily an anointing upon. All you have perhaps is an anointing within and not an anointing upon. So there are different shades of green light. Like we said about the red light that one of the red lights deals with the permissive will and the other red light deals with some thing that is completely not God's will.

Notice in the book of Acts 18 it says that Paul was compelled or constrained by the spirit and testified to the Jews. The interesting thing is that in the Old King James the word spirit is in the lower case s, that is, spirit. In the New King James the word spirit is with the upper case, S, i.e. Spirit. And in some modern translations, the word spirit is in capital and some has the word spirit in small letter. The question is, is it the Holy Spirit or is it the human spirit? The fact that the translators are confused showed that actually both are involved. See the word sunecho is from the word sun, or together and echo, to hold; hence, to hold together, or to grip tightly. From the word sun, you get the word synagogue. The word sun means to be gathered together with. So, the word sunecho is to be constrained together. And that is why sunecho is the Holy Spirit and human spirit holding tightly together at work. And this is a powerful green light.

At this green light there is an anointing upon that usually accompany it. Usually the gifts of the Spirit operate together with it. The word sunecho or the word constrained talks about being totally filled, possessed and saturated with the Spirit of God. So now, the spirit inside is not just a soft sound but also a loud sound. So once in a while, as you are walking in God and moving in this green light, you have this paroxunomai sound and it guides you in your daily life. You are worshipping God and suddenly come this flashing green light (a loud sound) and it vibrates through your whole being. It means God wants to do some thing. There is a stirring to do some thing but it is stronger with unction upon. Usually you will know if God wants you to prophesy because you get sunecho. When you are in a group, you get this stirring in you. It is not just paroxunomai but it is very strong. It just fills your whole being. It goes stirring into your whole being and not to do any thing about it makes you very uncomfortable. You have to literally quench it to disobey. Then you know that God wants you to operate a prophecy or a gift through your life. It can come anytime too and not necessarily just at a meeting. But there is always an accompanying of anointing upon and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It can come any time. But when it comes there is an anointing upon.

There are times when I had that. Sometimes, it could be in a prayer over the phone. There was one time when I was very strongly impressed with a sunecho to pray over somebody over the phone. It came so strong when I prayed over the phone and instantly that person's sickness broke. He was 250 miles away. Right at the spot, that person started sweating and the healing began to flow. So there is what I call a constrain and you are just filled with that.

Lets examine the Greek in II Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One has died for all, then all died. So, he talks about the love of

Christ literally pushing and constraining them. That's how it's used. Now it's used in a negative light but the sense of the usage is the same meaning.

Like for example we see the negative usage of sunecho in Luke 4:38, Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever and they made request of Him concerning her. The word was sick with is the Greek word sunecho. And do you notice the sickness that took her was so strong that she could not move and she had to lie down on the bed. The fever had so sunecho or tightly gripped Peter's mother-in-law that she was rendered immobile. I am just using this as a comparison study of the word sunecho and its usage. See there are different degrees of sickness. Some people who have a fever can still go about their work. But there is a degree where the sickness gets a hold of a person that literally makes the patient lie down. You could hardly move, you are taken with the sickness, taken with the fever.

Now that's the negative usage. But it gives you the idea of what sunecho means. You are taken over by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit literally possesses you and you are just taken over by His anointing. Sometimes after ministering and anointing, I get so taken over by the anointing that every movement is almost under the leading of the Spirit. I remember I was preaching in Singapore. I was preaching about Moses and Joshua. As I was preaching I was so taken by the Spirit of God and the teaching anointing that I was just talking about how Moses laid his hands on Joshua and I picked somebody up and said, "That is how Moses laid his hand on Joshua." Everybody started laughing. Then I asked them, "Why are you laughing?" That person's name turned out to be Joshua too. I got a shock. So, the Spirit of God takes you up.

I remember David Duplessis sharing how he was ministering and there was such a heavy anointing upon him. He was just pointing to someone as an illustration to show that we must get things right in our lives with God. That particular person's face turned pale and he fell off the chair because that was the exact dealing he was undergoing from God. So, you get taken up with the Spirit of God with the anointing upon. This is to show both the positive and negative usage of sunecho.

Lets look at one more in Luke 8:45 And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitude throng and press You!" The word throng is the word sunecho. You can imagine and visualize what that sunecho means now in the positive side. Throng means that literally you are trying to move through a crowd. It's just like a cinema show is just over you see the huge crowds that come out. You try to move against it and see. You got to literally jostle yourself through the crowd.

So in Acts 18 the word sunecho or constrained by the Spirit means literally there is a presence and a pressure. It's a very strong and powerful green light. If that comes on me and I don't obey, I get very miserable. You get so uncomfortable. Once you are yielded to God in a certain extend you get uncomfortable if you don't flow along with that. You just have to obey. It's a very strong green light and that is a green light that you should receive before you operate the gifts. I never move into the ministerial anointing unless sunecho comes on me in the ministry. I would wait on God for that. Normal leadings you could go by paroxunomai is the anointing within. But if an **anointing upon comes, you have to literally sense it.**

How do we sense it? Each one will sense it differently. **I sensed it like a tangible substance just coming all over me from the top of my head right to the tip of my toe. Sometimes, I feel like I am on fire all the time while I am ministering especially under the anointing upon.** There are times you feel that you are consumed by an invisible force that takes you all over. And you feel like fire coming out of your hands literally. It just doesn't come out of your hand it comes from all over your whole being. So that sunecho must come before we minister. People don't understand that **the anointing upon is in various forms; the teaching anointing is different from the ministry anointing.** Yet, we have to sense the inward witness. The inward witness will sort of compel and pressure you.

You feel that high pressure inside. It just wants to come out.

Beethoven composed a song "The Nice Symphony". And in the "Nice Symphony", there is always a tune that goes ----- . In this whole symphony, there were all kinds of tunes and sounds being played. It's actually about life. In the symphony, you will hear that tune ----- . Then after that the whole theme disappeared. Then you have a loud sound with all kinds of instrument then slowly softly, you hear again ----- . Towards the end of that symphony every instrument is playing. That tiny tune that he has represents life and the positive aspect of trying to survive and overcome in life. So, at first it's there. Then the storms of life come. And it looks like joy has disappeared. But slowly it comes again. Then all these things come against you. Towards the ending, all of the sounds and every instrument were playing that tune. It shows that you can be an overcomer in life. Powerful symphony he wrote.

So we realize here it's just like that. That there is this tunes that is flowing inside you. When you sunecho there is this energizing force flowing inside you. It is not only paroxunomai just that gentle leading. Let me say that paroxunomai is gentle but sunecho is violent. That is why when you are under anointing you are prepared to do all kinds of things because of the anointing upon. It's just that the pressure is building up from within you.

4. THE INWARD VOICE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

We have touched on the five witnesses of the Holy Spirit in two parts. If we learn to be obedient to the inward witnesses of the Holy Spirit, we will progress to hearing the inward voice. The **inward voice is the voice of the spirit man. It's not the voice of the Holy Spirit**, which we will also touch on. But it's the voice of the human spirit that works in our lives. The voice of the human spirit is the sensation that vibrates in the sub-conscious and the conscious corridors of our mind. Let me illustrate: the sounds that we speak come from the air in our diaphragm. Our diaphragm pushes the air, which then vibrates through the vocal cord, and is formed into articulate sounds by our lips, our teeth, our tongue and our face. So we realize that a spoken word or our human natural voice is formed through an intricate set up.

As we look at the voice of the human spirit, the human spirit when it began to speak will bring forth understanding to our soul and to our spirit. I am talking about the human spirit speaking in tongues directly to God. We know that the human spirit does speak to God and according I Cor. 14:14-15 Paul says, **For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays**, but my understanding is unfruitful.

What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. Yet for the human spirit to speak forth notice Paul says I will. He still has to will to pray with the spirit.

Now the human soul consists of three areas. One is our intellect, second is our emotions that is the part of us that feels. See when somebody speaks a word that is perhaps too strong or sharp you feel hurt. That's not your body reacting. Words do not hurt the body. But it hurts the soul's emotion. The second area of your soul is your emotions. The third area is volition the part of us that chooses, the I will or I will not.

The human spirit consists of three areas too. One area is called the conscience. Another area is communion and the third area is intuition. These three areas function together when the inward witness is operating. Communion, intuition and conscience operate together. They are the basis of the function of the human spirit. Before the human spirit can be released into the physical realm, it must pass through the soul. For example if you speak in tongues, your spirit is speaking yet we realize that your voice is being used. So somehow, any connection between the spirit and the physical realm must pass through the soul. It is the soul's volition that decides whether to allow your spirit man to use your vocal cords to pray in tongues or not. Paul says, I will pray with the spirit... I will sing with the spirit. (We are talking about persons who already are exercising the gift of tongues. Some individuals who first receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues may experience some overwhelming force or power that make them speak in other tongues uncontrollably.)

Let us cover the connection between the human spirit, the human soul and the human body in some detail. The human spirit would communicate to God according to I Cor. 14:14-15. We realize that when the human spirit speaks forth, it receives utterance from the Holy Spirit and so the human spirit communicates to God but it ends up in our body. When we pray in tongue, it's our voice, our lips and our tongue moving to articulate the words that are given onto us. So somehow, between the spirit and the body the human spirit must have touched the soul. For there is no way we can affect

our body without affecting the soul. There is no way God in the spirit realm will affect the body without passing through the soul area. Its just like for example this is a platform and this is the aisle area and there are the seats. There is no way you can get to the platform without passing through the aisle. God places the human soul inside the human body. Then God places the human spirit inside the soul. There is no way you could touch the spirit without touching the soul. There is no way the spirit can touch the body without passing through the soul. It is in essence an impossibility. It must always pass through the soul.

When we pray in tongue, it passes through the will of our soul. Paul says I will pray in an unknown tongue, I will pray with my understanding. Do you notice he says, "I will"? His human soul chooses to allow the spirit to get to his body. For the spirit to get to the body the soul must choose. So there is no way some of us are going to say, "If God wants me to pray in tongue He will make me do it." He won't, He has given us free choice.

Then we ask the question, "What about the tangible anointing of God that we sensed that affects the five senses of the body? Did that take place by bypassing the soul?" No, because you choose to yield by worshipping God and by choosing to spend time with Him, you have positioned your human spirit to allow God's Spirit to work through your spirit to bypass and to pass through the soul area and touch and affect your body to give you the sensation. See your free choice is still involved. The will is still involved. There is no way the Holy Spirit is going to work without passing through your human spirit. The human spirit will always be the avenue of which the Holy Spirit passes through. There is an orderly world we are talking about in the spirit realm. So when the human spirit wants to bring forth an understanding to the human soul so that we could get our body into obedience, the human spirit will have to somehow communicate to the intellect, emotion and will in the soul area.

Lets look at Genesis 2 the human soul came into being because of the implantation of the spirit within man. Gen. 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The Hebrew word says and man became a living soul. See the soul came into being as the result of the work of the Spirit. When God's Spirit contacts human flesh, there is a creation of a soul. Man became a living soul. Thus, the place and the position of the soul are to be a means of communication between the spirit realm and the physical realm. The soul was created as a primary communication point between the body or physical realm and the spirit realm.

Having that understanding we can now read Romans. Rom. 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. We realize that chapter 8 was built upon chapter 7. Even in chapter 7, it talks about the struggle of the soul. Then in the first part of chapter 8, it has reference to the importance of being led by the Spirit. Rom. 8:1-11. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life is Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. For God had done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do; sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

In Romans 8:14 Paul tells us those who walk in the Spirit or led by the Spirit these are the sons of God. But notice in verse 4 he is introducing the subject where he contrast walking in the flesh with walking in the Spirit. He is talking about walking in the flesh first before he moves into walking in the Spirit. Paul is introducing the subject about being led by the Spirit of God. Then he goes on quickly to verse 5 and suddenly he began talking about the mind. The very next scripture he starts talking about the mind. Tell me, what is the connection between the mind and walking in the Spirit? The mind, which is part of the soul, is created as a communication center between the spirit realm and the physical realm. And there is no way we are going to be led by the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, unless our mind is renewed. That is the purpose of him mentioning about the carnal mind being at enmity with God. The carnal mind is against the spiritual mind. Why does he mention all these? Why does he put those scriptures in? Because he is associating the importance of the mind and the thought life to being led by the Spirit.

Verse 5, For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set their mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it can not; and those who are in the flesh can not please God. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Notice that the context of being led by the Spirit in verse 14 is the importance of what goes on in the mind, the thought life, the soul realm. What is the mind so important? Our mind was originally created to help us lead spiritual lives and not carnal lives. Our mind was originally created to function as one with the spirit realm. But somehow, after the fall of Adam where the mind has been darkened, the mind was divided into the sub-conscious and conscious mind. But as we look into this aspect of the mind that God has created, in its original sinless state, it was a perfect avenue into the spirit realm. Since the fall, it was not. Notice our mind can be a focus only for natural things, or it can be a focus for spiritual things. Paul himself says that. You could dwell on natural and carnal things and it produces death. The liberty we feel in our spirit depends a lot on the level of our thought. If we dwell on physical earthly things with our mind, there is heaviness and a gravitation force that pulls our whole life down. But when we dwell our mind upon the things of God peace, joy, liberty comes upon our life. So, our mind is like being pulled two ways since the fall of man.

Since our mind functions as a receiver of things in the spirit realm, to a certain extend it still has an element of death. Let me give an example from your experience. When Satan tempts you, how did you hear his temptations? Satan and demons are spirit beings they are not flesh and blood.

How do you hear their temptation? Everybody here has been tempted in some ways. When the temptation came how did you hear it? Temptations come as thoughts. Temptation comes from the enemy realm, spirit realm, and spirit being. Have you ever wondered how is it possible that demons and Satan could affect the thought life,

which is a part of the soul and not a part of the spirit? Our mind and our thoughts are a part of our soul. How is it that the spirit realm is affecting our soul in the negative stream? Because our mind was created as a communication point between the physical realm and the spirit realm. Satan knows that and he tries to intercept our thoughts. Its just like those people who were broadcasting the Good News into communist lands. When the communists find out you know what they do. They try to broadcast on the same frequency. They either jam your frequency out and you hear nothing or you end up hearing their propaganda. Satan tries to come at that frequency and affect our thought life in order to block us from hearing God.

We can easily show from scriptures in Acts 5 how people like Ananias and Sapphira fell when they chose to tell a lie in deception for self-glorification. As Ananias came before Peter, Peter said, "Is this all the money that you have sold the land for?" And he says yes. Peter replied, "You are lying. This is only a part of it. If you have sold it and if you have not given, it would have been yours. But since you gave it, you told a lie." For whatever reasons the judgment of God came upon him. But this is a statement made by Peter in Acts 5:3 Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God. Notice he contrived or **conceived it in his heart. It was a thought. Ananias and Sapphira may not even have known that the deceptive thought came from Satan.** But it's the thought, the wrong thoughts, and the wrong broadcasting station they were listening to that caused them to fall.

Acts 8 in the case of Simon who was a born again Christian but he was not very matured in God and he still have some carnality in him. It is possible to be a Christian and still be carnal. In Acts 8 when he asked for power Peter says in verse 20 Your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money. That's a wonderful stand. Peter says get rid of your money it means nothing in the spirit realm. Money may be a means of doing the ministry work but it is worthless when it's carnal. It could be the most important thing outside to the people of the world but not in the kingdom of God. So Peter says you keep your money. His power is not obtained that way. But he made this statement and said, "Why have you thought?" See it was his thought life that was still not renewed. It says here because you thought, wrong thoughts were the cause of his problem. And he even says in verse 23 you are still in bondage. You are bound by iniquity and poison by bitterness. Philip baptized him in water. So, he was born again but his thought life was still causing bondages in his life. The thoughts cause his downfall.

Of course we know II Cor. 10 where Paul says the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty to God in pulling down strongholds, arguments, reasoning and bringing every thought to the obedience of Christ. We have given the scriptures to show that it's the thought life that Satan infiltrates and he is a spirit being. So bad thoughts, evil thoughts come from the enemy. Sometimes good thoughts and good ideas are actually bad thoughts like the wolf clothed in sheepskins and the devil tries to make them look good but they are still from the enemy. All those bad thoughts are from him.

The wonderful thing is that we must realize that some good thoughts, revelation thoughts come from the spirit realm from God. Bad thoughts come from the enemy;

then where do good thoughts come from? There are three involved, there is us, there is the devil and there is Father God. So some of our thoughts come from the enemy. Some of our thoughts come from ourselves. We have the ability to think our own thoughts. We have that ability to dig into the resources of our experience and bring those thoughts. All we have to do is to talk about buffet and straight away pictures of lovely food come steaming into our minds. That is caused by the soul. Thoughts can come from the soul realm, either generated by us or generated by fellowman.

Then there are real thoughts that come from the Spirit realm of God. Those thoughts that come from the Spirit realm of God are revelation thoughts and they will revolutionize your life. They are always good thoughts, pure thoughts, and powerful thoughts. One thought from God can set you free. One revelation from God, one revelation truth, just one thought can keep you going. The wonderful thing is people do not realize the role of the mind in the spirit realm. The mind is to function as a receiver. It's also a transmitting station. But that is another topic altogether. Since we are concentrating on how to be led by the Spirit, we focus our mind as a receiving station. And it receives frequency in the thought realm. We need to tell the difference between the thoughts. The problem is not so much in the receiving as in the discerning. For God will be speaking all the time. By now, you would have reached the conclusion that the inward witness is a soft and gentle thought that rises up from your spirit to your soul. The sound and the voice of the inward voice of your human spirit are like a gentle thought. You hear it as a thought. But right now, if we were to be quiet we could listen to our own inner voice speaking. That's more our soul. You could sort of think to yourself. Try that just close your eyes for a moment. And say Jesus is Lord about five times quietly. Don't move your lips, don't move your physical being. You hear some thing inside. That is roughly what the inward voice will sound like. It's from the inside coming out. From the inside bubbling forth. The inward voice is a thought that bubbles from within us.

We need to differentiate because there are also external thoughts and internal thoughts. We need to differentiate between them and also we need to differentiate thoughts that we cause ourselves. So, the problem and the key are to differentiate the three. What thoughts are from the enemy; what thoughts are from ourselves and what thoughts are from God. I first discovered the importance of thought life when I came across the scriptures in I Cor. 2:11 For what person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him. So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit, which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. Notice he says the things, which is from the Spirit freely given to us by God that we might know them. How do we know them? And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit. Now obviously he is talking about hearing things from the spirit realm. The things, which the Spirit teaches. He is talking about receiving in the spirit realm. We realize that the inward witnesses can not teach. There are only five sensations but they do not teach you. But the inward voice teaches us. The voice of the human spirit teaches us a lot of things. The Holy Spirit teaches too but we are talking first about the human spirit.

Then look at verse 14 The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are

spiritually discerned. His conclusion is powerful. Verse 16 **For who has known the mind of the Lord** so as to instruct Him? Then he quickly turns around and says, **But we have the mind of Christ.** The mind of Christ operating in us. The paraphrase version is not a very accurate version but once in a while you get some verses that render the idea very beautifully but other times it just render out of context. The paraphrased version in I Cor. 2 it mentioned this in verse 16, “Who has known the thoughts of the Lord that he may instruct Him but we have the thoughts of Christ.” So, the thoughts of Jesus are occurring to us. The thoughts of Jesus are being implanted from our spirit into our soul. We are receiving thoughts from Jesus.

Sometimes people thought as if they only know the devil’s voice.

“The devil has been after me all day long.”

“What did he tell you?”

“He told me to do this, he told me to do that. Morning he told me this; afternoon he told me that.”

“You seem to be a very good friend of the devil. Didn’t God tell you anything?”

“No, I only hear him the devil.”

Sometimes people say, ‘The devil has been after me all day long bless his holy name.’ I know they don’t mean that. Sometimes the way they talk that’s what they are doing - glorifying the devil. Those people say it so fast I know they don’t mean it they mean bless God’s name. But sub-consciously that’s what they are doing. Isn’t it strange that the majority of people can tell when the devil tempts them but they can not tell when God speaks to them? You ask any Christian Tom, Dick and Harry, “Do you know when the devil tempts you?” They will say yes. “Do you know when God speaks to you?” “Sometimes.” Isn’t it funny we have slanted the wrong way? And the opposite is true when somebody comes and says, “I sensed the Lord speaking to me.” We think that person is weird, oddball, and screw gone loose, extremist, and fanatic. But when people say, “The devil told me this.” They say, “O yes, my sympathy is with you.”

We should live in the realm where we recognize God’s thoughts as easily as the devil’s temptation. We have the thoughts of God occurring to us. When I began to realize this truth, from morning till night, I recorded every thought that occurred to me. And at the end of the day, I would sit down and look at it and say, these are from the enemy; these are from myself; these others probably from God but let me check further. So, at the end of the day I will go through my thoughts. I analyzed them until I began to detect and recognize thoughts that are from God. How do you feel like when it came? Was it really bubbling from inside? And through time, you train yourself to know the difference between the thoughts occurring inside and the thoughts occurring outside. You could feel the difference very great. Just like some people, if they are tone deaf they can not tell the “C” note from the “D” note. You play “C” you play “D” and they don’t know the difference. Tone-deaf people can not hear small differences in tones. But if you play “C” chord followed by a chord further up like “G” then they could tell the difference. Such people are not trained to differentiate finer things.

So in the same way we need to be trained to differentiate between the sounds of inner silent thoughts that come silently, I mean inaudibly that that comes from the inside and thoughts from the outside. And it's very obvious when the thought is from the outside. It sounds very different from the thoughts that are from the inside. Basically, we have reached this conclusion proving from the scriptures that the inward voice that we hear is thoughts that are from the human spirit. The human spirit communicates to us what he received from the Holy Spirit, it communicates to our soul, and we hear it as thoughts. Those thoughts can occur any time. We are going to focus more on this area.

Guidelines

But before we go on, I just want to list these points with you so that you could be shielded and protected from the enemy's thoughts. There are certain ways and certain keys in order to guard and help us to discern which thoughts are from God, which thoughts are from the enemy.

No.1 you can ask the question: is it in line with the Word? If it's in line with the Word of God then you at least come to the second phase.

No. 2 does it glorify the Lord Jesus Christ? Any thoughts that originate from God are for one sole purpose to bring glory to Jesus. That is why sometimes I hear people's ideas in the kingdom of God. Sometimes people try to do God's spiritual work with soul-manufactured ideas. Some time I hear people bringing good ideas. But I picked up in my spirit that the end of it has a little element of self-glorification so it can not be from God. No matter how good I will not move into that. I want to make sure that it's from the Spirit. For anything that is not born of the Spirit will not be blessed by the Spirit. Only what is born of the Spirit will be able to continue in the power of the Spirit. What is born of the soul is soulish. What is born of the flesh is flesh. What is born of the Spirit is Spirit. And that is the only thing that God looks for in eternity. So No. 2 does it glorify the Lord Jesus Christ?

No. 3 is it in line with nature of God, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and temperance? For against such there is no law. When Galatians talks about being led by the Spirit, the context is the fruit of the Spirit. If you read Galatians 5, you notice that the context is walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh, contrasting the two. He talks about the fruit of the Spirit against the works of the flesh. Don't miss the context. The context is being led by the Spirit. So No. 3 is it in line with the nature of God with the fruit of the Spirit? If you have a thought that causes you sleepless nights and it continues to take away your peace or torment you, no matter how good it sounds it is not from God. These are also areas that you could check for deception.

No. 4 is it from the inside or from the outside? Some people find it hard to differentiate it. But if you grow in God, you can differentiate the two. See the Holy Spirit lives in you and the devil is outside. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. And through time, you will be able to differentiate between inner thoughts and outer thoughts. If you have not been aware of them, now that I have mentioned it, you can start being aware of them. So, is it from the inside or is it from the outside? That's another area for us to differentiate the thoughts of God.

No.5 does it produce fear or does it produce faith? Any word from God, any rhema you hear has to produce faith. God's rhema always produces faith. The devil 's word always produces fear. There is some consistency you can find.

In the first place, let see Ananias and Sapphira if they receive the thought from the enemy, it can not even cross point one. They know its wrong to tell a lie. They would have thrown it out in the first place if they had this check. What about Simon the magician in Acts 8? His fault was self-glorification. It will not even have passed the second point. So, with all these checks it helps us. Is it from the inside or is it from the outside? Then thus it produces faith. Thus, it produces fear. A sub-point to this point is that he that believes shall not make haste. Hasty thoughts are also fear-filled and anxious thoughts and they are not from God. If you have a thought that bombards you like a sub-machine gun, then you should know that it is from the enemy. The Holy Spirit doesn't push. Never in the bible it says those who are pushed by the Spirit they are sons of God. I know God well enough that He is gentle. The devil will come and says do this, do that. Get into this venture. You try to delay and he will keep pressing you.

But the Spirit's thoughts are gentle. He will say softly, "Phone this person up." Then you ignore it. It doesn't disturb you. Two hours later He speaks again, "Phone this person up." That's my experience with Him. Then you don't do any thing three hours later, "Come, phone this person up." Sometimes, it's so quiet that you just ignore it in the midst of other noises. Then at night before you sleep, He reminds you. Phone this person up. The inward voice works with the inward witness. The inward witness is the sensation that will confirm the inward voice. That's how gentle He is. I have known God sometimes stretch an instruction for one month. Because we want to check, we want to make sure it's from God. I know God stretch His repeated command, He could repeat for about five times in one month. Its just bubbles forth then it subsides. He doesn't talk to you again. He is so patient. That is in line with the point where it should produce faith and not fear. And it is patient and not hasty. He that walks in faith is not hasty.

These are points I am throwing out so that they could keep you until the next week as you experiment with your thought life. Your thought life is very important. You could use it in a tremendous way to spot the enemy. When I move into an area where there are a lot of demons, straightaway I pick it up, not necessarily with an open vision but just by a soul trained to be sensitive to the spirit realm. You walk in a place where there are a lot of angels you could pick it up because your soul is trained and sensitized to the spirit realm. You are aware and you are yielding your soul not to the carnal realm but to the spirit realm.

5. THE SPIRIT WORLD AND OUR THOUGHT LIFE

Last week we let off at the thought life and the inward voice. We saw how the inward voice is as an inner thought that rises from deep within us. We described how there is a difference between the thoughts that come from the outside and thoughts that arise from the inside. We closed by giving several keys by which we could differentiate the thoughts.

Now in the bible, there are at least 5 different Greek words for the word thoughts. Two of them are already familiar to you. They are the words dialogismos and dianoia. Dialogismos is a word, which speaks about the analytical part of our being. It is the part of the brain that calculates one plus one equals two; two plus two equals four. It's the logical part of us. It's the part of us that reasons. In Acts 18, that word is used on the apostle Paul how he reasoned or dialogismos in the synagogue. He showed from the scriptures that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. I guess he must have reasoned this way. He must have said, "Look this is what the scriptures say that the Messiah will do and will be." Then he says, "This is what Jesus did and this is what Jesus shows Himself to be.

Therefore, Jesus is the Messiah." I guess that would be how he presented Jesus as the Messiah. That is the same word that is translated as mind and it's also a word that is translated as thoughts.

Then the other word dianoia is the main word for the imaginative part of our mind. It is the part of our mind that visualizes a picture of a black dog when someone says, "A black dog." When that person says, "A very small, hairy black dog," in your mind the image changes. The part of your mind that visualizes and conceives a picture is your dianoia. It's the same word translated in Luke 1:51 as imagination. It is the part of us that imagine. Now both dianoia and dialogismos are tied up to the working of inner thoughts within us. When Jesus said that you are to love God with all your hearts, with all your mind and all your strength and all your soul, He used the word dianoia for the word mind.

So, the word dianoia is of importance in the spirit realm. So is the word dialogismos when we see Paul using it. Dianoia and dialogismos are tied up to the workings of God within our lives. Like Ephesians 1:17 Paul prayed that the spirit of wisdom and revelation will be given to the Ephesians Christians and that the eyes of their dianoia the eyes of their understanding be enlightened or flooded with light. So apparently, the Spirit of God works directly with our imagination or dianoia part and with the reasoning or dialogismos part of our mind.

Our soul consists of our emotions, our intellect and our volition the part of us that chooses. The mind is the link between the natural realm and the spirit realm. Your mind is involved with the physical realm. If you want to eat, your mind makes the decision. Your mind decides what to eat. You decide which shop to go; it is your mind that decides, not your body. So your soul is involved in the decision-making process. At the same time, your mind is also involved with the spirit realm too. Like right now, your soul is absorbing as we teach the Word of God. The Bible consists of black letters on a white background, printed on paper. As we read the Bible, the Word of God comes from a different realm and gets into our soul. The Word is Spirit and it is life. So, the Word of God is affecting our mind now. As we study the Word, the

Word is affecting our thoughts too. But which part of our mind is affected? There are five Greek words for the word thought. Two of them are the words dialogismos the reasoning part and dianoia, which is the imagination part. These two words are sometimes translated as thoughts and sometimes as mind. But there are three other words noema, ennoia and enthumesis and we will consider the words noema and enthumesis today. In the next message, we will look at ennoia.

Noema

One of the words translated as thought is from the Greek word noema. So, the third Greek word that we are introducing to this subject is the word noema. In studying the Greek very carefully, the word noema points to the thoughts that arise from the physical realm. The word noema seems to point to thoughts that are in the carnal realm. That is where II Cor. 10:5 We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought (noema) captive to obey Christ. Researching the word, noe and the word noema both refer to a negative aspect of the mind. In fact, there are 10 Greek words for mind and 5 Greek words for thought. The word noema here is used in a negative way. It says you bring every noema to be subject to the obedience of Jesus Christ.

When the Bible uses the word noema, it uses it in a sense as if it is something that is not dependable. It is something that should be subjected to another higher thought. Even the bible differentiates between the thought that arise from the spirit realm and the thought that arise from the carnal realm in its usage of the different Greek word. In the English, we just use the word thoughts. So when we are teaching on this subject, we use words like spiritual thoughts, carnal thought, thoughts from inside, thoughts from outside. People are wondering, "What is inside thought, outside thought? I thought, thought is thought and mind is mind." But in the Greek, they differentiate between these two types of thoughts. They differentiate between thoughts that are from the outside and thoughts that are from the inside. If I were to speak to you in Greek and say that I received a thought from God, that God placed a dianoia in my mind, you would not have to ask me whether it was a spiritual thought or a carnal thought. By my usage of the word dianoia, you know that is from the spirit side. But if I say yesterday, a noema came to me, you would know straightaway know that it was a carnal thought. I don't even have to explain myself. By the choice of words I use I could differentiate by the Greek between a thought that comes form the outside and a thought that comes from the inside. For the spirit of man is within us. And the Holy Spirit lives in us and within us. He is affecting our dianoia and our dialogismos from the inside. There are inner thoughts that arise from within us, there are outer thoughts that come to us and the bible differentiates the two. If the bible so differentiates then we must differentiate too. We must differentiate between a thought from God and a thought from the outside. We must differentiate between outer thought and inner thought. Now that we are aware that there is a difference between inner thoughts and outer thoughts, then we can differentiate them. If you are not aware of that, we won't be able to differentiate the two.

Just to give a few more scriptures on how noema are thoughts that are from the outside. Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passes all understanding will guard your hearts (refers to the inner area) and your mind (noema) in Christ Jesus. Notice the peace of God has to guard the noema. And the word noema is sometimes translated as mind, some times translated as thought, but it refers to the part the

intellectual part of our soul that is affected by the natural side. That is why the bible says the peace of God needs to guard the noema. Why doesn't it talk about guarding the dianoia and dialogismos? The noema is a part of your mind that contacts the physical realm. It needs to be guarded. The word guarded is a Greek word garrison. A fort needs to be built around the noema in your mind to guard against wrong thoughts that come from the physical realm.

And in Eph. 3:20 at the end of his prayer Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (noema). He is saying that God is able to do above what our noema can conceive. But God is only able to do in proportion not above but in proportion to what your dianoia can conceive. I could say God could do above your noema. But I can not say God do above your dianoia because God's working in our lives is dependent and directly proportional to the working of dianoia in your life. God can only work in proportion to how much He has been able to reveal Himself in our dianoia. That is why in Ephesians 1:17 Paul prayed that the spirit of wisdom and revelation would open the eyes of their dianoia. God's working in your life is limited by His working in your dianoia and also your dialogismos. And it's always higher and above your noema. It doesn't mean you get rid of noema. But you guard it and you renew it with your dianoia and dialogismos.

We began to see how complex the mind is and the soul that God has created for us. Every thing that your noema conceived is only from the natural realm. Some people function only from their noema. They don't even move into dialogismos; neither do they move into dianoia. Their mind is only functioning from noema. They are living just on the natural; the bible calls them brutes. They are just functioning from the noema. They live to eat, they eat to live. Their whole life revolves only in the carnal realm and no more than that. Sometimes the enemy tries to affect the thought life from the angle of dianoia and dialogismos by giving you a wrong imagination and a wrong reasoning respectively. But you notice it's from the spirit realm. Other times the enemy will just target on your noema in the natural realm. Like for example Simon the magician in Acts 8 saw how Peter and John laid hands and people received the baptism in the Spirit. In the past, Simon the magician probably paid a great price in terms of gold and silver to learn his magical arts that he gave up when he was born again. But now it was still lingering in him that he thought he could buy spiritual power with money. So he came to Peter in Acts 8 and said, "Give me this power and I will pay you in cash." Peter said, "Forget about it." I am paraphrasing their conversation. He said, "Repent for the thought of your heart is not right." Now when he used that word there was a special use in Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. The word thought here is the word epinoia .The word noia is the same word, which means to be opened.

It's just like a camera. A camera does not record data; it captures pictures on film. A computer records data that can be produced into a graphic picture. But all the recording of a computer is only based on two codes, on, off, on, off, that's all. That is why its just 1010101. So, a computer records information in codes but a camera records information in pictures. So, the dianoia is like the part of you that records information like photographic imagination. Some people develop their dianoia like a zoom camera. The dialogismos is the part of you that formulates data, precept upon

precept, and line upon line. Some people's dialogismos is like the first computer that was invented. They have very few megabytes of hard drive memory and can not keep that much information. And some people's dialogismos is just like the new generation computers with many gigabytes of memory. They have developed their dialogismos very well.

Dia means through and noia means to see. So dianoa means to see through and that is the imagination part of the mind. Here is what happened. Simon the magician has allowed his dianoa to be bounded. That is why in Acts 8 Peter used the word epinoia. The word epi means upon. Simon's seeing or noia was focused upon something. Therefore, Simon's dianoa or the part that sees was bound or held by something. He is only dwelling on one thing the wicked thought. Later you will see how Peter says to Simon the magician, "You are being bound by iniquity and by bitterness." So there was something working on him and his dianoa. Simon the magician had allowed a thought from the bad spiritual realm, from Satan's realm, to come and bind his dianoa so that now it has become his epinoia or the intent of his heart. That is why he was in bondage. He needs his dianoa to be freed. So, it's important to see how the bible differentiates between thought that arise from the spirit realm and thoughts that are from the natural realm. You always have to guard thoughts that come from the natural realm.

Now the dianoa and the dialogismos we always have to renew by God's word. Now I said there are 5 Greek words and we only looked at three already, the dianoa, the dialogismos, and the noema. There is another special Greek word for thought. See the noema, the dianoa, the dialogismos and the epinoia are parts of the soul collectively called the intellect. These three words are what we call thoughts. Thoughts that arise in the soul, imaginative thoughts from the spirit realm, reasoning thoughts from the spirit realm, natural thoughts from the natural being. All these stand on a common ground. This platform the three of them are standing on represents the source of all thoughts that arise in the soul. There has to be a source. There has to be what I call the thinker part of the thinking.

Enthumesis

Every great river has a source. Like for example one time I was reading a small article on how several people went to the source of the Amazon River. You know how great and mighty the Amazon River is. It flows with such force through South America. The Amazon River passes through different countries. So, they went right to the source by canoe starting from the sea. But on reaching the source of the Amazon River, they found that the river began from two or three tiny little outlets. These rivulets were small and insignificant but they could develop into such a mighty torrent of a river.

Likewise, our soul has only one flickering part. It only takes a spark to get the fire going.

And that is what we call the spark of the thought itself that the whole thought being is centered on. That is the Greek word enthumesis. It is that part that the Word of God affects. It affects the very source of the thought. Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrows, and discerning the thoughts (enthumesis) and

intention of the heart. See the word thumesis is the word thumma that means the wrath. A sub-word from that which is the same word thum is translated as incense. So the whole picture that the word thum conveys is a rising forth. When incense is burned, there is a rising forth of smoke and fragrance. And that is where there is a rising forth of the source of the thought. The Word of God touches right at that realm where the thoughts rise. That is why it talks about piercing or as in the NKJV, cutting asunder. How can you cut asunder your soul and spirit? Our soul and spirit are intricately connected. To cut away the soul is to cut away its existence itself. Our soul and spirit are so intricately connected yet the fact is that there is a connection. So, it says that the Word of God goes right into the point where spirit meets with soul at the very source and origin of all thoughts. And enthumesis can be pictured as just a canal or just a little pipe that comes to the source of thoughts. And all these dianoa, dialogismos and noema may be pictured as water coming from the pipe.

If the piping system in your house has too much blockage of soil and mud clotting it up, it will affect the purity of your tap water. It is useless for drinking or washing. Likewise, your thought life may be contaminated because there is a blockage. Some mental patients and people have that part completely cut forth or have that part blocked out. And that is why it looks like they are not thinking anymore. They seem to have lost their mind. It takes God's Word to reach into the recesses of the soul and clean them out. It's the only detergent powerful enough to clean. Nothing else can clean like God's Word. John 15:3 Jesus said, "My Word has made you clean." God needs to keep that enthumesis or canal clean and purified. We realize that keeping it clean is not just a once for all process. That is why Jesus said when you bear much fruit you will also be pruned that you may bear more fruit. Every branch in Me that bears fruit will be pruned that it may bear more fruit. Even though you are bearing fruit, it needs to be constantly pruned. It's just like a car that needs to be serviced from time to time so that it functions properly. If it's an old car, it needs tuning. So we realize that enthumesis is just the very part where there is the contact with the spirit realm and where there is the rising of the thought from the inside keeping it clean.

There are a lot of people's enthumesis is filthy and blocked. Sometimes, it could be a frog that crept into your pipe and get stuck. You turn on your tap there is no water. All the other houses have water but not yours. A big fat frog is stuck somewhere there in the pipe. So, that is the part where the thought arises from and it works with the Word of God. So, enthumesis speaks about the very source. And we realize that if we want to receive thoughts from God we must keep that pipeline open. There is no way you can get around it. You have to get Hebrews 4:12 working. Notice that the sword, which is the Word of God, is not applied here like Ephesians 6, which is applied to the enemy. Hebrews 4:12 is applied within us. It cuts asunder of spirit and soul; it separates what is spirit and what is soul. And it is able to discern every thoughts and intents of the heart. The word, Word here in Hebrews 4:12 is the word logos. See the logos of God cleanses your inner being. The logos of God cleanses the part of your soul that connects to the spirit realm.

That is important. If you live somewhere in the Amazon jungle and you have a phone and a generator, these equipments would be your only communication with the outside world. It's important to you for the line to be maintained. So, you would maintain that line. You would not let anything affect that line. Now there is a line of communication between our soul and the spirit and the spirit of course is connected to

the Holy Spirit who is connected to Jesus and the Father. But the enthumesis or the source of the thoughts is being cleansed every time you do your devotion; every time you read the Word of God; every time you meditate on God's Word, you are giving your enthumesis a scrubbing.

Think about how you would look and smell if you didn't bathe for one week. Think about how you would look if you do not bathe for one year. But some people never bathe spiritually for years. If one day an angel appears to you and the angel had to do this (close his nose I believe) when he talk to you, "God says to pass you this message, excuse me I have to go off quickly, thank you," you know that you stink in the spiritual ream. Why because there is so much pollution inside you. You know the bible talks about the cleansing of the inner person, a renewal, a cleansing and do not be defiled, don't let any thing block the spirit realm. Whenever you read God's Word and meditate on God's Word, you are actually giving yourself spiritual food. You are also giving yourself a spiritual bath to cleanse your connection your enthumesis between your soul and your spirit so that the channel can remain clear for inner thoughts to arise. That's how you could differentiate thoughts that arise from the inside.

Dianoia and Dialogismos

Now there are thoughts that arise from the outside that affects your noema directly. Your noema contacts the outward realm. As you progress spiritually, you could differentiate between the inner thoughts and the outer thoughts. The inner thoughts that arise can affect either either your dianoia or dialogismos at the same time or they would affect one of them at a time. For example, when the apostle Peter had a vision, he was in contact with the spirit realm. In the book of Acts 10 after he saw the vision of the animals coming down from God, three times it happened. And the voice told him, "Peter rise kill and eat." It is an allegorical vision, a parable vision that needs interpretation. But the fact is that in Acts 10 in verse 17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision which he had seen might mean, behold, the men that were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood before the gate. So Peter was wondering. See the vision or the Word of God that he received in vision form affected his dianoia but did not affect his dialogismos. So, your inner thoughts flow through the enthumesis and it can affect either one department of your soul the dianoia or the dialogismos or it can affect both. Sometimes you receive a thought in dianoia form and it's just a picture. And you don't understand what it meant. It needs dialogismos to get its meaning. When dialogismos gets it that's when an understanding comes to you. Otherwise, all you receive is a thought.

One day this preacher was talking to me after one ministry session on "Moving in the Spirit". This preacher came to me and said, "Do you know I received some of those instructions too and those words of knowledge? And this is how they came to me but I don't understand all of it so I don't give all of it." And he told me how one time when he was praying for a lady, as he prayed there was this picture of a child came. But he doesn't know what it means. See God is giving a thought inside but there was no dialogismos, there was no interpretation. So he said, "Are you praying for a child?" The lady said no. Do you have any children? No. Problem now, what does this mean? But it's something from God. Subsequently he found out that the lady was praying for another child that belongs to a close member of her family and it has taken a lot of her

prayer life. And he was actually having a word from the Lord for her in that area. It was picked up by the dianoia but not picked up by the dialogismos. Sometimes, we can have that kind of situation.

Lets say we worship God for one or two hours you probably pick up something in dianoia. But some times, you don't pay attention to that. See sometimes you worship you pick up something like sometimes as I worship I pick up an angel of God standing in a certain place, I picked up the Lord's light coming down in a certain place. Some people may say, "It's just your imagination." That's the problem: did your imagination come your dianoia or from your noema?

When we began to pay attention to some of these things that God is speaking then you will realize what it is. It's just like Moses' burning bush. He saw the burning bush and he says I wonder whether it's the sunlight's reflection. He rubs his eyes and it is still burning. He went near to see why it burns. He did not just say it's a phenomenon of nature. After all, it can be explained away and he could have continued on with his flock of sheep. He could have continued ignoring it for another year and the bush would still be burning. He had a telephone call and he didn't lift up the receiver. God is calling, God is signaling. Think about God He waits for our response. He is so polite. He doesn't intrude upon you. He doesn't enter your house unwelcome. He wants to be welcomed. He wants us to say, "Welcome Lord." Then He makes Himself at home. You don't welcome Him He doesn't intrude into your life. If you make a business decision or a major decision in your family or in your private life and you don't ask the Lord to come in and help you there He won't. He wants to be welcomed in. He is a gentleman. So the burning bush can keep on burning unless Moses responds. As he drew near to watch it, God said, "Moses, Moses," his sarong would nearly have fallen off, if he were wearing one. His hair would turn a different style. How would you like if you were near a bush and as you are observing the bush how it's lighted like a Christmas tree, suddenly the bush talks to you. How would you like a bush talking back to you? God never spoke until Moses responded.

You have been receiving things in your private life. You are saying, "God did not lead me by the Spirit." Are you sure? Or is your enthumesis too polluted, too rusty on your piping system? God is speaking but we are ignoring. I am not saying that we could move straight into it very sharply. But everyone who has even been born again will have communication from the spirit realm. Perhaps in your devotion life, your private life you have a picture coming to you. You have some sort of things. Sometimes in my private life as I worship God my dianoia perceives that He is standing before me. I would get up as if He is a real person, kneel down before Him, and worship Him. He loves that. When I do that His presence increases and grows stronger. Think about what we missed.

Sometimes the communication comes through the dialogismos. In Acts 18 Paul was seeking to reach to the spirits and the hearts of the people through the dialogismos. But it's the dialogismos that can also be affected from the spirit realm. In verse 4 And he argued in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded Jews and Greeks. You see through the dialogismos area he is applying the Word. And the Word was reaching out to their dialogismos and is opening them to the spirit realm. And if they respond, they will receive more from God. Line upon line, precepts upon precepts the thoughts of God are being revealed. Acts 18:19 And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there; but he himself went into the synagogue and argue with the Jews. What was he

doing? He was dealing with from the dialogismos area. He was giving an understanding to the people from that realm. It was God's Word that was received from the dialogismos. Paul was a carrier of God's Word. We realize in chapter 19:8 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly; arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God. Again, he was reasoning; he was declaring dialogismos to them of the things of God. So, sometimes God's Word can come to you through thoughts. You have what I classify as revelational thought where you could be wrestling with a problem for months. And suddenly this thought came to you that connect "A" to "C" and you saw how to connect that thing. You saw that "A" equal to "B" and "B" equal to "C" but you can not see how "A" equal to "C". You couldn't make that connection. But when the revelational thought comes to your mind, straight away you got it. It's a revelation.

For example, I was reading the book "I Believe in Visions" by Kenneth Hagin. God was speaking to him about how you don't pray to God to cast out demons. You have to take authority and cast out demons yourself. As I was reading that, a revelational thought came to me. It was not a dianoia; I didn't see any picture but a thought of understanding dropped into me, into my dialogismos that, that's the same way for healing. In the New Testament, you don't beg God to come down to heal. You have the authority as a believer. And that one thought took me nearly a year to research. But it completely revolutionized my ministry of healing the sick. It's important for us to see how sometimes God's thoughts can rise. It can affect both the dianoia and dialogismos or it can affect just one area. And you can always differentiate it from noema that is the normal external thought. So now, you know how your enthumesis has to be affected in your dianoia and in your dialogismos and your noema. So let the Word cleanse your enthumesis. Some of you may need a thorough scrubbing. I mean you may need to get away for one whole day meditate on the Word for about 8 hours and get it really shinning clean. When you go to a restaurant how would you like it if you see the chef took an old and dirty wok and just fry your fish over it and gave it to you. You wouldn't eat it. It's dirty. So in the same way some of us are serving ourselves with dirty plates, dirty pipes, dirty cups, we need to get that scrubbed clean. Just one thorough scrubbing and then later you maintain it. If you bought an old car, what you do is to give it a good thorough overhaul then the rest of the time you maintain it. Some of us may need overhauling. You say is there a spiritual department for overhauling. Yes, during our Friday overnight vigils is where we overhaul you.

6. THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT

Last week we talked about four different Greek words for the word thoughts. We mentioned that even in the original Greek, the Bible differentiate between thoughts that arise out of our spirit and thoughts that arise out of our soul and thought that arise out of the physical realm. So, the Bible does differentiate all these different thoughts. We just want to make sure that this truth is sealed and established in our lives with clarity.

So lets read Hebrew 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

It says that the Word of God or the logos is sharp. The word, word here is the logos. It says the logos of God is quickening, that is, it contains life and it's powerful and is able to divide soul and spirit. There is a special Greek word here used that we mentioned it says piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of joints and marrows and it's a discerner of the enthumesis, which is the word translated as thoughts. Enthumesis is one of the five Greeks words translated as thoughts. The other words translated thoughts is the word dianometa, which is from the word dianoia, which refers to imaginations from the root word dianoia. The other is the word dialogismos, which talks about the logical part of our mind.

The other word that we considered last week was the word noema seems to refer to the external part of the mind. That is the same word used in II Cor. 10 where Paul says bringing every thought (noema) onto captivity in Christ Jesus. He uses the word noema to speak about those kinds of thoughts. It's the same word used in the book of Philippians 4:7 where it says the peace of God is able to garrison to guard our heart and our mind (noema). That is translated as mind but it's the same word as noema.

We have tried to illustrate and break down different divisions of the soul and the spirit so that we have clarity. What we are talking about is how to be led by the Spirit of God. In order to be led by the Spirit we have talked about the inward witness and the five sensations of the inward man. Then we have talked about the inner voice. Not the voice of the Holy Spirit but the voice of our human spirit. And how the voice of the human spirit will arise like thoughts within us. We concluded in the last message mentioning the two realms of thought. One is in picture form and one is in word form, dialogismos and dianoia. Imagine that we could go right into the depths of the spirit and the soul. What would the outline be like? How would the make-up of it be like?

In the last message, we illustrated the enthumesis but it was not clear enough. We want to see the connection between the spirit and the soul. There must be a connection between the soul and the spirit. There must be a link somewhere. Although our spirit is separate from our soul, yet there is a link. And it says in Hebrews 4:12 how the Word of God goes right in and began to affect that link between the spirit and the soul.

We have the noema, which refer usually more to the conscious part of our being. Dialogismos is the logical part of our mind. Dianoia is the part of our mind that imagines. And it affects your conscious mind. There is a connection between the dialogismos and the dianoia to the conscious mind. Your dianoia and your

dialogismos is the part of you that connects the conscious and the sub-conscious. This noema is definitely the conscious part of your mind, which possibly is only about 5 percent. We use only up to 5 percent of our mind up till now. Noema definitely refers to the conscious part of our mind where the battle or the fight of faith goes on. The enemy tries to put all kinds of thoughts into the conscious part of our mind.

There is another word that we mentioned and that is the word enthumesis. That is a special word which Hebrews 4:12 says is from the word thumes, which means a bubbling forth, a fire. The word fire and heat is from the same root word thumos. We put enthumesis where the sub-conscious part of our soul is but it's more than that. It seems to be a part at the same time of our spirit. There is a mind of the spirit and a mind of the soul. We put enthumesis to be a part of the spirit. And dialogismos and dianoia are part of our soul. Maybe about one percent of the dianoia and dialogismos is on the conscious mind. There is where the link is. But most of it resides within the sub-conscious mind. So, the 95 percent of your mind resides in your sub-conscious area, which is your dialogismos and your dianoia. A small percentage of the dianoia and the dialogismos reach up to the noema, which is the conscious mind.

Enthumesis is a part of your spirit that bubbles forth. The other word in Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and is active sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrows, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The word heart most of the time refers to the spirit man. Sometimes, it refers to the soul. But most of the time, the word heart is used to refer to the inner most part of your being your spirit man. Mark 11:24 says that if we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth then the mountain will be removed, if we believe and what we say comes to pass. So Hebrews 2:12 he is talking about the heart. Just to remind you that when the bible uses the word heart it also talks about the connection of the spirit to the soul. And that's the mystery part.

Now let us look at the word intent, which is connected to the heart. Do you know enthumesis is connected to the word heart? It says discerning the enthumesis or thoughts and intents of the heart. So, enthumesis, which is translated as thoughts in Hebrews 4:12 is related to the word heart. The thoughts of the heart. I didn't know my heart is a thinker. As a man thinketh in his heart so is he. See my heart can think. My soul can think. The only part of me that doesn't think is my body. Your hand can't think. The only part of us that doesn't think is the body. But our soul thinks. And our spirit thinks. There is a thinking that is quite deep in that spirit realm. We call it a revelation. So, sometimes, when you read the bible only your soul gets it and there is no revelation to your spirit. But sometimes, when you read the bible your spirit gets it that's when revelation occurs. So Hebrews 4:12 is not talking just merely about our soul. It's especially talking about our heart.

Ennoia

Now the word intent in Hebrews 4:12 is from a Greek word that's tied up to dianoia is the word ennoia. Ennoia is the intent. It is the very beginning of our dianoia. Everything has to have a beginning. A thought has to have a beginning. A logical thought has to have a beginning. An imaginative picture has to have a beginning. So, ennoia and enthumesis refer to the heart. Hebrews 4:12 again For the word of God is sharper than any two-edge sword piercing into the division of soul and spirit and discerning the enthumesis and ennoia of the heart.

Here are the five words; enthumesis and ennoia refer to the part of our spirit that thinks. Now ennoia is connected to dianoia and enthumesis is connected to dialogismos. There is a connection between our conscious mind and our sub-conscious mind and our spirit. The recesses of our sub-conscious mind touch the ennoia and the enthumesis of our spirit, the deep inner recesses. That is why some Christian authors think or teach that the sub-conscious mind is the spirit but its not. The sub-conscious mind is still a part of our soul. This is understandable since in the English language you don't have many words with such richness as the Greek. Let me remind you the Greek has 5 words for thought and 10 words for mind. Think about the vast understanding that they have. If you read the New Testament in Greek you find that when Paul refers to a certain part of the Greek word with the word mind he consistently uses it through his epistle. You could do a thorough study of the 10 Greek words for mind and see how Paul consistently uses each word and it would have been a tremendous revelation. You would learn that Paul had a complete understanding of which part of his mind he was referring to. When he use the word renew he always use the word nous. When he uses the word that has to do with revelation, he always uses the word dianoia. He is very consistent in his usage of the different Greek words for mind. We are going to look at some of them in order to understand the voice of the human spirit.

So, enthumesis and ennoia are connected together with dianoia and dialogismos. There is a link between our spirit and our soul. Heb. 4:12 says the Word of God. As you read the Word of God, meditate on the Word of God, which is the word logos, it did not say that it affects the noema. It did not say that it affects the dianoia and the dialogismos to a certain extend. But Heb. 4:12 says that the Word of God has an effect on the enthumesis and the ennoia which is a part of our heart.

That's important because what goes on in our heart will determine whether the mountain is removed from our life. The Word of God is affecting the recesses of our spirit man, our enthumesis and our ennoia. It discerns, it cuts asunder, it divides. It says this is ennoia. This is enthumesis. This is dianoia this is dialogismos. That's the Word of God that cuts that divides so that we will know what thoughts are from the spirit and what thoughts are from the soul. See our soul can imagine. Not all imaginations are of God. The whole concept of advertisement is our imagination. It tries to put a picture into your imagination, into your sub-conscious, until you are influenced by the advertisement. It gets into your soul. That has nothing to do with the spirit. It has to do with the sub-conscious mind. So, we need to differentiate imaginations that arise from our spirit and imaginations that arise from our soul. We need to differentiate between the thoughts that arise from our spirit and the thoughts that arise from our soul. Our soul can reason, our spirit can reason. Our soul can imagine, our spirit can imagine. And in the Greek understanding, they differentiate between thought and intent from the spirit and that from the soul. Which the English language has no way of describing. We can only qualify it and say that some thoughts are from the spirit and some thoughts from the soul. Some are imaginations from the spirit and some are imaginations from the soul.

Mind of the Soul and Mind of the Spirit

With that understanding, lets look at the book of Romans 8 there is a consistent use of this word mind. Rom. 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according the spirit set their minds on the

things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

It says very clearly to be carnally minded is death and to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Now in the Greek, it does not exactly say that. It tells us, for the mind of the flesh is death but the mind of the Spirit is life and is peace. Which literally means for the mind of the flesh is death. Then it says but the mind of the Spirit is life and is peace. So literally if you were to take these words it says for the mind of the flesh is death. And the mind of the Spirit is life. It did not talk about being spiritually minded or to be fleshly minded. It includes death. But Paul is presenting here that there is a mind of the flesh and there is a mind of the Spirit. There is a mind of the soul and there is a mind of the spirit. That's what he is presenting here. And he says when we let the mind of the Spirit take control there is life and peace. When we let the mind of the soul takes over, the soul also knows how to reason. Its reasoning is not perfect. The reasoning of the Spirit is higher and greater.

The reasoning of the soul has produced philosophies that put people in bondage. The reasoning of the soul has caused justification for a lot of things, that man allows and says its legal but God says its illegal. There is a reasoning of the soul. The homosexuals reasoned and justified their existence. But its condemned and its an abomination in the Word of God. People have reasoning in their soul. Here evolution, which still remains a theory, has sort of removed the dignity of mankind. Think about your great, great, great, great ancestor as a monkey. It degrades us. But there is a tremendous reasoning in the theory of evolution. And some of the great intellectual minds are reasoning and agreeing with that kind of theory. But God's Word tells us that man is made in the image of God. That tells us there is dignity in man. It's not made as one of these animals its higher than that. I just illustrate to show where the reasoning of the soul can lead us. There is reasoning in the soul and there is reasoning in the spirit.

Phronema

The spirit will be very logical too. It has its own logic involved. The bible calls it wisdom. The word mind used in Rom. 8:6 was another new word is the word phronema, which is from the word phronesis, which means wisdom. Wisdom is where the activity of the mind of the spirit is. When we say in the natural realm that somebody is smart, we are saying that person's dialogismos has a tremendous capacity to put analysis together. That is our natural use of the word smartness or wisdom. So, the word phronema speaks about the activity of the dianoia and the dialogismos. The activity of the natural mind produces what the world would call it wisdom. The process of the dianoia and the dialogismos operating, reasoning, or functioning is phronema. So there is according to Rom. 8:6 a phronema of the soul, which is the flesh and a phronema of the spirit. The mind of the phronema of the soul and the flesh is death. The phronema or mind of the Spirit produces zoe or God's life and peace. There are therefore two minds, mind of the Spirit and the mind of the soul. When we mention it straightaway, you can be aware.

Today anyone who goes to school understands roughly where the position of the heart, position of the kidney, what's the function of the kidney, what's the function of the heart, what's the function of the liver. Do you know just five hundred years ago they all don't know all these? They don't even know what causes a cell to reproduce.

But when we became aware we are able to isolate and know the parts of our human body and their functions. From then onward, mankind learnt how to do organ transplant. So when man knows the function of the physical organ like the heart, today man is able to invent the heart machine. So, when they are operating a heart they would hook a person up the heart machine. So, the heart machine does the work of the heart while they are changing the heart. Today they have a kidney machine that does the dialysis where the normal kidney is temporarily out of order. The kidney purifies and removes all the toxins from our body. So today, they have kidney transplant. So when man had an understanding in the natural of the various parts of human organs and tissues, man could develop many new fields of science to deal with many aspects of the body, not possible two to three hundred years ago. In the past, they don't even have the faintest idea of the functions of the organs and tissues of the body. So, when we understand the intricate parts of the natural body we could go further in the natural field of science.

Now when we understand the intricate working of our spirit and our soul, you would know that it is not something you could see under a microscope. You could cut a person into a thousand pieces looking for the soul and you won't find it. Because its in a different realm and different dimension. But the Word of God does give us a picture of what the soul and the spirit are like. There is a mind of the soul and a mind of the spirit. When we are aware of that the next time your thoughts rise you could clearly differentiate through training whether the thoughts occur from your spirit, which could either be enthumesis or dianioia. And when they occur they will normally go to your dianioia and your dialogismos. Or they are just from the noema part and your dianioia and dialogismos. If you realize that there are two minds within you the mind of your spirit and the mind of your soul, you would be able to know that the mind of the spirit reasons and thinks differently from the mind of the soul.

Then lets look at Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. So, he is talking about something within us. In verse 27 And He who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because, the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. If you have been reading the Romans 8:6 and then when you later come down to verse 26 you will immediately tie together Romans 8:26 with Romans 8:6. Rom. 8:6 says for the mind of the flesh is death and the mind of the Spirit is life and peace. Then it comes down to verse 26, which says that the Spirit makes intercession with groaning, which can not be uttered. And it says in verse 27 for He who searches the heart. Whenever you see the word heart think about two other words, enthumesis and ennoia. Remember Heb. 4:12 where the Word of God is sharper than any two-edge sword piercing into the division of soul and spirit, discerning the enthumesis and ennoia of the heart. So here, in Rom. 8:27 He who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit and Paul uses the same Greek word as Rom. 8:6. You could capitalize it and read it as the Holy Spirit but if you read it in the Greek, it also conveys a meaning of the Holy Spirit working in your human spirit. Now there is the key here. That when you are given a tongue it says in Acts 2:4 that they spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. So there is utterance that is given. They are words vocabulary that is given but it's given to your enthumesis and your ennoia and it's given inside. And as it comes forth out of you at first your dianioia and dialogismos and your noema does not understand.

But it tells us in I Cor. 14:14-15 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit and I will pray with my mind also; He is telling us something here that our spirit man seems to receive something. Look at I Cor. 14 for a moment in verse 3. On the other hand, he who prophesies speaks to them for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. Now verse 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. He is speaking some thing to God. Who knows it? It is the mind of the spirit within him that receives the understanding. That is why when you speak in tongue or when you are baptized in the Spirit the first part of you that enlarges in its field is your spirit man. After we receive utterance from the Holy Spirit, then we learn to release the spirit man forth and allow the spirit man to speak forth. The enthumesis and the ennoia in our spirit man know things that God reveals. Then from time to time it gets into our dianoia and our dialogismos. Its still there but only when it reached noema is there complete understanding.

So how to be led by the Spirit. When you pray we realize that you could have either an inward witness of the spirit or you could have a voice called an inner thought that rises from your heart and it could be in two forms. It could be in a picture form or in word form line upon line and precept upon precept. Now there is a principle when we operate on in this leading of the human spirit. Why do we use the word perceived and not thus says the Lord. Because when we perceived it is a step at a time. We don't see all the facets of what God is revealing. The bible also has this principle that goes on that say in I Cor. 13 it says that we know in part and we prophesy in part. Isa. 28:12 says line upon line, precept upon precept. It means a little bit by a little bit. So let's say you are going to pray about God's leading and how to be led by the Spirit. Lets say our brother is going to pray for direction. And as he pray and all of you just pray for a moment in the Spirit. When you pray in the Spirit, you let your conscious level drop down. And you sensed what is in your spirit. As you pray I want you to dig into the inner recesses of your spirit mind not your soul mind but your spirit mind. See the spirit mind educates our soul mind. And in the spirit mind you receive two things. Either a word, sometimes you just receive one word, sometimes you receive a sentence. That would be your enthumesis part. Sometimes, you receive a picture. Some people's ennoia is shortsighted. Their picture is blur it takes some time of training to see clearly. Now what we received in our spirit you will notice it bubbles into your dianoia and your dialogismos. From your enthumesis and ennoia, it bubbles in your dianoia and your dialogismos. It gets into your sub-conscious and from the sub-conscious then your noema is the part that is looking in. Your noema is your conscious mind. And it tries to search. I tell you the noema is real dumb. It needs a lot of training. That is why Paul says in II Cor. 10 get that noema subject to Christ. It's the noema that the devil blinds. In II Cor. 4 Paul says the god of this world blinds the noema.

So close your eyes every body and pray in the Spirit. Do you have any word that rise inside or any sort of a picture? This person says that he is having a picture of Solomon's temple. So, his ennoia is functioning with his dianoia but the enthumesis and the dialogismos is nothing yet. I have some thing from the ennoia that goes to the dianoia. It is a picture of an eagle clutching some thing. At the same time, there are

two words, steady, ready. Now what I see inside me is a picture of an eagle clutching some thing. Then two words that come steady, ready.

Some of you will receive something if you are praying for another person. We are talking about being led by the Spirit. The reason is people are not being sensitive to the mind of their spirit because they are only sensitive to the mind of their soul. And they miss out a lot of things. If we will enter deep into the level of the spirit, you could actually pick up things from the kind of the spirit within us. It is line upon line, precept upon precept; we don't know every thing at once. So, you may have to pray for some time before you see the whole picture. I would reckon if we keep praying for an hour we probably have hundreds of things. And if we put it all together it will be a very clear picture. But this is only an illustration about how it function.

Knowing that the eagle represents a part of the covenant creature with God like Isa. 40. So, my noema relates to Isa. 40. So, that to me talks about some process on waiting upon God. But at the same time, the eagle is clutching some thing. That means not to let go of some thing that you got a hold of in your spirit. And the other factor is the words ready and steady. It tells us that you have to be ready for some thing. If you are not ready when the opportunity comes, you will miss it. God is saying that some thing is going to happen and you got to be very steady and be ready to launch down like an eagle and grab the chicken. We are illustrating how you enter into the inner corridors of your spirit in order to get direction from God. Now perceiving in the spirit is step-by-step, line upon line, precept upon precept. The picture gets clearer and clearer day-by-day.

So, you may have to keep a notebook on that. A lot of my directions come that way. Its built over a period of time. Lets say like the new premises that we are building. We have been incubating it for some time. The closer we get I began to receive clear and clear details of certain things what to do. It is the same with the ministry in Singapore. We are going to start an evening service there. Two years ago, there was some thing not so clear. But as time goes by, I get a lot of details of what to do, how to organize it. Only recently, we got through some registration. So, the Lord teaches what to do, which department, all these details come line upon line, precept upon precept. A lot of people are waiting to be led by the Spirit but they don't know what it is. They only think of one way of leading by the Spirit. God will shout from heaven and give all His instructions to us. Your inward voice and the inner thoughts of your mind of your spirit will function together with your inward witness. If you go through this series seriously and really absorb it, you will not be able to say at the end of it I don't know how to be led by the Spirit. You would know how to get God's leading in your life.

7. IMPRESSIONS FROM THE SPIRIT MAN

We have been speaking about the mind and all the various components of the mind. We have shown how there are five Greek words, four of them translated thought and one of them translated as mind that has reference especially to the function to our spirit and to our soul in hearing the voice of the spirit man. Just to check how much you have remembered, what are those words? *Dianoia*, *dialogismos*, *enthumesis*, *ennoia*, *noema*. So, we have the five Greek words and each of them refers to a part of our being. We have mentioned that the word *noema* has been used more to refer to the conscious mind. The word *dialogismos* and the word *dianoia* refer to the logical part of our mind and the imagination part of our mind respectively. Now both *dialogismos* and *dianoia* are within our sub-conscious mind. But a portion of it contacts the *noia* where it is joined together. And so to a certain extent the imagination partly is in the conscious yet the major part of it is in the sub-conscious state. It's stored inside. It is the same with *dialogismos*, which functions in your sub-conscious mind and reason that go beyond your conscious mind.

Then we have said that basing on Heb. 4:12 that the word of God is sharper than a two edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrows and it's a discerner of the intents and thoughts of our hearts. Notice he is talking about our heart. The word heart has reference to our spirit man, not all the time but especially most of the time. And he talks about the word heart. Something is going on within the heart. And the word thoughts is the word *enthumesis* in Heb. 4:12. And that refers to a part of our mind, which is in our spirit man. Our spirit man has a mind. Then the other word intent in Heb. 4:12 is from the word *ennoia* which is a different word altogether and that word *ennoia* refers to the very source. You see *dianoia* is the function of the *noia* a part of the mind but *ennoia* talks about something within that is the very source of it. So, we are pointing to the fact that *ennoia* and *enthumesis* are functions of the spirit mind.

We have gone into some Greek translation in the last message if you remember in Romans chapter 8. Lets look at Romans chapter 8 again. In verse 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. In the last message we mentioned how in the Greek, it actually says for the mind of the flesh is death and the mind of the Spirit is life and peace. It did not just say to be carnally minded. It says the mind of the flesh. Then he goes on to say the mind of the spirit. Apparently, Paul is presenting a picture that there is a mind of the spirit and there is a mind of the soul. There are two separate minds within us. We are talking about how to be led by the Spirit. The voice of the spirit man sounds as the thinking as the spirit man rising within us. See our spirit man also reason but it's a higher realm and it flows from within us. When the Greek use the word thought they could specify which part of the thought that they were talking about whether it was a logical thought or imaginative thought. They will immediately know which area. But in the English language, we have only one word for thought. Then Paul especially uses the word mind of the spirit. He is referring to the fact that our spirit has an independent mind from the mind of our soul.

We are going to go further from here. Lets look at Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave

Himself for me. Paul is saying I have been crucified, that means the “I” has died. But then goes on to say, and the life which I now live. One moment he says the “I” has died and then he says, the “I” is alive. What is he talking about? I have been crucified and then he says the life, which I now live. When we use the word, “I” there are a lot of possibilities. Does the “I” arise from the soul or does it refer to the spirit? Paul obviously was talking about his soul. He says his soul and all his fleshly nature has been crucified. The carnal mind and all that has been inherited within has been crucified. And the life which I now live - the life which my spirit man, that is, the second “I” now live - and I live by faith and the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. So, the second “I” of him being alive refers to his spirit man. There are two “I”s. So sometimes when you say, “I would like to do this,” we have to ask ourselves whether the “I” refers to your soul or your spirit man. If it comes from your spirit man then you are learning to be led by the Spirit. If it does not come from the spirit man then it is your soul bringing a suggestion.

Kenneth Hagin was talking one time how he and his wife were praying about going to a little church and he knew some background of that church. Then as he was praying and discussing with his wife he wanted confirmation. If you are married and you are seeking to be led by the Spirit make sure that your life partner agrees before you move. You don’t move independently of your life partner. What shall I do if the other is slow of hearing, slow of learning, slow of responding? Then you slow down. You don’t push your way. For example, if one is called and if one has not responded to that call then you can wait for the other one to hear from God. You ask, “Will God judge me?” Let’s say God speaks to our brother and let’s say his wife has not heard yet. So, God is telling him to do some thing. But she has not heard it yet. What will he do? Will his inaction be counted as disobedience? That’s a big question. But we have to take into account that he is married and what he does is going to affect her and the whole family. Now if what God speaks to him only affects his life, then he alone is responsible. For example if God is speaking to him to get up at 4 a.m. to wait on God. There is nothing to do with her. Now it has no effect in a sense on the family life except the positive effect that he obeyed. He doesn’t have to get up at 4 a.m. stand at the bedpost and starts singing and waking up the whole family. He could quietly obey the Lord because that is a decision that does not affect the family its more his personal. Now if he disobeys God in that dimension that refers to him he is responsible. And if he postpones it, he bears the responsibility.

But there are some areas that cross what I call the personal line. That is if God speaks to him to leave his job, the decision will affect his family. It would mean an adjustment of all the family life. Now that is a different decision. Its not only that his life that is going to be affected. His family is involved. It has crossed what I call the personal line. When it crosses the personal line, it would be his responsibility to consult with the wife. So let’s say God speaks to him to leave and go into the ministry. And she is not convinced yet. Let’s say that she is not hearing it. What happens is the moment he speaks to her and said, “God has been speaking to me in regard to my job that I had to leave and go into this ministry.” He expressed it to her. See the bible says honor the wife. And then to the wife it says submit to your husband. So there is a relationship that you enter when you get married. You gave up a part of your rights. Otherwise, there is no meaning to the word honoring and submission. So, he would yield the honor to her. He says, “God has been speaking to me in this. And I realize that the decision is going to affect the whole family. And I will not move until you

hear from God as a confirmation.” So, the moment he says that to her and say, “I am quite sure God spoke to me on this but I may miss on the timing. You are my life partner and you are supposed to confirm.” The moment he gave it to her the whole responsibility comes on her. If he does not obey yet because she had not heard anything, the responsibility is not his; its hers. If there is a delay its no more his its hers. And God will begin to deal in her life if its God’s speaking. See God has placed that check in our life for family relationship.

The reverse is true. Lets say she hears from God and he does not hear. Lets say it’s a personal matter that does not affect the family. Then she can make that decision. But if it is a matter that affect the whole family. Lets say she feels that she has a call of God and she has to drop every thing. She would need to yield and submit to him. Now these are what I call general principles. Certain things cross the personal line and enter what I call the family line. But within the whole family line and concept there is this guidance that every thing must be biblical. In other words, if one life partner chooses to go outside the will of God, outside the Word of God, there is no way and no passage in the bible that says you must follow. Lets say if one spouse says, “I am not going to follow Jesus. I want to smoke and drink. I want you to go along with me to the pub.” You don’t need to hear from God in a sense. The bible is clear. Make your stand. But it will cause disharmony in the home. Make your stand. It’s a stand in regard to the Word of God itself. See those areas are completely outside the Word. You don’t need a thunderous voice from heaven to say, “It’s not My will for you to go to the pub and drink and smoke.” You don’t need to hear that; the Word of God is very clear. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. And we don’t want to defile the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit that dwells inside us does not want a smoky house. Somebody asks, “Where in the bible is smoking wrong?” We got this question to ask you, “Is smoking in the flesh or in the Spirit?” So, we realize that the bible principles do apply on certain areas. We are talking about the general principles and then areas of God’s Word already covered. We make decisions and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the light of these principles mentioned.

By its very nature, our spirit man will receive guidance through line upon line and precept upon precept. It’s both ways. For example, if you open the scripture and read it out loud. Depending on your yielded ness to the Lord, your concentration on the Lord and your ability not to be distracted, you may read five chapters and maybe about three or four chapters really get into your spirit and the rest you didn’t get it. It just gets into the mind. But as you keep reading it a greater portion of it gets into your spirit. It does not mean that if you read a passage once, it’s automatically in your spirit. Sometimes, it just enters straight and there is no hindrance. But sometimes certain things take quite sometime to sink into your spirit.

That is why we know certain things are right but we don’t have the spiritual strength to do it. Like for example, a person may be fully convinced that smoking doesn’t glorify God. They want to be free but the strength to be freed is not there. What do they do? Take the scriptures everywhere where it talks about strength. Where it talks about the power of the Holy Spirit that can set you free from all these physical bondages. And everyday confess it and meditate it. And through time, some of those scriptures will get into your spirit. The moment it gets into your spirit the strength to overcome takes place.

Or lets say you are having a problem with unforgiveness. You are hurt. You are crushed. It's very difficult to forgive. You want to because you know it's the right thing. But you find the lack of strength. What do you do? Take scriptures on love, meditate and confess until it sinks into your life. And when it sinks into your life the ability is there.

The question is getting God's Word in our spirit not only in our mind. Sometimes we hear something in our mind and it is not in our spirit yet. We all realize that is a true fact. That is a true phenomena and experience that some things take time to get into our spirit. We wish that we could be so opened to God that it just sinks in. Sometimes, it's that way sometimes its not. We just have to be faithfully meditating on the Word until it gets in. So there is a measure of time and a proportion of the Word getting into our spirit from the physical realm when we choose to meditate on God's Word. The opposite is true. Just as it takes time for the Word of God from the physical realm, where we hear with our audible ears and read it with our physical eyes, it takes time to get into our spirit man.

The opposite is true. Whatever activity is in our spirit man it takes time for the soul mind and our physical being to pick it up from the spirit. Sometimes, there are things in our spirit that we can not perceive yet. We could of course jump to the conclusion. Some people sense some tangible sensation in their spirit and they jump to the conclusion. A lot of them are wrong. A lot of people claim, "I discern this, I discern that." But a lot of them are not discernment but is the analyzing of their soul. They may have a tangible witness but their interpretation is wrong. A lot of people interpret wrongly and think that the Spirit is leading them. We realize that the interpretation is an important part. See the interpretation is where we really begin to perceive what God is speaking to us. God's Spirit dwells in our spirit man and there are a lot of things that He is speaking to our spirit man. It takes time for it to rise into our soul, to rise to full comprehension by our noema conscious mind. It takes time for it to rise from the ennoia and the enthumesis and rise into your dialogismos and your dianoa and rise into your noema. Until it reaches noema there is no conscious understanding. It must rise into our conscious understanding.

Sometimes the time can mean a period of a month or two. Sometimes, it's just a few weeks. Sometimes, it's just a few days. What causes it? You must remember that unlike Jesus we have an imperfect mind. We have a mind that is still on the way to being renewed. We have a mind that at one point has served the flesh. The bible says that the carnal mind is an enemy against God. An enemy is somebody who fights against you. An enemy is different from a stranger. There could be many strangers but they are different from enemies. A stranger has no relation with you yet. They may be friendly or they may be unfriendly. But you do not know yet because you have no relationship with them. They are strangers. It did not say that the carnal mind is just a stranger to the things of God. The bible in Rom. 8 says the carnal mind the mind of the flesh is an enemy. You see an enemy is different from a stranger. An enemy fights you. And enemy goes against you. An enemy opposes you. It tells us that carnal mind will not accept the things of God it will just go against it. That's why it's not easy to discern the things of the Spirit rising within our life. It's not easy for the things of God to rise.

We are not talking about the voice of the Holy Spirit. We are talking about the voice of the human spirit. If we really want to rely on the guidance of the human spirit, that

is the problem here. Ninety five percent of the leading of God lies in the realm of the inward witness and the inward voice, which is the voice of the human spirit. Ninety five percent of the time. The rest of the time is the leading by the voice of the Holy Spirit and other supernatural manifestations. So, a great major portion of our life is to be led by the human spirit. Which indirectly becomes led by the Holy Spirit and the total life you can call it led by the Spirit. So, it's important for us to pick up what rises from our spirit, which may take time to filter into our noema or our conscious mind. Why because sometimes as it rises our mind questions it. Our mind won't accept it. Sometimes some of the answers to the problems in our life come from there and we don't realize it's in our spirit man. See our spirit man is an expert on things physical, on things social, on things in our soul as well as things in the Spirit. Our spirit man is capable of teaching us to do natural things that are beyond natural education.

That is why when the Lord Jesus appeared to Kenneth Hagin He was talking about life He says, "You will keep following your human spirit and you will be led into prosperity. The human spirit will teach you to prosper. The human spirit will teach you the things of life."

Like for example in my own life I am very sensitive to chemicals to a certain extend. So at one time, I used to have plenty of ulcers in my mouth and its very uncomfortable. Not all ulcers come from the devil. The ulcers can come when you accidentally bite yourself Then it develop an ulcer. Ulcers can come as a result of lack of vitamins in your life. Of course, ulcers can come from virus and infections too. There are many causes not just one simplified cause. So, I used to have that. It seems to be quite common in my family. So from time to time, the voice of my human spirit rises and my noema tells me to eat more fruits. As I prayed about that, there rises this inner thought. At first, I ignore it because it's not logical. It didn't arise in my dianoia it arises in my enthumesis. There was this funny thought that said that the toothpaste I was using have some chemical inside that I was reacting to. Its not the thought that says get rid of that tooth paste, it's a very gentle.

And it rises at times you don't expect it. But it is very persistent in bubbling up at times. Every time I get the pain from the ulcer, I say, "Lord I am preaching your Word and my voice, my mouth and my lips are the most important. They are important to me for I am a preacher." If you are a mechanic and you work with your hands, your hands are important for your work. I am talking from a point for having overcome that problem. It may be small to you but it was big to me. Especially when some times you preach seven days a week. You try it with a mouth full of ulcers. Then there is this thought that arises from the inside. Then one day I was talking to my wife and said maybe it's the tooth paste. See my noema tells me maybe it's my toothpaste. Why do I say maybe? It was because there was no thunder rolling, lightening flashing, and angels singing and saying, "Thy toothpaste is thy problem." Then I began to change toothpaste and then the ulcers disappeared. So, we settled on a certain toothpaste. Then I said, "Let me experiment," - this cat is curious. I don't take any thing for granted. I have a very scientific approach to things. So, I went back to the old toothpaste and zoom the ulcers came back. You may have an ulcer problem and yours may have a different answer, not all are caused by the same thing.

That is an example of how the spirit man can help you on a physical problem. It does not just rise instantly. Why, because it takes time for our noema to catch on to the things the spirit is saying. And the spirit could be saying a lot of things. It takes time

for our noema our conscious mind to catch what the spirit is saying. I have seen a consistent pattern. Its always line upon line, precept upon precept. There is gradualness and in time, it becomes clearer and clearer. It seems to be line upon line, precept upon precept.

Like for example, I had it six months before 1981. In 1981 we went and visited the States and visited Kenneth Hagin's ministry. (I lived in Penang, Malaysia at that time.) About six months before that I was ministering in a different church then. **I used to receive Kenneth Hagin's Word of Faith magazines very regularly. As I was reading it, there was this faint tiny impression it says you are going to be there in the next Camp meeting.** I ignored it. I said no way. There is no way physically, financially I could do it. I just ignored it but the thought was very persistent. When my noema said no way, it disappeared quickly. Like the spirit man is very shy. Maybe shy is not the word maybe it's very gentle. It doesn't like to argue. It doesn't like to fight. If you say no, it keeps quiet. Then after several weeks, it came back again, "I tell you, you are going." I said that couldn't be. But this is what happened. It slowly rises and became stronger and stronger. It rises in such a way that you can not even pick up how it rises. It's just like your children growing up. You don't realize how much they are growing. Everyday you look at them they look the same. But anybody that has not seen them for a year and see them wow they have grown. But everyday you see them you don't realize. You could hardly pick up the growth. In the same way, it's like that when you are led by your spirit man it rises from within you. The eye from your spirit man it rises and seems to get stronger and clearer. You could pick up that's God speaking.

Even the great big ministry sometimes is led that way. **Oral Roberts** was speaking one time in one of his books. Someone asked how does God speaks to you. He didn't say it was from the spirit man but from his analysis, it was his spirit man. This was what he said. **I know God is speaking to me when I have a persistent impression or thought that keeps coming over a period of many months and it gets clearer.**

Now coming back to our friend Hagin. I was sharing the story about how Hagin at one time was talking to his wife about going to this little church. The wife said, "I don't like to go," and she asked the husband, "Do you like it?" Hagin said, "No, I don't like it but I sensed that we should go." The wife said, "I don't want to go but a part of me says O.K. I want to go." Then Hagin asked her this question, "Is the 'I' that wants to go - is it the human soul or the human spirit? Which part is that? Check very carefully." Then as she checked within herself, she sensed that it was **her soul that doesn't like to do it. But her spirit likes to do it.** There is a part of her that wants to go and there is a part of her that doesn't want to go. Sometimes our soul and our spirit are not in harmony. So the next time you want to **do something check very carefully. Is it your soul that wants to do it or is it your spirit?**

This is being led by the inward man. We need to develop a sensitivity to the voice of our human spirit. We have emphasized on how it grows clearer and clearer and deeper and deeper as we reach out with our spirit man. And not purposely consciously trying to think of an area that's different. The function of our mind and our soul is this. When we want to focus on something, we do a lot of concentration. Like you are doing a great big geometrical calculation, your mind is very focused. Not your spirit but your mind. Like for example if I am playing chess and I am playing with a very good player, my mind is very focused. So, the natural mind is activated by your

concentration and analyzing. But the spirit mind functions by yielding to different ways. You can only hear from the spirit realm and your spirit man when you are in a yielded position, which comes usually in worship and in surrender.

Lets get some scriptures in Romans 8:6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it can not; and those who are in the flesh can not please God. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness.

Remember what Paul said its no longer I live but Christ. You see if Christ is in me now he says that the life that I now live. So, it's tied up to the spirit man being alive in God. It goes on to say in verse 13 for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Now verse 16 is important. You can not have verse 14 without verse 16. It says It is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. See the leading of the Spirit will always flow with your human spirit. It does not contradict it flows along. That is why in Romans 1:9 when Paul introduced the epistle he says I have been obedient to the Spirit of God and he says he has flowed with his human spirit. Rom. 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit. His human spirit is alive and is well. So, we realize that Paul is a man sensitive to the spirit man. We need to live our life based on the spirit man. Let the spirit man within us rise to make the decisions, to flow in what God wants us to do in our life. The Christ in us, the "I" within us, the "I" of the spirit man that will speaks in our lives in all directions.

Just for a moment just close your eyes and concentrate on the presence of God. I like you to just picture a decision in your life that you are thinking of. Whatever it is whether it is buying a house, buying a new car, or seeking to do a project or whatever. As you close your eyes, I want you to let your consciousness drop to the level of your spirit man within you. The way you can do that is by worshiping and concentrating on Jesus. And that causes the spirit man to be in a yielded position. Like the function of the natural mind and the function of the spiritual mind is different. The natural mind functions by concentration, the spiritual mind functions by yielding to the things of God. So, you ask a question and you check in your spirit. Whatever area of your life.

And as you check what question you are holding in your life right now. Just speak within yourself and you could hear inner thoughts arising within you. I won't say all the thoughts are from the spirit; some could be from your soul. So, I want you to ask God right now and check what the response is to some things in your life or decisions you have to make in your life. Now be sensitive to what the response is. We are talking about being led by the human spirit.

Open your eyes now. Lets use this person for illustration. What did you ask God about?

“Should I work or not?”

That is a big decision. Must I work, should I work or not. So, you got into your spirit and you check within yourself. Now there are the five witnesses of the spirit man. When the thought arises within you about working or not working, what is your sensation of your five sensations? Was it uneasy or peace?

“Peace”. Now when the thought arises about not working is it uneasy or peace.

“Uneasy”.

When the thought arises about working was it uneasy or peaceful. We have not gone to the human spirit voice yet. We were only talking about the sensations. Remember the first two or three on this series. So he is saying here when he thinks about not working. His spirit is uneasy. Now when you think about working, what feeling do you get inside you?

“Smoothly”.

If he gets that, do you know he is responsible for what he hears now in his spirit man? We are responsible. In Hagin’s “I Believe in Visions” biography, Jesus appeared to him and Jesus mentioned this. My people are responsible for what they pick up in their spirit as much as what they read in the bible in what I say to them. In other words for Jesus He takes any supernatural whether it be not so spectacular leading as important. It’s a tiny little passage that says that. That’s what the Lord Jesus said. You are responsible to the rhema that you are hearing as much as to the logos that you are reading. That just tells him what to do and what not to do. He doesn’t quite know what job yet. There are thousands of jobs. And I am sure that inside him he could sense easiness for a certain type of job and non-easiness for other types of jobs. See that is being led by his human spirit.

Let go to the reverse side. Here is where inside his spirit he will sense. Now he knows that he is supposed to work but what job? So as he closes his eyes, he just picks up within his spirit the kind of job that his spirit will feel comfortable with in line with his field of study.

“A legal job.”

He will be comfortable with a legal job. See that eliminates thousands of other jobs. So, he has one direction. The only thing he does not have now is the name of the company he is going to work in. From general it gets to more and more specific. That is what I meant by being led by your human spirit.

The human spirit leading is different from the Holy Spirit leading. The Holy Spirit will lead and say the man at Timbuktu Street living at house No. 13. The house is a terrace house. The upper floor is wooden the ground floor is brick. As you go to the gate there is a gardener name Tan Ah Kow. Tan Ah Kow will come out and he will take you to the house and you are supposed to minister to a paralyzed man. That leading of the Spirit is very precise.

The voice of the Spirit can give details all at once. But your human spirit’s leading is line upon line, precept upon precept. Sometimes, you don’t get it until you ask. That’s

the strange thing about the human spirit. You don't get it until you ask. It's just sometimes like it's a part of you but yet it's separate from you. It's just like our mind. Our mind is a wonderful gift of God its very analytical. If I were to understand some thing, I have to get my mind to get into that before I can get some keys and some answers.

For example, when we go into computerizing in our church and office, whether I like it or not I have to get into computer programming and have a look at that. One reason is because we want to be independent. Sometimes when you get an external programmer in then anything goes wrong you got to get them to come back. They may not do it the way we want it. So I say, "Lord you help me. I set my mind on this do some reading on that. You help me with the rest." I won't get a leading if I sit down and do nothing. The human spirit leading you doesn't get anything if you don't do any thing. A lot of people who are not doing anything and they are not getting anything. They are just sitting down. The only difference was they were putting on weight. And they are wondering, "I wonder why God doesn't speak to me." Remember the human spirit you need to ask, you need to seek. It's just like the function of the mind. If I sit around, get a computer, and just dump it in the office it won't get computerized by itself. So before I make a decision I did a study on the software then I make a decision. Having made the decision then we do the purchasing. Then you do the programming. So, if you sit down and do nothing there is nothing. Its just like in the natural world if you want some training in a certain job, you got to go after it.

See part of the leading in the Spirit is Acts 16 style. In the book of Acts 16 Paul in a sense was being led by the human spirit too. He was a preacher of the Word. As he was moving about preaching the Word, the bible says he tried to go to Bithynia. If the Spirit leads Paul, why must he try? Why don't he just sit down and pray, "Holy Spirit, Wind of God, blow whichever way You will." Why doesn't he just do that and let the wind blow him? **He kept moving. He moved to Bithynia and the Spirit says no. He was forbidden.** Why must he enter forbidden area? Because there is no way you can get a leading if you just sit down. **Then he tries to go to Mysia. The Holy Spirit says no. In the end, he went to Troas, which he felt peaceful about it and he spent a night there. That night in Troas in Acts 16, he had a supernatural leading.** See the leadings of God are not all the time spectacular. They are a hundred percent supernatural but 95 percent not so spectacular but still supernatural. There he had the five percent spectacular happened. Paul the apostle doesn't had it spectacular all the time. God loves us but He doesn't spoil us. Imagine what kind of Christian you will be if all the time you have spectacular leading? "Turn left." "Yes Lord." "Turn right." "Yes, Lord." You would be a dummy. God doesn't make you one. He wants you to grow up until your mind is in tune with God. Your soul is in tune with God. Your mind becomes spiritualized. When Paul was in Troas, he had this dream a vision of the night. And a voice says, "Come over here and help us." It was a Macedonian man. Obviously, that was God speaking in the five percent area. Notice he has to move. So, in the natural in those areas you got to move.

Now the leading of the human spirit is like that. You put yourself in a yielded position but you got to ask, you got to seek. You don't ask you don't get it. Like for example, there is this minister who began to move into the word of knowledge. So, he received this word from the Lord, "Somebody here has a backache," that's too general. Then

he says, “Lord you tell me the backache why don’t you tell me the person?” As he began to move, more details came. See the details won’t come when you don’t ask. There are many times when the details don’t come because we don’t ask even though God wants to give it. God wants to give it but the details don’t come until we ask. God does not teach us to be lazy. There is always an effort on our part but it’s a yielded effort I call that.

So there is this leading of the human spirit we have to move, we have to function, we have to seek into that area. Like for example, if you have an impression on certain thing test it out. Not necessary do it yet but you test it out. Sometimes when I receive some impression in my spirit, I will test it out. Your life partner is one of the best. Sometimes, I just throw it to my brothers and sisters in Christ just to pick it up. So, in the same way I just throw it around just to pick it up.

Now in the natural, this was the test that they did. Several months ago, it came out in the Reader Digest that they wanted to test out the ability of human beings to predict the future. Not those false prophets or something. Just ordinary blue collar or white collar workers. So they will get all of them singularly and say, “Write down what you think will happen for a certain event in this country.” This test was done in United States. What do you think about the election? Just guessing, nothing spiritual. Human prediction. What do you think about the economic event? All of them wrote down in answer to his questions. What he did was he collected all their responses. And this was what he did. He read out all their responses minus their names of course and said that 50 percent of you gave this answer, 60 percent gave this answer. This was what the rest say. So, he gives it back to them in a general sense. After giving back to them, he said, “Now you all consider what the others said and go back re-think and come back and predict again.” Their second round becomes more accurate. Why? Iron sharpens iron.

That is why some people like to know what God is speaking to the body of Christ today. Some evangelists or some five-fold ministers are lone rangers. They say I believe God is speaking this to the body Christ. They don’t fellowship around. They don’t throw around and exchange what God is speaking to the body of Christ. As a result of their isolation its usually isolated and slightly off tangent. But the ministries that get the most accurate picture of what God is speaking to the body usually are those who are in fellowship with general leadership of the church. See you may think God is speaking that to you. You may think that is the most important thing. Every ministry thinks that certain thing is most important. But the other parts of the body balance you. We are all one part not the complete whole. Then when you began to hear what the other parts of the body are speaking you go back and re-examine your stand. So, I am showing here that there is an element of what I call leading of the general body. For example, some person may have a leading, “God told me to do this.” Lets say he throw it out to me for my discernment. I give my frank and honest opinion of what I picked up without thus says the Lord. When there is no thus says the Lord I say there is no thus says the Lord. That means you can go against my perception if you want to since it is only how I perceived. Then I can say this is what the general consensus and this is what I sensed you should do: go and check with others too. As the person checks with others, he or she could move into the area with more accuracy.

Here is where Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upholds itself in love. A joint is not one part. A joint is a minimum of two parts, maybe three or four or five. It did not say what every part supply. But it says what every joint supply. Now if I were a manufacturer of socks and he is a manufacturer shoes, I say, "Can I supply you with socks to go along with your shoes?" But I can not say that we are a joint supply. "My supply" is different from "our joint supply." Suppose you operate an army and you are buying shoes and socks. You say, "I want to order green socks and green shoes too." "I am sorry I don't supply green shoes. Green shoes go over there." So you are being serviced by one supply from me and one supply from him. But you need a combination and you say, "I need both of you to work together." Then when we get together and we figure out a way to do it. Then we supply some thing that is joined. It did not say what every part supply. It says, "Every joint supplies." You can not supply alone by yourself. It is what the joint supply. That's where we talk about body ministry. That's where we talk about fellowship. If you are married start with your wife then the next stage your close brothers and sisters in Christ. Then the general body. You don't do some thing isolated. You have to check and sometimes, you can not just choose whom to check with. Because some times birds of the feather flock together. You have to check with the Word of God and all the basic things we have mentioned. And you have to give this option. If you feel that the church should do this but the leader of the church (if he is truly walking with God) don't feel it, you have to follow along. Let say if I as an under-shepherd of the church don't sense it, you have to take my word for it. Because you may pick up what one part says. I may pick up what the other 90 percent and make a decision. The most important thing is for us to be opened to the leadings of God. Then we flow with the leadings of God together.

8. PERCEIVING IN THE HUMAN SPIRIT

In the last message, we talked about how our spirit man can discern and pick up things from God. It is through precept upon precept and line upon line. We can not know all things at one time if we are picking it up through our spirit man. However, when you receive things through a gift of the Holy Spirit, God can give quite some details. That's the voice of the Holy Spirit. We have covered the inward witness that has five sensations. Then we covered on the inward voice of the spirit man. We have not gone into the voice of the Holy Spirit yet. In the inward voice of the spirit man, we have talked about the mind of the Spirit and how it comes and in great details.

Today we want to see what is perceived in the spirit. What it means to receive and pick up things in the spirit like the Lord Jesus. So let's turn to the gospel of Mark 2:8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?" Notice that when the bible says, "Jesus perceived in His spirit," it is always in reference to His spirit man perceiving. It has nothing to do with the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking directly. As we have mentioned what our spirit received is indirectly from the Holy Spirit but not directly. It is what the spirit man picks up from the Holy Spirit. But as far as we are concerned when a message is relayed to us, it's a perception of our human spirit. There are other verses that talked about how **Jesus perceived the thoughts of others** and how Jesus perceived things. Both are in reference to Jesus' spirit man's operating. His spirit man is able to reach forth and perceive. That is especially in reference to His spirit man.

The spirit man can perceive different things in different ways. If the spirit man just perceived tangibly, it would have been an inward witness. If the spirit man begins to hear from the spirit realm and conveys that to our mind, that would be an inward voice operating in our lives. So lets look at some things that have taken place in the bible. In the gospel of Mark, we mentioned how everything Jesus perceived is through His spirit man. Now lets look at Luke 8:46 Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now there is a perception there. The word perceived is used. Jesus said He perceived power going out from Him. His perception was not in reference to physical knowledge. The woman did not touch His skin, which has nerve cells. The woman touched His garments and normally if somebody just touches your garments, you wouldn't have known it. In those days, they wear long robes. So, it would be easy to touch the garment without touching the skin. So, the woman just touched the edge of His garments and there was no physical way that Jesus would have known it. Yet, in the spirit realm because power has flown out from Jesus, Jesus perceived that something has happened. There was a healing virtue going out from Him.

As we get sensitive to the spirit realm and the spirit man within us whenever you minister to people whether through preaching, teaching or ministry of laying on of hands, you could perceive in your spirit whether power goes out from you or not. Sometimes like one evangelist who recently has been with us told me how he went to a certain church and he said when he preached he felt like he was preaching in a tunnel. And the people were not opened. It was like preaching to a wall. He felt that heaviness in his spirit. See what he perceived was that the power of the Word of God was not being received. We could train our spirit man to pick up whether there is a

flow or there is no flow. The next time you visit the hospitals be sensitive to the spirit man. As you share scriptures, as you counsel a person, pick up in your spirit whether it's flowing or not. If the person is not receiving, you are wasting your time. It would have been far better for you to just pray a general prayer for that person or may be a more specific prayer like God helping them to understand further. We have to be sensitive to our spirit man for our spirit man can perceive and pick up something inside us.

Ginosko

The bible uses different words for the word perceive. There are three Greek words. In Luke 8 in this particular verse, which we have just read, the word perceived is a normal word ginosko, which means to know. And ginosko speaks about knowing not only in the spirit man but a knowing that comes to the understanding and to the mind. So, that was a great degree of Jesus' perception. Jesus has developed Himself and His spirit man to such an extent that when He knows in His spirit He knows in His understanding perfectly. Sometimes we know in the spirit but we don't know in the understanding perfectly. Jesus knows; He completely understood what it was about. Notice that Jesus didn't just perceived power. He perceived that power had gone out. He perceived that somebody had been healed. Look at the question that He asked. Lk. 8:46 Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me. He knew that there was a healing that took place. His understanding of what His spirit man perceived was perfect. The word ginosko is used. He knew without a shadow of a doubt.

There is another scripture here in Lk. 9:46-47 Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him. It tells us that there was a quarrel among the disciples. Jesus was coming to the end of His manifested ministry to the disciples and in Israel. And He was going to go to Jerusalem soon. The bible tells us that the disciples, thinking or interpreting that the Messiah would come and set up the kingdom, began to argue who was to be the Prime Minister, or who was to be the one next to Him. They like to have some glory. While they were arguing, Jesus picked it up. He perceived ginosko that there was this dispute among them. They didn't tell Him that.

Sometimes when you visit a home or a place you perceive that there is strife. Nobody tells you but your spirit picks it up. Whenever I go and minister in any church I could straight away pick up whether they are spiritually and structurally sound or not. Whether their leadership set up was in harmony or in disharmony. You could pick it up in your spirit without anybody telling you at all. The spirit can perceive. We can pick up information. For Jesus the level He operated was perfect. He understood what perception is. Sometimes our spirit perceives but our mind doesn't understand it. We get it line upon line, percept upon precept. Only in Jesus' case do you see the words straight away being used. He ginosko and knew what they were quarreling about. Sometimes you pick up strife but you don't what the strife is about. You could go to a place or a home or anywhere and you pick up that strife but you do not know what the strife is about. You just know that there is disharmony.

But when Jesus picked up the strife, the word ginosko is used. He perceived and He completely understood what He perceived. Ginosko is always used for the soul or

soul's comprehension. His soul perfectly understood His spirit. Jesus knew about the strife and He knew what the strife was about. The strife was about which one of them is the greatest. And He straightaway took a little child and says if anyone of you wants to be great let him be like a little child. See He knew what they were struggling about. He brought an answer to their strife straight away.

Sometimes that can happen if we tune ourselves to our spirit man. Our spirit man is able to know more and far above what our mind is able to know. However unless it communicates to our mind the perception is only to a certain extent. Like for example, you may perceive disharmony in a home you are visiting, but you don't know what it is all about. It could be one thousand and one things under the sun. People could fight over finances. People could fight over space, children's activities etc. You wouldn't know in what particular area yet. All you could sense is disharmony and you probably could minister generally. It would be good if we could tune ourselves to the extent to perceive, to understand ginosko, which means to know perfectly with the understanding the things that are being strived about.

In the development of our spirit man, we could actually train ourselves to be very specific. Being experienced in church ministry the moment I step into a church I could know straight away whether there is a structural fault or not. I not only pick up whether there is disharmony I could pick up whether the structure is working O.K. Perhaps you are working in the field of accountancy. You not only work at it with your mind but because you are born again Christian, you try to apply spiritual principles and you try to operate on a higher law. So what happen is you have an added advantage. You are not only working with the soul and with the flesh as the world does, you work with your spirit and with your renewed mind. Sometimes your spirit picks up something and you know that is not right in the accounting area. And if you could reach a stage like ginosko like Jesus, you would know specifically which area to check into, which area that is not done properly and even which area there is some cover up.

God is a practical God. He will lead us in all the practical things of life. He will lead you in how to get the job. He will lead you into what field of education to move into. He will lead you in doing your work to the highest extend possible. He will lead us in whatever vocation we are in. King David was a king and he sought God for all the affairs of his kingdom. When Daniel was a Prime Minister, I am sure he sought in his affairs that he has. The Spirit can lead us in whatever vocation we are. For example, you could be an electrical engineer. There are problems that people gave to you. Sometimes engineers try and they could not solve the problem. You seek the cause of the problem from your spirit. You allow your spirit man to perceive and to pick up something. So, the spirit man through your training usage and application, you could pick up some problems. That's how powerful training our spirit is. Its just like training the mind but more powerful. We realized that an untrained mind would miss something. But there are blessing of a trained mind. If a mind can be trained in skills and other areas, how much more should we train the spirit man to perceive ginosko perfectly with a conscious mind. When your spirit man can perceive perfectly, you would understand the problem and you know the solution to the problem. Your spirit man could perceive straight away.

Horao

So lets go now to the apostle Paul. There are three occasions where apostle Paul perceived with his spirit man. The occurrence that is mentioned of Paul perceiving is found in Acts 14:8 And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. The bible says in verse 9 Paul seeing that he had faith to be healed. He perceived; he saw that he had faith to be healed. The word translated in the New King James is the word see. He saw his faith. The Old King James put it as perceived. Some other translations also use the word perceived. The reason the NKJV translated the word as see instead of perceived is because it is a different Greek word horao, which means to see. But it perceives in the realm of sight.

When we started this series, we talked about how our spirit man has five senses. Just as our physical man has five senses, the sense of sight, the sense of hearing, the sense of smell, the sense of taste and the sense of touch, so the spirit man also has five senses. If right now you were to die and go to heaven you would still be able to see, hear, touch, smell and taste. Of course, we have to experience that otherwise we won't enjoy heaven. It doesn't mean that when you go to heaven you become a cloud or just a form of existence. We will still look like our physical being except it's in its perfect state. Notice that when we teach on how to be led by the Spirit the five sensations of the spirit man we focused only on touch. Then there are other aspects of a spirit man like the sense of sight. Now the sense of smell in the spirit realm is also linked to the sense of touch. You hear of people smelling demons.

One day I was walking to a food stall for some supper. We were walking from the church to the stall, which was about 15 minutes' walk. We passed by a person and the evangelist sort of had a reaction. He jerked and then he continued walking. I asked him, "What happened?" He said he just smelled a demon. So, that was his special ministry. It not only works in the negative but it also works in the positive. Sometimes you smell the fragrance of the Lord. I would include that among the five senses. The sense of taste, touch and smell all work together in the spirit realm. I will include them all under the sensations of the spirit man. Why, because they are not in the area of logic where you are given instructions but it's just a detection of things. You just detect the presence or the absence of something. The sense of sight and the sense of hearing even in the physical realm are the more powerful senses. In fact, the sense of sight is more powerful than the sense of hearing. So, when you hear some things you could detect more things. Our sense of hearing can detect more things because the communication realm, verbal communication.

Imagine what it will be like to be without sight and without hearing. Do you know we literally can not communicate to you? At least some of those without hearing have sight. Do you know the whole of sign language is based on sight? And even those who are blind at least they could develop their sense of touch and learn Braille. They could feel the pattern of the dots and then somebody tells them it is "A". They feel the next Braille alphabet and their teacher says that's "B". From there, they could learn to read and learn and speak correctly. But imagine if the sight and hearing are gone, you literally become just a vegetable. There is no way we could give you an education. There is no way we can contact and educate your soul. If you only have the sense of

smell, touch and taste, how could anyone give you an education? If I use instructions, you wouldn't hear. So, we realize that in this world we use more of the sight and the hearing for education. It's the sense of sight and hearing that brings us an education.

The natural realm is patterned after the spirit realm. In the spirit realm the sense of sight and the hearing are so important that I classify them under the voice of the human spirit. Because through these two senses you could learn. You could be educated in the spirit realm. If you could hear the voice of your human spirit clearly, you would receive an education from the spirit realm. Why, the spirit man could tell you this is the spiritual "A", "B", and "C". The spirit man could educate you as you read the Word. The spirit man will say, "This is what the Word say." The word *horao* used in Acts 14 is the sense of sight. Perception of the spirit man is in those two realms, the sense of sight and the sense of hearing. Generally if you want to use the word perception you could say any sensation is perception. But we want to use it specifically in the realm of educating our soul. The soul needs communication. Then we need to move into the realm of sight and the realm of hearing from the spirit man.

What Paul was doing here was as he was preaching he saw this man. Apparently, there was no reaction from the man physically or outwardly. He was lying down without strength in his legs. As Paul was preaching he saw he perceived in his spirit and he saw faith. It would be easy for us to perceive faith in a person if they say something or they do something. We could tell by your actions and your words how much faith you have. The man had not said anything nor has he done anything. Its definitely is the perception of the spirit man. Now for Jesus He operated in *ginosko*. *Ginosko* means that the sense of sight and the hearing operate together at once to give a complete understanding. Here Paul perceived in his spirit man. He saw faith in that person. We can sometimes tune our spirit man to see.

Remember we talked about two realms of the mind, the natural mind and the spiritual mind. And we talked about the natural mind and the spiritual mind being divided into two sections. The logical part of the mind is *dialogismos*. The visual or perception part of the mind is *dianoia*. It ties up to this - Paul saw faith in a person.

For example, you could be an electrical engineer and you are praying in a certain area like Harold Heel who wrote a book "How to Live Like A King's Kid". He used to supervise a lot of junior engineers. Sometimes there is an electrical problem in the whole place. What does he do? He applies his spirit man. He goes to the place and starts praying in tongues. As he prays in tongues sometimes, God gives him a vision. In the vision, he sees the exact place where the electrical problem is. He goes direct to it while the other engineers have worked at it for days and couldn't solve the problem. He goes to the exact area and got the problem solved in fifteen minutes. Isn't being led by the Holy Spirit powerful? Sometimes it comes in visual form. That is perceiving or *horao*.

In the book of Acts 8, Simon was a new Christian but there were still bondages in his life. He tried to offer money for spiritual gifts. He got a sharp rebuke from Peter. Besides rebuking him, Peter said a lot of other things. He says in Acts 8:22-23 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.

The Old King James says, "I perceived." In the Old King James is not so clear because they translate the different words as perceive, perceive. But New King James translates the word horao as see, using the same word "see," that is, the sense of sight. I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity. Of course, there has to be seeing in the spirit realm because from the natural there could be nothing that you could detect. Simon could be a well-dressed person and there is no way you could see that he is bound by iniquity. What that word horao conveyed in the Greek is this: the perception that Peter had was from the visual area of his spirit. What probably Peter did was, as he looked he saw something, he may have seen some sort of darkness or an x-ray picture of Simon the magician. We need to pay attention to that because sometimes when you are praying in a certain direction some people only tune to their spiritual ears and not to their spiritual eyes.

In the last message, we were illustrating with someone who was praying about his job. As he prays, he may feel with his five senses whether it is troubling or not troubling, whether it is peaceful or not peaceful. You feel trouble when you are thinking of not working. You feel peaceful when you are thinking of working. So, you know roughly the direction. What he is trying to sense the direction is only from one realm and that is from the sensory realm. This is the realm of his spirit man that touches, tastes and feels. He is just sensing whether there is peace or no peace. Some people develop only that realm. If all you have is that realm, you can go that far but you need to go a little further.

In the book of I Kings talks about Elijah, how he went to the mountain. And in the mountain, he got all kinds of manifestation until he hears the still small voice and only then he quickly went out to hear God. There are many Hebrew words for the word still. There is a song that we sing, "Be still and know that I am God." Do you know it's a different Hebrew word? That word still actually means yield. It is the word rafar. Be yielded and know that He is God. Then the word still in I Kings when Elijah heard that still small voice is the word that means a calm and peaceful stillness. It conveys a peaceful voice. When we want to be directed by God we sense that peaceful voice, that loving voice, that gentle voice.

How do we detect that? Gal. 5:22-23 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Do you notice that the purpose of Galatians chapter five is to teach us to be led by the Spirit? We are referring to the context in verse 16 Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Verse 18 if you are led by the Spirit. Now the purpose of him writing about the fruit of the Spirit is so that we will know how to be led by the Spirit. So, anything that has love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance will be the confirmation of the leading of the Spirit. All these refer to the sensory realm of the spirit man. In hearing the peaceful voice, we are asking whether you have peace or no peace. Now that is only level one. There is another realm of hearing and another realm of seeing. So, some people tune to the hearing part. They would sense more things. Some people tune not only to the hearing part but also to the seeing part.

The next time you pray for direction, remember there are three levels. Level one sensory, level two hearing of the voice of the spirit man and level three seeing is included. We have to tune ourselves to all those three realms and this is still in the realm of the spirit man. We haven't even touched on the voice of the Holy Spirit yet.

At that second and third level is where you can have a complete leading. Remember everything that you do whether in the ministry or in life depends on the strength of your spirit man. You could be called to be an apostle but if the spirit man is not developed, you can not flow through powerfully. Even Paul said in Romans 1:9 that he served God by his spirit.

And that's how some people prophesy. (He called someone to the front.) When I pick out someone, straightaway I would tune to all three realms. I will tune to my inward witness. I will tune to the voice. I will tune to any perception or scene. So, I could pick it up and straight away, I pick a picture. For me the visual occurs very quickly. I could pick a picture. I see my brother here like a bird on a nest. I see this bird picking up sticks building the nest. A nest represents shelter and protection. The Lord is saying, "Take your place," - that is when I began to hear from the hearing realm level two. From level two, I begin to have a gist of the message that God is speaking. The first word starts with take. So, I use the word take. "The Lord says, 'Take your place at the head of your family and head of the house. Take your place boldly,' says the Lord. Be bold and do not fear for He has given you enough strength, He has given you the ability. Take your right place all the time and God is going to cause you to build a spiritual home. He is going to cause you to be the spiritual head over your family." So, you could pick things up in your spirit man like the seeing, hearing and the sensation. As I minister to him, I feel good about it in my spirit. So that's the illustration of how things operate. So we see here that Paul perceived and how Peter perceived. And that word perceived in the Old King James is not so clear but the New King James puts it as see, that is, it is a spiritual sight.

Theoreo

Lets look at Acts 27:10 Men I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives. Now this word perceived is a different Greek word theoreo. That word talks about a special signal from God. Theo is God and theoreo is a perception from God. So there is a perception that he is having from God.

I have intense curiosity on many things. There was this book that I speed-read through on a man with powerful memories. He was telling about how he remembers things. He says when he thinks about something that he has to remember he tries to get more of his senses involved in remembering it instead of one. He is talking about physical senses. When you study, what helps you to remember? Involve more of your senses. Lets say I am a Westerner. I have difficulty with Chinese names. So, when I think about Tan Ah Kow I picture the sun and somebody having a suntan. Then the next picture is someone yawning. The third picture is a cow. So, the next time you meet Tan Ah Kow, again the three pictures flashes. A person having a sun tan then a person yawning Ah and then the cow. That is how you remember better if you have visual impact.

The spirit realm is the same. In the spiritual realm, there can be a greater impact of all three levels operating. So, in the same way theoreo speaks about the total impact. So, what Paul was experiencing was a very strong perception. And he knew exactly what to do.

All three realms of seeing, hearing and feeling could be operating together. The reason why people remember things better after watching a video than hearing an audiocassette is because there is a visual impact. And here is where you can train your memory to remember things.

Here he is saying he is having the same experience theoreo and he has completely perceived the situation. He may have a flash vision. He may have a troubled sensation. But if it's a troubled sensation, it could be anything. Then he may have a word that he is hearing from the spirit man, "Danger, danger." Sometimes the spirit man reminds you or tells you of things through similar past incidences to your memory. Like for example, as I counsel people, I listen to the voice of the human spirit, which we can use and flow with. I am not talking about the voice of the Holy Spirit yet.

I was ministering to a sister. She had not shared much with me yet. But as she conversed and shared with me, I suddenly remembered another sister that I have ministered to five years ago. You know what God said? It is a similar problem or situation. See my mind must be logical enough to put one plus one equals two. So, I began to check in that area whether that sister had a similar situation. Sometimes our spirit man helps our conscious mind or our noema to understand something by bringing similar things to our consciousness and leaving us to make the conclusion. Sometimes it could be a picture. You could pick up a picture from somewhere in your past where God could be using that to talk about the future or somebody else. So our mind must be renewed to begin to dialogismos correctly. You can dialogismos wrongly and reach a wrong conclusion. Now theoreo speaks about all three levels operating which Paul is having. Whatever Paul's sensation was at that time, it means that all three levels of seeing, hearing and feeling were operating.

9. THREE REALMS OF PERCEPTION IN THE SPIRIT

Acts 14:8-9 And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking, Paul observing him intently and seeing (eidon) that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

Horao

The word seeing is the word eidon. Eidon is the aorist form used to supply that tense of horao, which means to perceive or as it is translated here seeing. We recognized that it is not just seeing in the natural realm but it is seeing in the spirit realm. The word horao points to the eyes of the spirit. We have mentioned how the spirit man has five senses just as the natural man. There is a sense of sight, the sense of hearing, the sense of smell, the sense of touch and the sense of taste. So the spirit man also has the five senses the spiritual sense of seeing, the spiritual sense of hearing, the spiritual sense of touch, taste and smell. We mentioned that the most important senses are the senses of seeing and hearing. So that's the word horao.

Obviously, Paul was perceiving in the spirit. He was seeing something in the spirit and not just in the natural. For you can not see faith in the natural. How can a man see faith unless faith is acted out? But this man in Acts 14 has not acted his faith out. He was just lying down there crippled from his mother's womb. You could just see him lying down. But as Paul was ministering the Word, he saw this person. His spirit contacted that person. And he knew that faith has risen in that person.

That is why we need to perceive to be able to sense. Spirit communicates to spirit just as soul communicates to soul. There is no way I could physically touch your spirit. You could take a person and cut him into pieces and you can not find life. Where is that source of life? There is no way that my natural hands can touch his spirit. There is no communion between flesh and spirit. The only way for my spirit to contact your spirit is through my spirit. Its just like asking, "How do I know what is going on in your mind? By the words that you speak. In this way, we have a certain level of communication. Just as soul contact soul, body to body, spirit contacts spirit. And Paul's spirit resonated within him and he knew that there was faith in this person. We talked about perceiving in the spirit.

Ginosko

The other verse that we have seen is in the book of Acts 23:6 But when Paul perceived (ginosko) that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged." We mentioned in the last message that the word perceived is from the word ginosko. That word has been used of Jesus knowing. That is the only word that is used of the apostle Paul perceiving. In the English translations, there are three times the word perceived or seeing is used:

Acts 14, Acts 23 and Acts 27 but each time a different word is used. Here is the word ginosko, which is used most frequently of the Lord Jesus. Ginosko means that the

perception reaches the mind. Sometimes you perceive something but you don't know what you perceive.

See there are three levels of knowing. Ginosko is the word that is translated as know. You can know some things in the natural, you can know some things in the soul area and you can know some things in the spirit area. Just like for example, you could know whether his shirt is smooth or rough. How do I know it? That knowledge is transmitted through my senses. I could know whether a person's hands are smooth or rough by touching. I have natural knowledge through my natural body. I could know some things in the natural through my body. So there is a knowing that comes through the natural man.

Then there is a knowledge that comes through the soul. Like we know that there are radio waves in the air, we realize that if we have a radio receiver we would be able to pick up some signals in the air. But we know that these are not things that we could touch. We can not touch them. We can not feel them in the natural. How did we know that they are there? Science has inventions to prove that these radio waves exist. How do we know that there is air? There are scientific experiments to show the effect of invisible things on material things. We are taught and trained and there is how knowledge comes to our soul. The knowing that comes to the soul is different from the knowing in the natural.

Then there is a higher degree of knowing that comes in the spirit. Sometimes in the spirit, we know certain things and yet we don't know. For example, we say we know this is the right thing to do. But we don't fully understand or know why. The spiritual knowledge comes ahead of the natural knowledge.

Let me show in Ephesians 3 where Paul mentioned about this knowing in the spirit realm. We are talking about how to be led by the Spirit and we are describing in greater details the perception by the spirit man. Eph. 3:19 To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Isn't that marvelous to know the love of Christ, which is unknowable. There is a perception that comes in our spirit, there is a knowing that comes in the spirit but our mind does not know yet. So, we are to know some things in the spirit that are not normally known in the natural realm. Being led by the Spirit is being sensitive to that spiritual impartation of knowing that God gives to us. And that perception of knowing and perceiving some things is a knowing that is horao either a hearing or a seeing or some things that you perceived in the spirit.

Remember there are three levels of knowing, you know in the natural, you know in the soul, you know in the spirit. When the knowing includes the soul, the bible always uses the word ginosko. When the knowing translates into the soul realm, it's important for us to know in the spirit but we can know in the spirit but don't know in the natural and we find it quite difficult to act out what the Spirit is saying to us. Our spirit man picks out some things but we know not what it is. It could be a burden in the spirit. It could be a grieving in the spirit. It could be something that you are troubled. Your spirit is troubled but you are not sure what it is. And it can be quite frustrating at times. So the only thing you can do is to pray in tongues. As the Spirit wills and as we grow to be sensitive of God the Holy Spirit will translate whatever the revelation that is in the spirit realm into the soul realm. And then understanding comes. When understanding comes then you use the word ginosko. So, Paul knew, he

perceived in the spirit and he knew in his mind. So, the bible could use the word ginosko.

But some times, you perceived in your spirit alone then you could only say horao or you see something in the spirit that you don't quite understand fully. You could pick up things in people's spirit as you yield to the Spirit of God. You may not fully understand it. The knowledge has not come ginosko has not taken place yet only horao. In all situations, your spirit is always receiving. Just as we could receive in the natural, we could receive in the soul. We could receive in the spirit realm. It's happening all the time. Whether you hear it or not there are signals in the air, radio signals, T.V. signals. There are sounds out there in a different level, which our ears can not pick up. We need an electrical receiver to translate it into natural sound for us to perceive it. But it is out there. And there are always spiritual signals being sent. There are always spiritual phenomena taking place. I mean the spirit world is as real as in the natural world if not more real because it's eternal. The spirit world is an eternal realm. The natural world is a temporal realm. And there are always things going on in the spirit. An angel moving here an angel going there, And on your way you could run over a demon. So there are always perceptions that are there in the spirit. We realize that human beings do not only inhabit this world; it is inhabited by our guardian angels that are all sent to guard us. And there are also demonic spirits, which also inhabit this world. So when we walk out on the street we may not see it in the natural but there could be demons running lose.

Howard Pittman said that one day, God took him into the spirit realm. And in the spirit realm, he was taken into the demonic world for God to show him what the demonic world was like. After showing him what was there in the heavenly places God brought him down to this earth. And his spirit stood at a petrol pump. He said that as the cars passed by to have their petrol tanks filled up, there were demon spirits that gathered there. And they look around and some times, they hop into a car. It's important for us to have a realization that there are demon spirits out there.

And what happens is that our spirit perceives all the time. Some times, as you enter into a place you could perceive angelic beings. I would know it if an angel came in. There are many types of angels, guardian angels, ministering angels and warrior angels. If during the course of ministry special angels are sent, we could pick it up in our spirit if we are sensitive. Or if there is a demonic interference, you could pick it up. I remembered when we were having our regular Sunday services in a hotel, we once had a visit from a demon. The worship could not take off. Everyone was doing his or her best but there was just that odd peculiar atmosphere. And in my spirit as I looked over in that hotel there was this demon spirit right at the entrance. There was a certain heavy oppression in the atmosphere. Although the people could not see it in the spirit realm, yet I saw it. At that very moment, there was a breakthrough and the demon left. It was a release in the spirit. Now demonic forces do not cause that kind of oppressive atmosphere all the time. Some times a reason why worship can not take off is because of a natural reason. But there are spiritual reasons too. Our spirit can pick up things in the spirit but we may not understand what it is.

But when our soul began to perceive some understanding, that is ginosko. And you would know how to flow into that realm. Paul knew exactly what to say and what to do. When you perceive in the spirit like horao in Acts 14 for ministry, it is very useful. You lay hands on a person and you pray for them. Your spirit can perceive

whether it goes to them or not. And every time I pray for a person, I know whether the power goes through or not. Sometimes when you pray for somebody, you sense in the spirit that there is no flow. Even in conversing with people, you know whether there is a flow or not. You know the right time to witness or not. See we are talking about how to be led by the Spirit in the practical of life. We could pick up in the spirit whether somebody is ready for harvest or not. As you share the Word, you could perceive how well the Word is getting into a person. These are all spiritual perceptions that we must pay attention to and not neglect.

Epiginosko

Besides horao, we have described Jesus' perception goes a higher level than Paul's perception in Acts 14. We have mentioned Lk. 8:46 Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me. Now here the word perceived is from a different word called epiginosko. Jesus perceived with His natural mind what His spirit perceived also. If it is just the word horao, it is just the spirit perceiving and picking up some things. It's important for us to know what these things that our spirits are picking are. If we do not know what can we know what to do? If its only horao and not ginosko then we need to pray and pray until it is translated into the soul realm. We can not act on something that much until it is translated into the soul realm. Unless its just a general perception of the flow of the power of God.

Notice that Jesus was looking around for the person. It says here Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me for I perceived power going from Me." And the woman saw that she was not hidden came trembling. I want you to notice that she saw that she was not hidden. Jesus could sort of paying attention to her. Lets cross reference to Mark 5:32; the same incident was recorded by the gospel of Mark. And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. He knew it was she and He knew where she was. That is why the bible uses the word epiginosko.

Luke 8:46 Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Jesus talks about a physical touch that came upon Him. The word power is the word dunamin, which is from the word dunamis. Based on Mark 5 that we have seen He knew some details. He knew that it was she and possibly, because of what Luke said in verse 47 the woman seeing that she was not hidden, she came trembling. I believe Jesus turned around and He was seeing directly eyeball to eyeball at the woman. He knew it and she knew it. That's how the woman seeing Jesus eyeball to eyeball saw that she was not hidden. Jesus could have picked her out if He wanted to. But there is the gentleness of our Lord. He never forces us, He never compels, and He never pushes. He prefers a voluntary stepping forward. Mark chapter 5 points clearly that Jesus knew. That is a very strong measure of perception. He perceived the power flowing out and He knew where it was flowing.

Let us give an example when the word of knowledge operates. It can operate at different levels. It can operate at horao or at ginosko. As you counsel someone and you are receiving a word of knowledge from the Lord, you could be receiving in the spirit. It always starts in the spirit. Perception starts in the spirit man. You could see some things in the spirit. For example, you could pick up generally whether there is a need in a certain ministry or in a certain area or not. Or whether someone is halfway up the mountain or on the mountain. That's quite general. See every one of us have to walk through valleys at times, climb the mountain at times. Sometimes we are on the

mountain enjoying in the glory of God. Our life's journey has mountains, valleys and mountain top experiences. But our spiritual life should never be affected. It should always be a free flow. I am talking about the natural things that we go through life. Like sometimes you are halfway in a project, sometimes you have completed a project. Life is like that: it consists of many fruit bearing seasons. See there is a season otherwise the bible won't talk about being faithful in season and out of season. The bible recognizes seasons. Psalms chapter one talks how those who are faithful in the Lord, meditating on the Word of God daily that they shall bear fruit in their season. In the gospel of John 15:1-3 Jesus said that every branch that abides in Me will bear much fruit. And those branches that do not bear fruit He will cut off. But He says the branch that bears fruit He will prune so that it will bear much fruit.

There is nothing wrong in walking through the valley. The valleys are where you challenge Goliath. A valley is where you overcome the enemy so that we could apply what we have learned on the mountaintop. I prefer to meet the challenges in life for they are opportunities to glorify God. Apparently from John 15 there is very clear in verse 1 and 2 that every branch in Me that bears fruit. We understand about the branch that doesn't bear fruit is cut off. Isn't it marvelous to know that the branch that bears fruit also gets cut? That means there is a season for pruning. There is a season where you are tested. So there are seasons in the spirit realm. We are talking about general perception here. You could sometimes perceive whether a person is basking on the mountaintop or halfway up the mountain. Like our brother here; he has fought the fight of faith and he has gone through a certain experience. But he has kept his faith. He has continued on in the Lord. He has gone through a tremendous trial and he is now halfway up the mountain. After he had basked on the mountaintop, he will get down to fight more Goliaths in his Christian life. Life is like that. So, this is what I call a general perception. You just perceive it generally. When I speak about it from horao it gets into ginosko. Where I began to pick up there are battles in the spirit realm. There are some nights that you are woken by the Lord and there seems to be a tremendous spiritual battle. This looks like you are wrestling with demonic powers. God has been speaking to you to wrestle in that realm. You have overcome them and you are on your way up. That's what happens when I operate the word of knowledge.

If I see a vision, I try to look for the exact person in the crowd. If the crowd is too big, you find it very hard to find that person. There are different ways of operating the word of knowledge and that is called diversity of operation. It could come through a vision. When I see a person, I could describe that person, the color of the skin, the dress or shirt he is wearing. But if the crowd is big, it's going to be long time looking for someone who fit that person that you have seen. And sometimes you could feel and sense through your spirit the perception of a direction and where it's coming from. That's more details. But it takes time to open yourself to that.

Even Kathryn Kuhlman when she operates there are many times she gives very accurate and precise description of where a person is sitting and what kind of sickness they are suffering from. But sometimes she just gives the word of knowledge generally. To move specifically you need to have a free flow into that area. That is where we are talking about moving in horao and ginosko and epiginosko the flow of the Spirit of God. Our soul would need to be renewed to function and know the things of the Spirit. The purpose of the soul is that the soul will serve the spirit.

Theoreo

Lets look at Acts 27 and we see the other word theoreo. Acts 27:10 Men, I perceive (theoreo) that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives. In the English bible, you just read the word as perceived in Acts 14, Acts 23, and Acts 27 but the Greek bible has three different Greek words for perceive. This is the word theoreo.

The word theo is tied up to God. Reo is just receiving and is linked up to the word horao which is found in Acts 8 Peter perceiving Simon the magician. But here God is involved in theoreo. When it speaks about theoreo, usually it includes some measure of the voice of the Spirit. In this context, we see that Paul knew that the voyage was in danger. If that is so having done his best to tell the captain of the ship and the captain of the soldiers as he was a prisoner, why didn't he panic? Why didn't he prepare to die? Because there seems to be a perception of what God is going to do, which later on we see Paul made this statement when what he said came to pass. In Acts 27:23 For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve saying, "Do not be afraid Paul, you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you." Paul seems to know what is coming to pass. If you operate just in the natural in Acts 27, you would not believe Paul. "Paul, how can you say that when the winds are lovely and the waters are calm?" Remember even the captain of the ship discerning in the natural felt that every thing looked nice and that it was the best possible time to sail. That is why they didn't believe Paul. There was no physical confirmation. But Paul had it in the spirit. Theoreo includes a manifestation of the voice of the Holy Spirit that can come in many ways. It can come in a vision. It could come through Him speaking and giving some details. And apparently, Paul seems to know what is about to take place. We can not pinpoint the exact time the angel appeared to him. But he says that an angel appeared to him right on the ship. All we do know that it took a matter of days.

In verse Acts 27:19 On the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands. Now when neither sun or stars appeared for many days. So apparently it was about three days from the time he said, "I perceived," to the time he said, "An angel stood with me." Before the Spirit manifests some things, our spirit seems to pick it up. There is a sort of knowing and expectancy that comes, just like the ringing of your hand phone. When the phone rings, you know that somebody is on the other side for you. Before a manifestation, before the Holy Spirit voice speaks, before a vision or something wonderful comes, your spirit has perceived. That's how sometimes the enemy could pick up some things.

In 1986 about a week before the Lord appeared to me my spirit had an expectancy. But I didn't know what it was. But it seems that God was preparing something. I was speaking to this brother who also had Jesus appearing to him about three times. He said that a week before Jesus spoke to him there was a preparation in his spirit also. His spirit picked up holiness. My spirit picked it up too. But the strange thing is **the week before Jesus appears a demon also appeared.** He seems to perceive something. So, **before I saw Jesus I saw one of those warring demons. He came right into the living room and stood about six feet from me. I stared at him and he stared back. Most demons would get frightened when I stare at them. But this guy stared back. So I knew it was among the first rank. It was when I use the**

name of Jesus that that demon moved away but it seemed to move off reluctantly. This was exactly what Howard Pittman said: they act very tough.

The smaller demons would scream when I just come near them. You look at them and they are frightened. We have cast out demons before. You just look at some of the lower demons and the demon-possessed person doesn't even dare to stare into your own eyes. But the higher rank demons are different. Howard Pittman says that when he was taken to the heavenly places, he saw Satan's warrior demons marching. And he says that one of these warrior demons marched right to Howard Pittman and stared right into his eyes; it was that close. It's a good thing that he knew his position in the Lord. I tell you young Christians would scream. The warring demon put his eyes very close to Howard Pittman and then walked away. These are warring demons and we don't have to be afraid of them. We use the name of Jesus. **But the strange thing is how did these demons pick up what God is going to do. They don't know what God is about to do but they seems to know that God is about to do some thing.**

At the time when the Exodus was about to take place there was a terrible slaughter that is of course demonically inspired right when Moses was born. I mean he was an instrument that God was going to use. Right at that time, the demons stirred up a persecution to kill all the Hebrew males. And just after Jesus was born before Jesus grew up, king Herod was inspired by the devil to kill all the children from two years old and under right about the age of Jesus. **So, demon spirits seem to pick up spiritual activities that are going on. What they could have seen is the flying to and fro of angels, of different stripes and ranks, so to speak, from heaven to a particular place, church or home.** The demons don't know everything but they do know there is some activity from heaven. **They could guess from the ranking of the angels flying down to earth that there are important assignments from heaven.** Daniel fasted and prayed for 21 days. By that time, Gabriel broke through to him and gave him the message and revelation after 21 days. Gabriel said that on his way the prince of Persia hindered him and Michael the Archangel had to come and help Gabriel.

So we realize that just as the enemy picks up some things we should even more because we know our God and God is our Father. We pick up in our spirit what the Holy Spirit is about to do. That is what I call anticipation. Its just like if you are about to go for your first trip somewhere. Just like my kids, before we go for a trip on Tuesday they would always ask, "When is Tuesday coming? How many more days is Tuesday?" On the night before Monday night, they could hardly sleep. The funny thing is when you are there and you are on your way back they will always ask, "When will we get home?" So there is this physical anticipation. As we grow in life, we need to adapt to all these things. But I remember the first time I was to leave home and go for the ministry; I could hardly sleep that night because there was an excitement in the natural. So in the spirit there is also an excitement that I still pick up. Now theoreo includes that. With a perception with theoreo, you can expect and anticipate a manifestation. **Maybe you are going to experience something you never experienced before. So there is a perception with theoreo.** Now on the other side the voice of the Holy Spirit it seems that before He manifest He will give some signals.

10. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT

We have talked about the inward witness and inward voice of the spirit man, what they are like and how they play about 90 to 95 percent of the leadings of God in our life and the daily decision of life. As have covered two, the inward witness and the inward voice, we are covering on the third area of being led by the Spirit, which is the voice of the Holy Spirit Himself. The Holy Spirit lives inside us. He makes His home in our spirit. Most of the time, our leadings consist of the inward voice of the human spirit that receives direction from the Holy Spirit. The leading is very indirect onto our lives. But sometimes the **Holy Spirit speaks** directly into our lives. Though the voice of the Holy Spirit is still from our human spirit realm from inside us, there is a difference in the tone and the quality of that voice. Most of the time people will ask, “What is the **difference between the voice of the human spirit and the voice of the Holy Spirit?**” Before we could tell the difference and know how to recognize it we need to know what are the actual differences that are involved.

Presence

The first difference of the voice of the Holy Spirit from the voice of the human spirit is in the area of what I call presence. There is a different presence that is involved. The Holy Spirit has connection with the Lord Jesus who sits at the right hand of Father God. And every time the Father wants to speak anything to tell me, the Holy Spirit will communicate it to the human spirit and the human spirit will communicate it to me. So I would feel and sense the voice of the human spirit. I learn to recognize the voice of the human spirit. I learn to recognize the inward witness and all the sensations of the spirit man. Let me give an example in the natural first. Some people’s hands are rough and some people’s hands are smooth. As I feel a person’s hands, I recognize his hands. When I am blindfolded, I would be able to tell who the person is from his hands. Likewise, there is a different feel from Holy Spirit to the human spirit. Most of the time, the human spirit will communicate to me so I recognize the touch of the human spirit. I learn to recognize the voice of the human spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit reaches directly through the human spirit but His hands are stretching right through. This is what happens sometimes in the spirit realm. **The Holy Spirit reaches out through the human spirit and His voice resonate through. It is not just the voice of the human spirit; it’s the voice of the Holy Spirit.** We need to know what is the difference.

So the first difference is what I call presence. Whenever the Holy Spirit speaks, He carries a different presence. Every one of us carries a certain presence. Our voices are generally speaking very different. So, we recognize the difference in the voices. Remember the human spirit and the Holy Spirit are two different persons. They are one for the bible says that they who are joined to the Lord are one spirit with the Lord. One in a sense of union but there are still two separate different personalities involved. The personality of the Holy Spirit is different from the personality of the human spirit although in nature they are the same. There are two separate entities. **And the Holy Spirit carries a very commanding strong presence.**

We said in the five witnesses of the human spirit that when the Holy Spirit operates a gift there is sensation of sunecho. Sunecho is a word that means the Holy Spirit is involved and it carries a very strong presence. Another word when the Holy Spirit speaks there is a measure depending on the degree of the anointing upon. All the time

when the human spirit speaks, it's only the anointing within. The anointing within operates all the time. But the anointing upon comes as the Spirit wills. And every time when the Holy Spirit speaks which includes of course every time when Jesus speaks, or when the Father speaks, they carry with them an anointing upon.

That's where we begin to recognize between the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. There is an anointing upon sometimes its just a small measure but there still is an anointing upon and it is a great difference. And I realized that possibly that **the average Christian can not differentiate between the anointing upon and the anointing within. That's why it makes it more difficult for them to differentiate between the voice of the human spirit and the voice of the Holy Spirit.** If we can not differentiate between the anointing upon and the anointing within, we will find it very difficult to differentiate between the voice of the human spirit and the voice of the Holy Spirit.

So what do we mean by a presence. As I go into details in this area we do not want to give you the impression that, that is the only type of presence or the only atmosphere He brings. But I bring you some illustrations to help you understand what its like. But its not limited to that. Sometimes when you have a prayer meeting, at the end of it there is a certain type of presence that is hanging over the air. That presence is the presence of the anointing upon that has a reason. Just sense what is it right now in the atmosphere. What we have now is normal. A normal level means that the teaching anointing is upon me but it has not really come upon you in your life. Right now, you close your eyes for a moment and pray very softly in tongues until we get that presence and atmosphere so that I could illustrate it with your actual experience. Notice that there is a certain atmosphere in the air right now. This type of atmosphere that we are having right now is what some Christians describe this way, "I feel like crying, I feel like weeping." What are they talking about? It is the anointing upon. **Sometimes when you step into a place the anointing upon comes on you, you just cry.** This kind of atmosphere people call touching. It is not a natural thing.

This is a spiritual realm. It is a natural duplication of that but its nothing like that. So, that is what I call the atmosphere. What we have right now as we worship God and as we sang and spoke in tongue together was create an anointing upon in the atmosphere. Usually I will never operate that gift until that kind of atmosphere is there. If its not there I will not operate that gift. You need the anointing upon to come when you operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And it depends on the level. This is what I call the experience of sunecho. You experience what the anointing upon is like. And unless it is there, you can not operate. You could only operate on the human spirit level but not on the Holy Spirit level. This is what I mean atmosphere of presence. When the Holy Spirit speaks, He carries with Him that kind of atmosphere. We could sense that the atmosphere touches our emotions. And sometimes you feel like crying. Or you feel like just being filled in His presence. This is what we mean by presence and atmosphere that is brought forth by God.

Another way we could illustrate is to let you experience this. We have shared in the last session that we could discern some things with the human spirit. As you pick up some things with the human spirit it is not the voice of the Holy Spirit yet. We do not prophesy with the voice of the human spirit speaking to us. In prophecy we need to use the word, "I perceived," and not so much as, "Thus says the Lord." For we are only perceiving line upon line and precept upon precept.

(Praying over somebody in the congregation.) My spirit is perceiving that he is reaching out into some things and at times that he felt that there is something in his life that he felt is hindering his spiritual life and he is reaching to overcome them. Some times, he feels a bit self-condemned.

That is in his past. As I see into his future, I perceive that he has an active role in a certain fellowship and I could perceive that God is going to use him and train him into a position of leadership in church. All these are perceiving in my human spirit. As I reach out further onto God then it comes a time when the Holy Spirit starts speaking. That's different for that has an anointing upon. As I minister, first it's my spirit perceiving. My spirit receives it from the Holy Spirit. As my spirit from the Holy Spirit, I could say, "I perceive," and say, "This is the thing that I sensed." This is where the voice of the Holy Spirit starts speaking, "Thus says the Lord God that He has called you and He has pulled you out from the miry clay and He has taken you out of circumstances that were beyond your control and placed you into circumstances where you are in control." And God says that He is going to continue to anoint your life and you are going to note a measure of His presence. And you would be able to reach out into the realm of the Spirit and you will be a light-house onto others and there are times where you would have opportunity that you would go off and you will be able to lay hands upon the sick and they shall recover. And there will be those around you who will share their problems with you. And the Spirit of God will rise up within you and you shall reach out to them and say I believe I have a word of the Lord for you. I believe that I have got something to say about you. And you shall be able to go forth and lay hands upon them and cause them to recover and cause them to be edified. Yes, I will send you to the aid of other men of God and you will be almost like a right hand onto them. And you are used. You will be that encouraging role. And there will be men of God who need you and rely upon you. And you will stand in the position that I have called and chosen you in Jesus name."

That's is different that's a prophecy. Do you notice the atmosphere is different in the two? "I perceive," and "Thus says the Lord," are different. And we need to know the difference between perceiving and the gift operating. Perceiving is with the human spirit. The gift operating is with, "Thus says the Lord," and it carries a different presence. There are two ways the presence can come. It can just come because the Holy Spirit speaks to you. And He can do it anytime He wants. His presence is always announced. It's just like in a wedding you know when the bride comes. When the bride comes the music sounds. But when you hear the music, you may not see the bride yet. You won't see the flower girls come and then wait for another hour before the bride comes. They always come together. In the same way when the Spirit speaks He always accompany it with His presence. You could sense it some times just before He speaks. It can be any time anywhere any place.

I mentioned that there are two experiences of His presence. Some times His presence is experienced as a result of our fellowship with Him and we build ourselves to that presence where it's easy for Him to speak. The other time is other activity. It could be any time. Perhaps you are just about to take your lunch or you are just in the middle of your food. But you get the presence before you get the voice. Just like Kenneth Hagin in his biography, he mentioned how he went to his kitchen, as he took his cup of coffee and on his way from the kitchen to his living room, there was His presence. And with the presence came a voice. There is a presence that accompanies the voice.

It would be a split second or some times, it could be long hours. Or some times weeks. **I have mentioned how about a week or so before the Lord appeared to me I could sense something building up in the spiritual atmosphere.** I don't know what it was but I know that something was building up. Just like one of my friends who had Jesus appeared to him also, **He said three weeks before Jesus appeared, he sensed God's dealings in his life.** Remember in the Old Testament in the book of Exodus before God spoke to them God said, "Sanctify yourself for three days." So some times, it's a long time. Some times, it's just a split second. We just sense His presence like the ringing of the telephone. That's what I call the anointing in the atmosphere that comes. And you know the Holy Spirit's voice is going to operate.

Now the human spirit just speaks all the time and just telling you things all the time because we have to live in the anointing within all the time. **But the Holy Spirit speaks at special times and it carries a strong presence.** Some times the presence is sent forth to us before He speaks. Some times the presence is built up before He speaks.

Lets look at the book of Acts 5:32 We are His witnesses to these things, and so also in the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him. Peter declares that the Holy Spirit is also a witness together with them. That tells us that many times when Peter was speaking forth the voice of the Holy Spirit could be heard in that voice. Now just turn back to chapter 4:8 **Then Peter filled with the Holy Spirit said to them.** He said powerful things to them that really convicted them. Notice that Peter was filled with the Spirit and he spoke. Why does the bible record that phase? What Peter sensed was an anointing coming upon him. He sensed a presence coming upon his life. The Holy Spirit would probably communicate something to him. He was filled with the Spirit, he heard some things, and I believe he spoke some of the things that the Spirit spoke to him. Being filled with the Spirit is an atmosphere. We have to be filled all the time but these are special occasions where the Spirit's anointing upon came.

There are other incidences in Acts 13:9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit looked intently at him. Again, he uses the expression Paul filled with the Spirit. As Paul was preaching and ministering suddenly there came this special presence. And he did a very unusual thing, which we normally don't do. He pronounces judgment on Elymas, which we normally will not do without an anointing upon. It's a special operating of the gift of faith. One of the operations of the gift of faith is an anointing to speak words. It would be like the words you speak would be like the words of God. So, that is an example of the atmosphere coming. I remember when we were starting off in the ministry. We were doing all we can in the mass media. We printed some magazines. We just printed it by faith and the bill came to about two thousand dollars. That was a lot during that time. A group of us were attending a certain house fellowship. In the house fellowship, I could sense His presence. I quickly got all of us from that team together because I sensed the Holy Spirit was speaking, "Pray now for finances." It was like this urgency that is involved. We joined hands together and prayed for finances. Within the next week or two, a check came for the exact amount. He will announce, He will send the bridesmaids, you will hear within your human spirit. You could almost describe the experience of His presence coming like being filled with the Spirit afresh. So some times, there is a

difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit. The first difference is presence. The presence can come sent by Him.

The presence can come built by us. Like in Acts 13:1-3 The presence was more built up. It was more the leadership of the Antioch church coming together and as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, they created an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to speak. I can tell you, **we can create an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit if we were to spend time with the Lord.** That is why in the over-night prayer it's very easy for the Holy Spirit to speak especially at the end of the meeting. Why, we have built an atmosphere. Like the song says, "Jesus we enthrone You." We have enthroned and created an atmosphere that He could easily speak. He carries a presence with His voice. That is why every time when you build a presence He is not obligated to speak to you but He usually does.

Authority

The second difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit is in what I call authority. The first is presence and the second is authority. When the Holy Spirit speaks, you don't argue, you don't question. You only obey. Some times, He doesn't explain why. It's left to your human spirit to find out why. Depending on our maturity in God our human spirit knows why. As I have shown in I Cor. 7:12 But to the rest I, not the Lord say. Verse 10 says Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord. Notice the difference verse 10 and then verse 11-12. He says I am commanding. I am telling you something. It is not only I but this is with a "thus says the Lord". That means you can not change it. You understand now why God has to mix the instructions to our lives so that He gives opportunities for all of us to function in Him. Imagine if all our life we function with, "Thus says the Lord." I come to you and say, "Thus says the Lord: make a cup of coffee for me." You can not even change it to a chocolate drink. Imagine if somebody goes around with, "Thus says the Lord," all the time, you can not argue. Imagine in all our committee meetings I go with, "Thus says the Lord there is no more discussion." Because if you discuss it means disobedience. When the Lord says, "Thus says the Lord," do it there is no more discussion. We only have once choice - obedience. In fact, the other choice is disobedience. Which is why we don't conduct our committee meetings or annual general meeting with the, "Thus says the Lord." Neither do I when we fellowship with other ministries you will find that very seldom I say, "Thus says the Lord." Why because I want to give you an opportunity to hear Him too. Some times, I may hear from the Lord but I don't want to tell yet. If every time I tell I become like God to you, which is not what God wants us to be. Imagine every time I say, "Thus says the Lord," there is no more discussion. The only possibility of discussion is this you say, "I perceived it would be good to have a carpet of this color." That means that perception is still subject to other perceptions coming in. When it's our human spirit perceiving, it's just like a worm's eye view of circumstances.

It's just like the three blind men touching the elephant. One of them touched the elephant's tail at the back and said, "I perceived that an elephant is like a rope." Another guy puts his hands around the elephant's leg and said, "I perceived that an elephant is like a tree." Then another guy touched the elephant nose and said, "I perceived that an elephant is like a snake." Perceiving is like that worm's eye view.

So, Paul from his contact was perceiving into the marriage relationship and trying to get sub-laws to govern people's life. He said, "I perceived in this situation it could be this way." That means you could add sub-laws to it, as we perceive situations in times through our contacts. One of the guys comes around and touches the elephant's leg and say, "Thus says the Lord, an elephant is like a tree." The only way we could argue with that guy is to say its not, "Thus says the Lord," which means rejecting that that person heard from God. We don't want meetings that way. We always give chance for people to sense what is right. When the Holy Spirit speaks, you can not change. To change it is to disobey. I have some times some instructions given to me from God and I don't compromise on that. When I hear a, "Thus says the Lord," don't try to change me. You will never succeed. I am not persuadable if I hear, "Thus says the Lord."

There are other times when it was my human spirit perceiving. Let me illustrate with a concrete example. The last time we have half of this auditorium filled up, I knew, "Thus says the Lord its time to expand." Or when we were having our meetings in a hotel, I knew that we have to move into a new place. That was with, "Thus says the Lord." But when we were renovating this place and thinking of buying plastic chairs that probably cost about fifteen dollars or so, one brother rang me up and said, "I perceive that we should get better chairs. Get banquet chairs like those in the hotel." I said, "Brother do you know the cost?" "Yes," but this is the way he put it, "Pastor pray about that." And since the Lord said, "Thus says the Lord, move in," He didn't say in details move in with what chairs. It was left up to our human spirit to decide. I said I would pray about it. The Lord spoke to me two days later and said go ahead. **Do you know what the Lord said? He said, "You get the chairs that you can believe for."** If all you have were faith for a tree trunk cut off and put it there, you would have a tree trunk. The Lord said, "Get whatever you faith level allows you to." So, we went ahead with these chairs.

If that brother rang me up and said, "I don't think it is God's will for us to move out of the hotel," I would have said, "Sorry you heard wrongly." When we were starting this church, a sister rang me up and said, "The Lord told me to tell you that you are not to start the church." In fact I had about four people told me, "Thus says the Lord." And I told them, "Either you heard wrongly or I heard wrongly. There is no compromise." When I say, "Thus say the Lord," and you say, "Thus says the Lord," there is no compromise especially when there are different directions. And I said, **"The Lord told me to start it and the Lord had given me a name for it. And He had given me the plan for the organization. And He had given me the structure."** I said, "Sister you didn't hear from the Lord; you heard from your own self."

See there are some things that says, "Thus says the Lord," and there are some things that just the human spirit picks up. When the human spirit picks up some things its like the three blind men having one aspect of truth. Now God makes our leading in that direction so that we can grow. Imagine if all the time He speaks to you, "Thus says the Lord," our human spirit will never grow. You become like a robot. Everything you need to do you goes to the Lord. "Lord, what's next?" Our spirit will never grow to be like God. God wants our spirit to grow like what Robert Liardon said in one of his books. He said that our spirit must grow until what we perceive in our spirit is exactly what God wants. That is growth where our every spirit becomes matured in the senses, in the nature, and in the will of God. Without even the "Thus

says the Lord,” your spirit knows this is what God wants. When you know what the Lord wants to do even before He speaks. That’s maturity.

That’s the second area between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit, authority. The Holy Spirit carries authority that you can not question. Some times when people say, “Thus says the Lord,” when there is no anointing, you know it. Some times, it could be the human spirit and there is no anointing upon so you know it’s the human spirit but he says, “Thus says the Lord,” which is actually a wrong usage. Your human spirit says, “I perceived.” But if it’s really the Holy Spirit then you say, “Thus says the Lord.” And I have mixed it in helping people. Some times when I counsel people I say, “Thus says the Lord; this is the vision that I see.”

Whether they agree or not my responsibility is just to give it. But if I perceive it, I will tell them so.

So, we have to be sensitive to both His presence and His commanding authority and presence.

11. CONDITIONS TO HEARING THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the last message, we talked about how we need to learn to recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit, which is different from the voice of the human spirit. We touched on some of the differences, like for example, the Holy Spirit's voice has a greater presence. Just before He speaks, He manifests His personality in a tangible presence. Then the other difference is the realm of authority that the Holy Spirit functions in. When He speaks, His voice is authoritative. You don't question Him. You don't argue with Him. You can only obey or disobey. It's different from the voice of the human spirit where there is room for discussion. There is room for seeking clarity. But when the Holy Spirit speaks, His voice is authoritative and instructive. In the last message, we considered the voice of the Holy Spirit from His side; that when the Holy Spirit speaks, He brings a greater presence and authority.

Now we want to consider our side of hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. We need to prepare ourselves before we are ushered into His presence for Him to speak. We realize of course that He lives inside us, but He is God. And just as we come to the Father, we enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His court with praise, don't think that you can come to the presence of the Holy Spirit without preparation. He is also God. Just as much as the Father is God and as much as the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is also God. We don't just come into His presence without preparation.

In the book of Acts 5, disobedience to the Holy Spirit is regarded as disobedience to God. The Holy Spirit is not just a presence although He is and He carries a presence. The Holy Spirit is not just a power although He does have power. But most of all He is a person and the third person of the Trinity. He is part of the Godhead.

Acts 5:3 Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? Notice that it was a deception and it was a lie that he told not to men but to the Holy Spirit. We need to have more respect for the Holy Spirit than what people are giving today.

Verse 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Notice whatever you do to the Holy Spirit you do to God. He is a part of the Godhead. And we need to prepare ourselves before we come into His presence. The records in the bible show that some preparation is required before the Holy Spirit speaks or says something.

Now the voice of the human spirit is part and parcel of our very being. Our born again human spirit is the new creation that God made of us when we came to know the Lord Jesus Christ. So the human spirit speaks and teaches us all the time. But it does not carry the same presence and weight as the Holy Spirit does.

As we relate to different people in the society, we learn to give them the proper respect and honor that is due to them. Give honor where honor is due, respect where respect is due. You would not think of approaching our king without following some protocol, like bowing and uttering some formal words of address. You have to inform the palace administration in advance. If you work for a big company, you don't just walk into your CEO's office just like that. No, you will have to prepare yourselves. For example, if you want to speak to our Prime Minister, you must prepare yourself.

There is a preparation that is needed. We give honor where honor is due and respect where respect is due, as Paul says in the book of Romans. How much more should we do the same as we approach Almighty God? How much more to the Holy Spirit who was sent to be in our midst? We need to give Him the rightful place that He deserves. There is a certain preparation that is required before we can Hear His voice clearly. Some times due to intercession and preparation, either other people has done it for us or we do it ourselves He intervenes in the events of life and He speaks. But yet, there is some preparation done, either by us or by others. There is always a pre-requisite before God moves and intervenes. Otherwise, we are responsible to hear what He has already placed in our human spirit.

Obedience

Lets look at Acts 8 and see the preparations that are required before the Holy Spirit speaks. Acts 8 is in the life of Philip the evangelist. Acts 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is desert. So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

Philip was waiting at a crossroad. He was told to go there by an angel of the Lord. And while he was waiting there, there were possibly many chariots passing by. The Ethiopian eunuch was not the only one traveling in a chariot. There were possibly many chariots going by. And it was while he was waiting he heard not the voice of the human spirit but the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking clearly “Go and join yourself to this chariot.” Obviously, he knew the voice of the Holy Spirit. Some of us may be standing at the same position when the Holy Spirit speaks and said “Go and join yourself to this bus.” You will probably ask, “Lord is that you? Was that voice from me? Is that the devil telling me? Very few people can say, “I know the voice of the Holy Spirit.”

And it was critical. See the chariot is not going to wait for you. The Ethiopian eunuch is not going slow motion waiting for you. There was no time to waste – the chariot will pass by very quickly. And in fact, Philip had to run to obey. If he were slow, he would have missed the whole thing. Some times God speaks to us; it’s so critical if you miss it, if you miss the bus, you will miss the opportunity passing by and you may find that you are redundant. If Philip had missed the chariot, he would automatically be redundant. The Ethiopian eunuch may take another year to come by since he went there yearly.

Why did the Holy Spirit speak to Philip and what were the preparations? Philip was in obedience. See he had met an angel. And the angel had instructed him but not fully. He just told him to wait there. The rest depended on the Holy Spirit. And because of his obedience to the instructions of the angel, he put himself in a position to hear the Holy Spirit. And that is important for if we are not obedient to what the Holy Spirit spoke through an angel or through a vision or through a dream, we are living in disobedience. We will not be able to hear Him any further. You may hear your human

spirit. Your human spirit will be teaching you all the time. But the Holy Spirit will not speak any more until you obey the previous instructions. That's the way He operates. If you are not faithful to that one instruction, He will not give some more. And sometimes we got to retrace our steps where we left the highway and search ourselves where we have disobeyed the Holy Spirit before He continues speaking. The Holy Spirit is such a person. The human spirit will keep instructing you in all kinds of areas. When you are not fully obedient, the inward human spirit will deal with you and continue speaking to you. But the Holy Spirit will not until there is obedience. So, in Acts 8 we see one condition: obedience. Obedience to former instructions. We can take the instruction of the angel as in the realm of the supernatural, which is done through the Holy Spirit. No one can see an angel unless the Holy Spirit grants the discerning of spirits. So, the Holy Spirit was in operation all the time before the angel manifest. Angels are always with us all the time but we don't see them unless the gift of discerning of spirit operates. So, we can take the instruction of the angel as a work and operation of the Holy Spirit. And because Philip was obedient to that first instruction, the second instruction came easier. He could hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Lets look at Acts 10 another incident where the Holy Spirit's voice is recorded this time to Peter. In verse 10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat, but while they made ready, he fell into a trance. Peter fell into a trance. And saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and le down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat." But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

So Peter had a closed vision. We do not know whether the voice he heard was the Father's, or the Son's or the Holy Spirit's or an angel's. But that was in a vision. When he came out from the vision, he was still puzzled. Verse 17 Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. While Peter thought about the vision, "The Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing for I have sent them." The Holy Spirit said He was the one who sent them. Earlier in the book of Acts 10, the angel told Cornelius to send for one Simon Peter who will tell him things concerning the word of life. No record of the Holy Spirit was there but the Holy Spirit said, "I sent them." Any appearance of angel or any supernatural work is done through the Holy Spirit.

Here is a different incident from Acts 8. Here Peter was in a house. Apparently, Peter was praying about the sixth hour. The sixth hour is about 12 noon. He was praying and seeking the Lord and that was when the vision came and the Holy Spirit spoke. Again, there was a condition for the Holy Spirit to speak. Peter was praying. He had come into God's presence. And in that attitude of prayer, he heard the Holy Spirit spoke. In Acts 8, the condition was obedience; in Acts 10, it is prayer. An attitude of

prayer is important to tune ourselves to be ready for the Holy Spirit to speak to us. It's in prayer that we hear His voice.

Ministering With Fasting

Acts 13:1-3 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Now here in Acts 13 is the Holy Spirit speaking again. The Holy Spirit said something. He gave instructions to them as to what to do. The background before He speaks was ministering to the Lord and fasting. Ministering to the Lord implies worship and waiting. They were worshiping the Lord; they were waiting on Him with fasting. And in that atmosphere, the Holy Spirit spoke.

The three conditions before we get into the presence of the Holy Spirit are obedience, prayer, ministering to the Lord and fasting. If we were to meet those conditions, we would put ourselves in a position to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. Now there are some things that we want to notice here in all the three instructions given. Do you notice that the instructions are authoritative? He does not leave you room to reason or argue.

Let us just refer very quickly to Acts 8, Acts 10 and Acts 13. Notice the instructions and compare them together. In Acts 8 His instruction to Philip was to go near and overtake this chariot. There was not enough time to reason or argue. Any delay and the chariot would be gone. Do you notice it was all commands? I am talking about the Holy Spirit speaking directly and not through any instruments. The latter would be different. We are going to look at that later in Acts 21. But when the Holy Spirit speaks directly, He is very authoritative about that. It's a command. It is almost like a command that a drilling instructor gives to his troops. You don't question the commander.

You learn obedience if you are in the uniformed group. When the general shout, "Attention!" and you say, "Excuse me," you would be made to run around the field several times. A command is given and you don't question. When the general shout, "About turn," and if you walk straight on, you will be the only one disrupting the march. There is a certain authority about the voice of the Holy Spirit. They do this kind of drilling for soldiers because in a battlefield you got no time to question. If you question you would probably upset the whole warfare strategy. And the Holy Spirit acts that way. "Go near and overtake this chariot." You don't even question whether you could run faster than the chariot. This is the first running preacher you read about in the bible. "No question," "Go," "Come," "Do," "Separate," that's the way the Holy Spirit talks.

Many people say they heard the voice of the Holy Spirit. I asked, "What did the Holy Spirit say?" They say, "The Holy Spirit said, 'Go to the room now and pray.'" I replied, "Not now." The Holy Spirit said, "O.K." That's not the voice of the Holy Spirit. Some people claim that they hear an audible voice all the time. If you are

hearing an audible voice giving all kinds of instructions from morning, noon to night, “Get up,” and you get up. “Make your chocolate drink,” and you say, “I have no chocolate drink.” “OK, then make coffee.” That is the work of the devil. He wants to rule your life. God doesn’t speak that way. Even when the human spirit speaks, it is not as authoritative.

So, we can understand why the Holy Spirit does not speak all the time – it is because He carries such authority. If He speaks frequently and lets say He gives you a thousand instructions a day, you would have no time to be a normal human being. But the human spirit speaks all the time. All the time the human spirit leads you and guides you. The human spirit functions very much like our natural mind. Our mind is thinking all the time. The human spirit is functioning all time. He is telling you this is right, that is wrong. All the time he is giving instructions. And you can understand why God does not want the human spirit to carry authority. But when the Holy Spirit speaks, there is no question; His voice is authoritative. So, He chooses to speak at certain area and certain time.

Notice in Acts 10 He gives instruction in the same authoritative way. When Peter was in the housetop while he was thinking the Holy Spirit interrupted his thoughts. The Spirit said, “Behold three men are seeking you. Arise therefore go with them.” Do you notice how authoritative that is? “Arise, go with them,” no question allowed. That’s the Holy Spirit; His voice is very authoritative.

Acts 13 is the same. Notice in verse 2 and 3, “Separate Me Paul and Barnabas, which I have called them.” You are only left with a choice to carry out His instructions. The Holy Spirit is very authoritative. That’s the Holy Spirit speaking. And many people mistook the human spirit for the Holy Spirit and they say, “Thus says the Lord.” That was not, but it is only, “I perceived.” When the Holy Spirit speaks, you can not ask any question and He doesn’t make a mistake. He does speak and we have to prepare ourselves.

Let’s see the operation of the voice of the Holy Spirit through the voice of a human vessel in Acts 21. We are learning how to be led by the Spirit and we are learning the functions of His voice and all the things that go on in helping and preparing us to hear His voice. Acts 21:10-11 And as we stayed many days a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, “So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.”

It was a very delicate prophecy. But do you notice the way it was delivered? It was very authoritative. Here you are fellowshiping in Philip’s house. As they were fellowshiping together suddenly here comes this man who takes off your belt. How would it be if you meet some strangers, the stranger doesn’t tell you anything just grab your belt and pull it off. The first thing is you would be glad that your trousers didn’t drop down. The second - you are thinking who is this guy. Here he comes takes your belt and tie your hands and feet and there you are tied by your own belt. Then comes this voice and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit is very authoritative.

I remember in Smith Wigglesworth in his prophecy as mentioned in David Duplessis' book. He spoke about how before God started using him to unite the churches. One day he was with Smith Wigglesworth and Smith Wigglesworth pointed a finger at him and said, "Thus says the Lord," and started prophesying prophecy after prophecy about his life. Then before he could recover from his shock Smith Wigglesworth turned round and walked away. Five minutes later he came in again like a gentleman, greeted him normally as if nothing had happened. Smith Wigglesworth told him he was under unction and an anointing. He had a word from the Holy Spirit to deliver. And he turns not to the left or to the right. He didn't talk to anybody; he went and delivered the word and became normal again. Before that, he was a vessel for the Holy Spirit.

There was a case of a woman whose son had died and who came to Elisha begging for him to have mercy. Elisha told Gehazi to take this rod, turn not to the left or to the right don't speak to anyone don't greet anyone, what an instruction, but go straight take this rod and place it on that child. Lets look at II Kg. 4:29 Then he said to Gehazi "Get yourself ready and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer him but lay my staff on the face of the child. That looks like an easy command but it's not easy. Just take the staff and walk. Somebody says, "Hello Gehazi," no answer. "How are you today?" no answer. Rude fellow. That was not an easy command in the natural.

How would you like if the Holy Spirit sends you and said, "Go from here. Bring a message to so-and-so in such-a-such a place and give him or her this message. Greet nobody along the way." Your mother asks you, "Where are you going?" You never answer her back. Your children ask, "Daddy where are you going? No answer. That is difficult; it's not easy to obey the Holy Spirit's direct instructions under an anointing. That is why people find it strange when the anointing comes upon a man of God and he sometimes behaves funnily. When the anointing comes, you don't function in the same way although you are the same person. Like when the anointing of the Holy Spirit comes and you have to obey certain instructions that He gives, you got to concentrate on the instructions. Maybe He gives you instructions to go to the church member who lives at the end of the street and pull him or her up from the wheelchair. But along the way, you fellowship with some other church members down the road and they joke with you and you laugh - you lose the anointing. The bible does not mention it but I know the Holy Spirit's anointing long enough to know that it can wear off when you are frivolous and lighthearted and didn't obey 100%.

And when Gehazi he took that rod, put it down, then came back to Elisha, and said, "Nothing happened," I can not prove it but I have a funny feeling that he didn't fully obey the instructions. In those days when you walk down a road, you would meet plenty of people along the way. I have a funny feeling that this Gehazi is not a fully obedient guy. He may have taken the rod and then chitchatted for a while and then continued the journey. He may have done that. I have a funny-inside feeling that he had not been fully obedient because if he had been fully obedient what was spoken would have come to pass. The Holy Spirit's instructions are very authoritative; He gives you no room to move out of it until you obey.

Let's look at another example in I Samuel. Here he talks about the voice of God but it's the similar principle in regard to the Holy Spirit. In I Sam. 3, we see that Samuel had what I call the pre-requisites. And there are three pre-requisites that you have

been obedient that you are in prayer and that you are ministering to the Lord. In I Sam. 3 the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. Do you know by doing that he was positioning himself before God? And if some of you are saying, “have never heard the voice of the Holy Spirit,” give yourselves to those three areas, obey God as much as you know how whether the inward witness or whatever instructions He had already given you in the past. Secondly, continue in it faithfully. There will be a point of time when the Holy Spirit starts speaking. It may take weeks or it may take months. For some He may test and prove you and it may take years. But the moment He starts speaking, He opens a new channel, a new avenue and a new phase in your life.

Samuel the young boy was faithful and he continued ministering onto the Lord. Apparently, he had never heard God’s voice before. He was not familiar with the spoken rhema of God. He was only obedient to God. He ministered to the Lord. In I Sam. 3 one day while he was asleep in verse 4, it said, The Lord called Samuel. And he answered, “Here I am!” So he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me,” And he said, “I did not call, lie down again.” And he went and lay down. Then the Lord called yet again. “Samuel!” So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” He answered, “I did not call, my son, lie down again.” (Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.) And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you did call me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy.

See Samuel did not know the voice of the Lord. When he went back Eli said the next time you hear it you say “Here am I Lord. Speak Lord for thy servant hears.” So the next time the Lord called again and Samuel woke up and said, “Speak Lord for thy servant hears.” Then the Lord starts speaking. Isn’t it interesting that he had to indicate his response before God spoke. Why didn’t God speak to Samuel when He called him and revealed everything to him before he went to Eli? He wanted an acknowledgment from Samuel before He spoke. Although it says, “The voice of the Lord,” it could be the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit yet the same principles are involved. You see the same authority that is involved, the same preparation and prerequisites to hearing the voice.

We see a few other things here that are important to us. That is as the Lord speaks to him the voice seems to be an outward voice. If you hear a voice inside you, you would not run to another person, unless it sounded like it was outside. And he heard that it was from the outside. That is why he thought that it was Eli who was calling him. The voice of the Lord is strange in this fact although you could recognize it distinctly yet it could sound like anything. Yet you know it’s an audible voice. It has its own characteristics and if you didn’t hear carefully, it sounds like somebody else’s voice. The Holy Spirit lives in us but when He speaks in His authority and power although He is in us it sounds like outside. He lives in us but when He speaks, it sounds like an audible voice that instructs.

There is something about the life of Jesus Christ and how the Holy Spirit instructed Him. In Isa. 50 realizing that, this is a prophecy in regards to the Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 4 The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned. If you have the New King James you will notice the Me is capitalized. In the context, it is also referring to the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah was speaking in the first person under the prophetic anointing and it was the Lord Himself. It refers to Jesus Christ. That I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by

morning. He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. So, he says that He awakens My ear. It is not just the physical ears as otherwise it would have mentioned ears. Notice that when its singular it usually refers to spiritual ear.

Notice that in Revelation 2 and 3 that at the end of every message to the church Jesus' instructions seven times at the end of it He says "He who has an ear". Why doesn't He say he who has ears? But when He refers to the spiritual ear He says he who has an ear, a spiritual ear. In Isa. 50, the prophecy is speaking about how the Holy Spirit continually speaks to Jesus. I like the way he phases it because that makes it sounds like an outside person speaking to us. When the Holy Spirit speaks, He sounds very much like on the outside although He lives on the inside of us. The resonance of it is so great that it feels like it's on the outside. It is not just having your inner thoughts. A lot of these inner thoughts are from the voice of the human spirit. But as you see in Acts 10, the Holy Spirit can interrupt your flow of thoughts. While Peter was thinking, the Holy Spirit spoke. He interrupted the flow of his whole thoughts. That shows that He is greater than your level of thinking. Unlike the voice of the human spirit, it's a strong voice. Yet, although He sounds like He is on the outside don't mistake every voice to be the Holy Spirit that comes from the outside since the devil will also try to imitate. Any audible voice you hear you have to check it out.

I believe that when Philip was on the cross road and the voice spoke, he did not hear it just audibly with his physical ears. I believe that nobody heard it but him. If the Ethiopian eunuch had passed by and everybody had heard that voice of the Holy Spirit booming, "Go near and join yourself to this chariot," the eunuch might have fallen off his chariot. But it was a voice that only Philip heard but it was loud and clear. The problem that people have is differentiating the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit. But if you listen carefully to what we taught last message, you could tell the difference. Like just now, when we were having the Holy Communion none of you heard anything as I tuned to the Lord. The Lord said there was a Chinese lady who is having a left ear problem and that she would be healed if she exercises her faith. I am sure the one behind me didn't hear that. But it was loud and clear. Sometimes three or four people can hear the same voice. Obviously as in Acts 13, the whole group heard His voice. And the Holy Spirit said to the whole group, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work that I have called them." It is audible to the hearer and it sounds like as if it's from the outside yet it's from the inside. There is a resonance inside your spirit man and it vibrates into your spirit man. But the person next to you did not hear it. It's so loud that you thought that it's audible yet the next person close to you did not hear it. The voice was there but it was inaudible to the physical realm; that's what the voice of the Holy Spirit is like. It sounds not just like your own thought. It sounds just like someone talking to you. If it was your inward voice of your human spirit there is a possibility, you are wondering whether these thoughts are yours etc. But if it's the voice of the Holy Spirit there is no doubt about it. That's how Jesus receives instructions - He hears God and speaks to Him. Because of the way He speaks and because of His great authority, He does not speak continually. Otherwise, it reduces us to nothing but mere robots. But He prefers that the human inward witness and the human inward voice of the Holy Spirit lead us and then from time to time He adds to it by giving His instruction. In that way, we have a real relationship with Him.

Summarizing the whole thing that there is a preparation before you can hear His voice. You have to tune and enter His presence just like you enter into God's presence. You have to have obedience, prayer and praise and worship or ministering onto the Lord and fasting. Then you need to recognize the peculiarities of His voice. You recognize that it is authoritative, it's a command given, and sometimes it sounds like from the outside although He lives on the inside.

12. SPECTACULAR LEADINGS

I Cor. 12 is the listing of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are teaching on how to be led by the Holy Spirit and we have seen some differences between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit. Besides His voice, the Holy Spirit does what we call a manifestation. When the Holy Spirit manifests the gifts operates. One major function of the gifts is in order to bring a direction or leading to our lives either as a confirmation or showing us things to come.

In the nine gifts listed here, lets read from verse 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Listed here are nine gifts divided into three categories. The first classification is what I call the revelation gifts that reveal something. The second classification is the power gifts that do something. The third classification is the vocal gifts that say something. Of these three classifications, we have the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom and the discerning of spirits classified under the first category the revelation gifts. Then we have the next three the gift of faith, the working of miracles and the gift of healings classified under the power gifts. And finally, we have the three vocal gifts, which are the gift of prophecy, the gift of tongues and the gift of interpretation of tongues.

Notice that out of the three categories, two of them have to do with leadings. See the revelation gifts and the vocal gifts have been a major portion of the leadings that we see in the Word of God. Every time you see that God led His people, there was an operation of the revelation gifts or a gift of prophecy. That is the revelation of the vocal gifts. Therefore when we talk about being led by the Spirit we not only need to consider the voice of the Holy Spirit which we will continue to consider in this series. Later on in this series, we will show the difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the Lord Jesus. We will also see in this series the difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the Father God. And the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of an angel is also a different voice.

But the major leadings are all through the Holy Spirit. In other words, He is the prime instigator of all leadings, whether your leadings came by the inward witness of the human spirit which is the voice of your conscience, or by the voice or manifestation of the Holy Spirit or the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ or the voice of the Father or an angel coming to you and speaking to you or an angelic voice declaring it onto you. Whichever form of leading that comes, the prime instigator is the Holy Spirit. He is the one that speaks to our inward witness and gives us the sensations in our inward witness. He is the one who communicates to our human spirit and whereby our human spirit communicates to us.

But what we are considering is the leadings directly by the Holy Spirit. The rest can be classified as indirect leadings. That is the Holy Spirit working through the inward witness, the Holy Spirit working through the human spirit or the Holy Spirit opening your spiritual eyes and you have a vision of Jesus. Or the Holy Spirit forms a medium

or telephone line with the Father God and you or the Lord Jesus and you. Or the Holy Spirit opens the spiritual realm so that you could hear the voice of an angel. The Holy Spirit instigates all these but they are all indirect. He is leading us but through all these other channels.

Don't ask me why He must use so many channels. He has these varieties of leadings. It makes life interesting and for some it makes life confusing. As you go through this series, you learned that there is the inward witness and then there is the human spirit. Then there is the voice of the Holy Spirit, the voice of the Lord Jesus, the voice of the Father God and finally the voice of an angel. But it makes life interesting because we are having a relationship with God. So the Holy Spirit is involved in all the leadings, whether they are indirect or direct.

Now we are talking about direct leading where He Himself manifests in our lives. When the Holy Spirit shows forth Himself and have a direct leading you can either hear His voice,(which we covered in the last two messages and what His voice is like) or see the operation of the gifts the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. There are two classifications of the gifts of the Spirit that have to do with leadings in our lives. One is in the realm of revelations and the other is in the realm of prophecy or the vocal gifts. We are going to see how the leading of the Spirit comes to people through the gifts of revelation.

Lets look at Acts 9:10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias and to him the Lord said in a vision. Here we see the Lord being mentioned and I realize that some people say the word Lord refers to the Holy Spirit. I think not - I believe it's the Lord Jesus Himself. Of course, the Holy Spirit is involved in the vision. Lets read on, "Ananias" And he said, "Here I am, Lord." So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sights. Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name. But the Lord said to him, "Go for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.

No. 1 you see in verse 10 Ananias had a vision. I am not sure whether it was a closed, an open, or an inner vision. There are three types of visions that we have touched on in the teaching series on Visions. Here he had a vision so we know that is discerning of spirits operating. Whatever type of vision he saw it was a gift of discerning of spirits operating. He discerned and saw the Lord Jesus.

Then as the Lord spoke to him in verse 11 "Arise and go to the street called Straight and inquire in the house of Judas of one called Saul of Tarsus for behold he is praying." The Lord gives through the Holy Spirit a word of knowledge. The Lord revealed the name of the street, the name of the owner of the house, the name of the person to be ministered to and what he is doing. So, the second gift of the spirit was operating at this time and that was the word of knowledge.

In verse 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight. Again, the word of knowledge reveals that Saul on the other side also had a vision of the Lord. The Lord reveals to Ananias what He had revealed to Saul. As Ananias responds in fear speaking about what he has heard he says in verse 18, “Lord I know this man, I know his reputation, he is a murder, he is a persecutor, he is a bad man.” Ananias brought forth natural knowledge. What Ananias spoke while having a vision was what he heard and knew in the natural. He has not heard the news that Saul was born again. He has not heard the news that Saul had already had a vision of the Lord. All he heard was bad news about this guy, which formerly was true. But that was not divine knowledge; that was human knowledge.

And the Lord in His mercy continued speaking in chapter 9:15 But the Lord said to him, “Go for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.” Notice that is a word of wisdom. The word of wisdom is a revelation of things in the future. The Lord revealed to Ananias what will happen in Paul’s future, it was prophetic. Remember that in the Old Testament when he talked about people prophesying it is not just a gift of prophecy operating but it sometimes operates with a word of wisdom and a word of knowledge. But here in Acts 9 Ananias was being led by the Holy Spirit to pray for Saul. Here is Ananias in the same city, same town. In his house, he was supposed to be led to Saul who was in another house at a street named Straight in a house of a man named Judas.

Just to bring him from this point to that point, the Lord used three gifts of the Spirit, discerning of spirits, the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom. Notice that all the three revelation gifts were operating in this particular leading. And it was because of all three operating Ananias was motivated to go. The moment he reached the house and Saul was there he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me.” The Holy Spirit led him.

We will bring forth a few incidences before we draw some conclusions and principles. Let look at another case of leading by the Holy Spirit Acts 16:6 Now here is Paul in his second missionary journey. 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. After they had come to Mysia they tried to go into Bithynia but the Spirit did not permit them.

Notice that the word Holy Spirit is mentioned. The Holy Spirit forbade them; the Holy Spirit did not permit them. The details were not given to us but we know that the Holy Spirit was directly operating and preventing them from going into a wrong place.

Verse 8 So passing by Mysia they came down to Troas. 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.” 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.

Note: **(But when Paul got there it was not a man but women that he met.) (Same with Peter he saw unclean animals in vision, but it meant preach Gospel to Gentiles, both were unclean.)**

We see here discerning of spirits operating. Not only that, there was also a hint of a word of wisdom involved. A man dressed in Macedonian garment was crying out in need. In a sense, God was revealing a word of knowledge of the need in Macedonia and at the same time there was a word of wisdom coming forth revealing that was where he was supposed to go. It revealed the future of what Paul was to do. In that one single verse, we see a very clear-cut operation of the discerning of spirits and a hint of the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom. And that operated together with the other two manifestations forbidding or prevention of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was sort of putting a stop somewhere along their way. We believe that was a spiritual warning to Paul and Silas. It was more than just the five inward witnesses because the Holy Spirit was mentioned. So, it's something very strong, something preventative.

Acts 21:4 And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem. These people picked up some things in the Spirit but they gave the wrong interpretation. God did not tell Paul not to go. They picked up danger but God did not say don't go. The disciples concluded that it means don't go. That's their own conclusion. Sometimes you can have a right manifestation but wrong interpretation and you could interpret the very opposite of what God wants you to do.

Verse 8 On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. And as we stayed many days a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit "So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

The Spirit was leading Paul here into Jerusalem. On his way there, there was this prophet named Agabus whom you heard of in Acts 11 too. He comes without any greeting and just pulled Paul's belt off; good thing his pants did not come loose, and tied his hands and feet prophesying saying, "Thus says the Holy Spirit so shall this man who own this belt." Now that is an operation of a gift of prophecy. There was also revelation inside that word of prophecy. He revealed things to come. So the word of wisdom was also operating. Now God was also revealing through the five-fold ministry of a prophet. He sent a prophet who was in one of the five-fold ministries. This is an additional combination that the Holy Spirit gives.

Having seen the three cases in Acts 9, Acts 16 and Acts 21, we have to draw some conclusions first before we go further, that is, when the Holy Spirit leads you into an area, He would usually lead by a combination of factors. He takes everything that He possibly can do and He brings that leading to your life. Now every one of them has to harmonize together. So, lets list all of them in these three cases together.

He could combine His leading that is His voice with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Put that as No. 1.

Or He could combine it with the five-fold ministries. In Acts 21 He sent a prophet. And the prophet operates the gifts.

Also, you notice that in Paul's life He also combine it with Paul's own human spirit the leadings he had received. After the incidence in Acts 21 in verse 12 everybody told Paul don't go. They were persuading with tears and Paul said don't do that because he was prepared to die for the Lord Jesus. In Acts 20:22-23 And see, now, "I am bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that "the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me." In other words, Paul had already heard from the Holy Spirit himself. So, he combines it with the voice of the Holy Spirit Himself leading.

All these are combination factors. We will look at these combinations of factors in greater details as we go in this series. But we need to see here that even in the function and the operation of the gifts, here are different degrees of leading and unless you combine all of them, your leadings can not be clear. It takes much to form a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Let's see the combination in Acts 21. Notice that the Holy Spirit had revealed something to the disciples at Tyre. They sensed something in the spirit and they tried to give Paul a leading. But the leading was wrong. They told Paul not to go to Jerusalem but it was God's will for him to go to Jerusalem.

The reason we are teaching this series is because in counseling with people we see that 99.9 percent of the time the most important thing Christians ask for is the will of God and how to be led by the Spirit. That is why we go into such details.

Here notice that the disciples had a working of the Spirit or manifestation to them and they didn't function correctly. They took that leading and saw it as the very opposite thing as to what God wants to do. The Holy Spirit is revealing things all the time and many people takes what He reveals to be the very opposite of what He wants to do. Instead of seeing it as something to prepare them, they see it as a no. Why does it happen? That's our question. It's because in the book of Acts 21 these disciples were not functioning at the level of these five-fold ministries. Even Agabus could not go to the point of saying, "This is it - go right in." After Agabus prophesied everybody was still thinking Paul should not go. Today sometimes God speaks to people God confirms it, God sends His ministers, God does everything, and we take the very opposite of what He wanted. It's so easy to say follow the pillar of cloud. It's so blur that they couldn't see it. Follow the pillar of fire they went into wildfire.

When we talk about Spirit leading, we have to cover His manifestation. Here are some rules that we have to go by. It is more important what the Holy Spirit manifest to you than what He manifests to another. It's more important what He is speaking to you when it's your own life that is concerned. There are plus and minus in this type of leading. **That is why we spent so much time teaching on the inward witness since 95 percent of the leading is by the inward witness and the inward voice.** Yet, the five percent is very power and very dramatic. The five percent is the voice of the Holy Spirit, visions, revelations, dreams etc. They are powerful in themselves. It's easy to be carried away by a tremendous manifestation and a tremendous vision that can be easily misinterpreted.

So, what are the safeguards that are involved? Safeguard No. 1 all the leadings of the Spirit are supernatural whether they be silent, inward witness, inward voice or a big open vision – they are all supernatural. Its supernatural does not have to be dramatic. If God whisper into your ear and tell you something, it's supernatural. Speaking in tongues is supernatural although it may be very common. But we have to differentiate between a spectacular and a not so spectacular. The spectacular has to do with dreams, visions, audible voice, prophetic ministry - these are all under the spectacular side. When the gifts operate its dramatic, its spectacular and there is an unction upon. But the other side is the anointing within which is undercurrent but its important in the leading of the Spirit of God.

Nine-five percent of the leadings in our life are on the quiet side, supernatural but not so spectacular. The remaining five percent is very spectacular. And we need to learn to deal with them because these are milestones along our spiritual walk. They are markers to keep our spiritual life interesting because God is a God of variety. He leads us in this spectacular way.

Rule No.1. When the spectacular leadings involve your life, whether it came through the gift of the Spirit, the voice of a prophet, the voice of an angel or an audible voice, if it involves your life rule No. 1 is you have the prerogative to interpret it and not somebody else. Let says a brother saw a vision. He gives forth a vision and that vision is about me. His responsibility is to deliver it and not to interpret it. If the Lord gives him some interpretation like Acts 9, Ananias was given some interpretations, and then he can deliver. We have to learn the art of delivering thus says the Lord. A lot of people says thus says the Lord. At first it was thus says the Lord but halfway through it was no more thus says the Lord. It was thus says themselves. They continued where the Lord stopped. We need to learn the art of saying thus says the Lord so that when we say thus says the Lord, it is really thus says the Lord. Remember the Lord can speak half sentence and stop. He just gives up to that point. We need to learn to stop when He says stop, start when He says start.

Let says this brother has a spectacular vision regarding my life. In his own mind, he may have some interpretation. Of course, everybody has a human mind. So, whatever we received our mind loves to draw a conclusion. Lets say this brother has a spectacular vision about me. As he is delivering, he may have some of his own ideas roughly of what it means. But rule No. 1 of this spectacular leading is if it concerns my life, I have the last say and prerogative to interpret it and not somebody else. Sometimes you may not have any interpretation yet. Then keep it until the Lord gives it. The Lord normally will not give you a spectacular leading until He has spoken to you. All spectacular leadings tend to be confirmations of what you have already received in the inward witness. Even let's says if I had a spectacular leading and I give it to you. You have the last prerogative to interpret it. That's the law of God accepted by the Holy Spirit. No one can transcend the individual free will. That's the first rule that goes. The prerogative belongs to whoever is involved.

Let take the example in Acts 21. Here comes this Agabus guy. He takes Paul's belt, ties his hand and says, "Thus says the Lord." All the matured people around him told Paul not to go. Literally everyone, I don't know what Agabus was doing at that time. Paul had the last say. But if it was a weaker person than Paul, he may have stopped going to Jerusalem. That is why when we touch on spectacular leading we need to bring out the rulebook first. You may have a spectacular vision of some family

member but remember you are not to interpret but only to deliver. The rulebook is that the prerogative of the interpretation rests on the recipient. If you have been long with me in this type of things, you would notice if you sit down with me and talk about the things of God and about what the Lord is saying. When we reach a certain point I will stop, I would say, "This is what I am saying and advising, not the Lord." I will differentiate between what I am advising from my own human spirit and discern it as much as I know from the thus says the Lord. We need to do that all the time. That person must be given the prerogative and the authority to make their own decision regarding the final interpretation of the spectacular leading.

The second rule is that normally spectacular leadings should never have been given until a person has sensed something from the Lord. From my walk with the Lord, the Lord does not give a spectacular leading until He had spoken to a person. For example, I may have a spectacular leading and prophecy with thus says the Lord to give to James. If it is from the Lord I obey and I give it to him. Before coming to me and giving me the spectacular leading, the Lord would already have given something to him, whether the spectacular leading comes through the gifts operating, the ministry operating or any other manner. The Lord uses spectacular leading as a sort of last resort or finale. The finale is the climax and strongest part of a song. So wouldn't it be funny if I start with a finale and end it with the introduction? Wouldn't it be funny if we turn the service upside down? When you come in, we start praying for everybody. Then we give the message. Then we give the announcement. Then at the end of the service we say, "Welcome everybody." That's something wrong. You don't write a letter saying, "Dear so and so, In conclusion,..." What conclusion? You didn't even give the facts yet. You don't give the conclusion before you give the arguments. So, things had to be set right. The spectacular leading revolves around the finale, the finishing touches.

Therefore based on rule No. 2 persons who claim to give a spectacular leading when there was no prior instructions from the Lord had better check themselves because that person receiving that spectacular leading has no confirmation inside. The spectacular leading was supposed to be confirmation to something that they may have perceived from the Lord but there was no confirmation. Something is wrong. There are two possibilities: either it's not from God or its from God and you gave it in a wrong time. **God has spoken to me something regarding some people's life and I held it for one year before I felt it was ready to be given.** So rule No.2 as you operate in the spectacular realm and as you move into that spectacular realm, whether the Lord works it through ourselves or through somebody else the spectacular will not come unless the Lord has worked in the other guidance system, namely through the inward witness. In other words, the Lord will do His best to reveal to a person through his inward witness first. Then only He comes with all these spectacular manifestations.

Notice here in Acts 9 when Ananias had a spectacular visitation. What the Lord told him He had already spoken to Saul, He says, "Saul is waiting for you." He had already seen a man by the name of Mr. Ananias coming and putting his hand on him. See the spectacular was only given after God has spoken to Paul.

Then in Acts 16 by the time they had that vision what have they done? They have already followed as much as they can their inward witness. They had done their best. They had tried to go to Mysia, no, go to Bithynia, no, go to Troas yes. And that was

when the vision came. The Macedonian clothed in Macedonian garment said, "Come over and help us." That is finishing touches to that leading.

Do you notice that in Acts 20 Paul already said that in Acts 21, Acts 22 that the Holy Spirit has been speaking to him all the time of what he is going to face in Jerusalem? He knows it. He says, "I go bound in the spirit." By the time, he went there he just needs the finishing touches, that's all. Why are the finishing touches important? They are to encourage us. Wouldn't it be encouraging when the Lord has spoken something to you and the Lord shows it to somebody else as a confirmation?

In the last meeting that we had about the church building project, we concluded with a dome shape building. Nobody had any other shapes. Then we brought in the architect. This architect had this new design that he had received from the Lord and it could be incorporated into our plans. The new design has not been seen by anybody except by those few who were directly involved. Just the next week or so one brother came to me with a hand written dream. He saw a vision of our new premises. He walked inside, went upstairs and walked around. Then he noticed this ceiling. And he described the ceiling as wavy shape lines. This brother didn't know anything about the vision of the architect. There is no way he would have known about what transpired. Our plans were flexible and we adapted what that brother saw in his dream. That is confirmation of the design.

Isn't it exciting when God confirms? That is the purpose of confirmation - it adds more boosters into you. It spurs you on. So spectacular leadings are powerful. They are part of His great confirmation. But they never come until you have moved into something. Acts 16 and Acts 21 are the same.

What are the principles that we must draw? Many people cry, weep, groan, grumble, complain, protest, fast, do everything they can and tried to get God to give them vision, revelation or something spectacular. If I am saying something that is in your life let me honestly say this: every Christian who is born again has a hunger for the spectacular. Every one of us literally would love a vision from the Lord. We love an open vision. I remember when I was a young Christians how many times I cried to God. Each time I fasted those forty days one of my items is Lord I want to have vision. It is the cream on the top of your food. It's the flavoring on the top of it. It puts the flavor in. How would you like to eat your noodles without the sauce? It's the sauce that brings out the whole flavor the taste. You remove the flavoring and you literally have a dreary food. You remove the spectacular and you have a very dull Christian life. God puts the topping on our ice cream to make life interesting for us. But there are principles that we can move into which is this. The spectacular will never come as I mentioned in rule No. 2 unless you are sensitive to the other systems of guidance.

Many Christians desire the spectacular but the spectacular will come when you have done your best to obey the written Word. You have done the best you know how to obey God through your witness through your inward voice. When you have done the best then the best comes. When you have not done the best that you know how God will not show up.

Which is why literally every project of God and everything that God does He requires that we do our best first before He does His part. Every miracle in the bible literally

has a part that is played by men and a part that is played by God. When Jesus wanted to turn the water into wine, He told the stewards to fill the water pots. That is for them to do. They do the best that they know how.

The rest is for Him to turn the water into wine. When the axe-head was lost, Elisha took the stick and cast it into the water. Why didn't he just say, "Axe-head float?" No, he took the stick, he did his part and God does His part. Why didn't Jesus just produce manna for the five thousand? Why did He ask for the five loaves and two fish? Because He wants us to do the best we know how. If every one of you is doing anything for God, you should be doing that work to the best of your ability. When you reached the limits that's when the miraculous starts operating. You reach the limits of your ability by following your inward witness and your inward voice to the best you know how.

Lets suppose that you are sent to be a missionary to a place, all you have heard is the word "go", and you heard the name of the place. You know you should go there now. So, you find out what are the transportations - boat, train and airplane. Your job is to find that out. Why doesn't God pick you up by His hand and take you there? If God calls you to go to Mongolia and be a missionary there, you got to find out where is Mongolia and how to go there. So, that's your part.

You do your best and start moving in that direction. In other words, when God speaks you got to do your best to move into that direction. When you set yourself in that direction the other leadings come. You have placed yourself in a position to receive the spectacular leadings. Usually when you have done the best you can the spectacular will show up. You may suddenly have a vision.

Very few people are receiving the spectacular leadings. Let me emphasize that the spectacular is supposed to be a part and parcel of our life even today. But very few are receiving it is because we have not followed to the best what we are doing. I have seen some spectacular things. They never come until I reached the end of the best. When God speaks to me to do something, I start doing my best. When God calls me to go to Singapore and minister there. I would do my best to do what I can to organize to move into that area. As I began to move into that direction, I began to see the miracles taking place. If I don't move and reach the end of what I can do God does not move.

13. GUIDANCE FROM ANGELS

We have talked about the audible voice of God. What we are going to touch on today is still on the audible voice but we are going to concentrate especially on the angels of God. God has sent angels to each one of our lives to minister to us. Hebrews chapter one tells us that angels are ministering spirits sent to minister to those who are heirs of salvation, which means us. And if angels are sent to be with us and sent to aid us and guide us, they have to find a means to communicate to us at times since angels are not going to talk to us all the time.

In the bible times it seems that the appearance and the leading of angels with the Holy Spirit were so common that Paul mentioned in the book of Colossians that groups of people have gone to the extreme of even worshipping angels, which is wrong. That just goes to show how common the appearance of angels is to the body of Christ. And in the same manner, angels should be a part and parcel of our daily life and we should learn to relate to them. Isn't it interesting that God has sent a personal angel to each one of us? The day you are born on this earth, you have your guardian angel. There are scriptures for that like Matthew 18:10 Jesus says, "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." All who are born on this planet earth have guardian angels. Even when we grow up, we do not lose our guardian angel. In Acts 12, Herod locked up Peter in prison and some of the disciples already thought that he was dead. When an angel of God has released Peter and he came back knocking on the door, one of them said it is his angel. See they believe in a personal angel that is given to each one of us. **It would be amazing if all of us have our personal guardian angel and we don't know how to relate to the angel that God has sent to our lives. We must learn to relate to angels.**

Just to encourage you, William Branham had a special call to be a prophet. In the early days of his ministry, he always struggled with these strange phenomena that accompanied his life. Until one day he took a flask of water, told his wife and family that he was not coming back again until he finds out what is the root of all these things. He hid himself in a tiny little wooden shed there seeking and fasting before the Lord. In the middle of one of his prayer sessions, there appeared a ball of light in the room. Then in that light suddenly appeared this angel. Then the angel began to explain to him all the things that God has called him to do. When William Branham got back from that experience, he started operating in what he calls the signs in his ministry. And his ministry began to take off after he realized **that there was this special angel that was sent to minister together with him.** I saw one film about William Branham. Every time he ministers, and after he ministered, he would walk about and wait. I was wondering what was he waiting for. He was waiting for his angel to manifest to him. When the angel comes forth, he began to operate the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The accuracy in the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge that he delivers is a known fact. However, **towards the end of his life he went into some errors. He was a prophet and not called to be a teacher.** He tried to teach and taught a lot of doctrinal errors and God removed him from the scene. There is something that you could learn from his life and that is his ministry only took off when he learned to relate to his special angel. Imagine those years that were wasted when he did not know how to relate to the angel that God sent to him.

There is a question in people's mind that says since God sends us Jesus, Jesus lives in our hearts, God sends the Holy Spirit, why should we depend on angels? It's not for us to question God's methods for dealing in our lives. As long as whatever method He uses and is in line with the scriptures whether it be angels, whether it be a man of God, whether it be a prophecy, whether it be a Word of God, whichever, all come from Him. We could say why should God send this person to come to me and not that person. We can not question God in that way. We don't question the instruments He uses. But we know that the source of them all come from God. Therefore, we need to learn how to relate to the angels that God has sent to our lives.

We have at least one angel. When you are walking and fellowshiping with God and when you have a special call God may send more angels into your lives. Angels can be sent upon request. Apparently, they could be requested. When the soldiers came to capture Jesus, you remember how Peter took the sword and cut off one of the men's ear. Jesus picked up the ear and stuck the ear back. Then Jesus said to Peter to put his sword away. He said He could have called twelve legions of angels. Apparently, we could request for special angels.

Even when God has a work God seems to assign a special angel. When the Israelites were crossing into the Land of Canaan God assigned special warring angels who have many other warring angels under them. Then we realize that Michael and Gabriel the Archangels of God are working today specially in preparation for the end times.

I heard the testimony of a Christian who was taken on a **study tour of heaven**. An angel who was escorting him around brought him to a place where there were giant warrior angels, as tall as twenty-story buildings. Of course, he related he was afraid, as he felt that these giant warrior angels could easily squash him under their feet by mistake. The escorting angel told him not to be afraid as no such thing would happen. Then one of the warrior angels bend down and took this Christian up on his palm, and carried him to the level of his face. He said he was staring into the giant eyeballs of this angel. Later on, after being led down to the ground, he walked around the camp and saw the giant angels cleaning and polishing their weapons of spears, knives, bows and arrows and every imaginable weapon. He asked the escorting angel, "Whose camp is this and what are they doing?" The angel told him, "**This camp belongs to Michael the Archangel, and is one-thousandth of his camp. There are 999 other camps similar to this scattered all over heaven.** They are polishing their weapons in preparation for the end times. In those days, Satan will loose his warrior angels too that he has reserved for these end times too. These warrior angels of Michael will fight Satan's warrior angels too." Michael the angel was in Daniel's time causing some sort of move in favor of the Israelites. So all these things are involved in the spiritual realm. When there is a great move you can be sure, angels are involved.

You can be sure that what **we have seen in the political moves in Europe that there are angels involved in that area. In a similar way, you notice that the spirits that could be driven out from those places would go to other places. You notice that Eastern Europe was very oppressed and dominated and suddenly there was a wave of democracy and freedom. I believe that through the prayers of God's people, the angels of God have pushed back certain forces of darkness and given people more liberty. Those forces of darkness will go to another place. They will congregate in another place. You will find that where freedom occurs in one part of the world and another part of the world that has not been prayed for much,**

demons would gathered there and suddenly the oppression in the former areas would creep over to these other parts of the world. See there are spiritual battles that go on all the time. Then you say if all believers in all nations start praying for their nation and push back all the forces of darkness where would the forces of darkness go? You don't have to worry over academic questions like that. The problem is Christians are not praying enough for their own countries.

But we see angels involved in events. Angels are involved in a ministry. You see the angels to the church of Ephesus, angels to the church of Philadelphia; see there are angels involved in each church. All we are concerned is that we have personal angel and we must relate to them. Sometimes angels speak to us through dreams. Sometimes angels speak to us and communicate to us through visions. And sometimes angels speak to us through audible voice. Sometimes angels speak to us by planting thoughts into our mind in the same way as demon spirits. Demon spirits put bad thoughts in our mind. It's not wrong to have a bad thought but its wrong to dwell on it.

When you are tempted its not sin but when you yield to temptation and accept that temptation sin occurs. So, demons try to throw darts at you and put bad thoughts. They are spirit beings and they are putting thoughts in our minds. Angels sometimes use the instrument of thought and they put it in our spirit, which is communicated to our mind. And we need to discern the work of angels in our life and respond to that.

Kenneth Hagin in one of his vision where he saw the Lord in the book "I Believe in Visions," he spoke about how the Lord appeared to him. In a vision, he saw the Lord and the Lord spoke many things to him. Next to the Lord, there was an angel. Hagin noticed the angel standing there. Every time he looked at the angel, the angel opened his mouth to say something but every time he looked back at the Lord the angel stopped. Finally, he asked the Lord, "Lord who is this standing next to me?" The Lord said, "This is your angel." And he has something to say to you. Hagin said, "Lord You are here, why don't You tell me all these things?" The Lord said, "Have you not read the scriptures?" The Lord told him that He uses angels to speak to His people. Jesus spoke certain messages but certain messages He left for the angels to deliver. So, before the Lord left **the Lord said, "Listen to your angel because the angel will lead you and guide you into prosperity."** When the Lord went off he turned to **this angel and then the angel told him about his life.** The angel said, "You are just about to start your tape ministry and this person has offered to do it." And the angel said, "Don't give it to him." Then the angel said you have been asking for so much money for this thing and then the angel said by what type it would arrive. Then the angel went off.

See angels are taking care of our needs. They are ministering to us. The angel was giving instructions to him so that he won't make mistakes. See the angels were involved in supplying the needs. The angels were arranging for all those supply to come. So, the angel was saying by a certain time the money will come you don't have to depend on this man.

Jesus said that if one soul is to be won to God the angels in heaven rejoice. One of the reasons they rejoice besides that we are being saved from hell to heaven and our names are written in the book of life is that the angels have been working hard to the prayers of the saints. And there they are protecting that soul from being lost and the

demons have their strategy, the angels will have their strategy. They were working hard. Of course, there are physical work being done by men and there are spiritual work done by angels. We have angels working together with us. Wouldn't it be a shame if we do not know how to co-operate with them? Everyone who is in covenant with God who has ever prospered has learned to relate to the angel. So, how does the angel speak to us and bring guidance into our lives? Of course, it is a work that the angels are also flowing with the Holy Spirit. The angels would pick up signals from the Holy Spirit, they would flow, and they are also guided. And the Holy Spirit sometimes uses the angels to deliver messages to us.

Let's see some examples in the bible. First, we look on the genuine appearance of angels and we realize that Satan can also try to appear as an angel of light. So not every being that comes to you and say, "I am an angel of God," is of God. Satan can also imitate it and try to appear as an angel of God. There are limitations set on angels and we must first look at what angels can not do as far as guiding our lives. Then we can see what they can do and how to relate to them and what our response to the angel should be.

In the book of Gal. 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. Paul says that even if somebody else or even if themselves or an angel preach something contradictory to the gospel of God reject it. If angels bring instructions and if they are from God, they will not and they can not contradict God or the gospel of Jesus Christ. If an angel appears to you and says that its God's will for you to suffer sicknesses and diseases, he is not from God. If any angel comes and teach something contradictory to the gospel of God, reject it.

Paul in writing to the Colossians chapter two speaks about wrong teaching. Verse 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind. So, if an angel appears and demands that you worship him then it is not from God. Angels will not ask you to worship them. Neither do they want you to nor do they demand it. Angels that are truly from God will reject any worship that you try to give them. They will refuse to receive it. Any demons that try to appear as an angel of light will want worship. Any true angels of God will refuse worship. And we are not to worship angels. We are not to bow down to them. We are not to pay homage to them. They are only instruments of God.

The third area we want to see here is in Acts 10:5 Now send men to Joppa and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do. The third area what an angel won't do is the angel will not guide you in every detail. If some angels come into your life and appear constantly and want to lead you in everything its not from God. They have only a part in God's plan. Remember that these rules that apply to angels also apply to men of God. For example, a man of God will not give you bad news. Secondly, they will not ask you to worship them or demand anything from you. If they do, I question whether they are of God or not. Thirdly, they will know their limitations of their relationship with you. The angels whom God sends have only a small part in the total scheme of God's Holy Spirit leading us. The Spirit sends angels to lead us in some matters but not all matters. **So if an appearance of angel in whatever form, in voice, in form, in dream, comes into your life and dominates your life, you should reject**

it – it is not from God. Day after day, you hear their voice talking all the time telling you everything under the sun even when to bathe when to drink your cappuccino, it's not from God.

See here the angel that appeared to Cornelius knew where his limitation was. He was only allowed to tell Cornelius what to do - to sent for Peter. And he says Peter will tell you what to do. Apparently, the angel knows that he is not supposed to preach the gospel to Cornelius although angels would know the gospel. Yet, it was the privilege of redeemed man to tell that story of God and not angels. In the same way if a man or woman of God comes to your life and then give you some guidance but if they began to dominate your life, you have to question that person's authority. We are not asked to dominate. Has Jesus ever dominated your life? If Jesus doesn't do it, how can any follower of Jesus do it? But a lot of people, in their religious innocence get dominated because they do not know about the things of God. No true man or woman of God will dominate your life. They will do their part and say, "This is as far as we can do the rest is between you and God." But if a man or woman seems to dominate your life, they are not true man or woman of God. Their flesh is showing. Only the flesh dominates. The Lord Jesus Christ who has all power and authority does not do that how much less should His disciples. So, these rules that apply to angels also apply to any guidance which man or woman of God brings to you. Having seen the negative aspect, we are warned of the dangers of these areas and know where the thin line is and not to cross over it.

Then we see on the positive side now. Angels are sent by the Holy Spirit to give guidance on certain areas of our lives. For example, in the book of Acts 8, we see Philip and it was an angel who appeared to him. In verse 26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." Notice it was an angel that told him what to do. So, we are talking about how to be led by the Spirit. Part of the leading of the Spirit is sending His angels to guide us, to lead us in certain portion of our lives.

If you remember the story of Joseph and Mary that it was an angel who told Joseph where to go and where to stay. An angel was sent. Lets look at Matt. 1:24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. So, an angel came and leads him. Sometimes we just only want one type of guidance. So when an angel comes, leads, and guides us we say, "I only obey the Holy Spirit. I don't obey angels." There are scriptures in the bible that tells us that **sometimes in certain areas of leading God sends His angels to tell us what to do. We have to flow along with God's system of operation.** And an angel warned Joseph and he followed the angel and thus he was preserved. In chapter 2:19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 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." And again, it was the same angel who appeared to Joseph and tells him its time to go back. See the angel led Joseph. Apparently in the bible people can be led by angels to a certain extend.

Abraham in the Old Testament was aware of angelic guidance. Many of what we call coincidences good ones are directed by angels. Angels are involved in certain coincidences like when we say, "It's amazing how we meet each other. It's amazing these things happened." They are not just accidents. Angels are involved. You remember the story of Abraham when he sent his servant to seek a wife for Isaac. The

servant said to Abraham, “How would I manage to find a wife for Isaac? There are so many ladies.” This was what Abraham said to the servant. In the book of Genesis 24:5 And the servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?” But Abraham said to him, “Beware that you do not take my son back there. The Lord God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. Abraham recognizes that it is the angel who will guide the circumstances.

What happened is this. The servant went on his journey. Remember when he reached there this is the prayer he prayed when he reached Abraham’s kinsfolk. He said, “O God let the woman who comes and whom I say, ‘Give me a drink,’ and she gives me a drink and she also says she will give drink to all my animals let her be the one.” It’s amazing way to get a wife. This is the Old Testament and you can imagine how much they trusted in the guidance of the Lord. This is one thing to learn in the New Testament -learning to trust God in the guidance of circumstances knowing that you are walking in perfect obedience with Him. There was this servant that says, “God let the woman whom I say this to her respond this way.” A few hundred ladies could respond that way. So, the angels have a lot of work. That day he had to make sure none of the ladies respond that way. And only one whom God chose was free to go that day. Then when she went up that was the exact response and it was the first one he asked.

In the New Testament, we don’t do that. We don’t use this method. In the New Testament, we see that there are leadings of angels that are unrequested. In the Old Testament, they seem to use circumstances as part of the guidance. “God if the coin falls on the right its Your will. If it falls on the left its not Your will.” Or things like that. In the Old Testament, they use a lot of circumstantial guidance. In the New things changed. When the Holy Spirit came down that was the end of it. You don’t get guidance that way any more. You don’t get solicited guidance in that manner. And if there are any guidance in that area it should be unsolicited, un-requested, where God works at His own pleasure. None of the angelic guidance in the New Testament involved a request.

Notice that before the Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost, the eleven apostles cast lots to decide who was to replace Judas. Casting lots is like playing a game of roulette. But it is Old Testament style since the Holy Spirit has not come. Immediately after the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost, the apostles had other decisions to make like Acts 6 in the choice of the seven deacons, there were no more casting of lots. All circumstantial guidance should be unsolicited and un-requested. So, if anyone prays God, “If it is your will for me to go to India let this person ask me to do it.” That is a circumstantial guidance. “God if it’s your will for me to go to this place when I go out and look up at the sky let there be a bright and shining day.” We never get guidance that way. For example, you go out witnessing and you go out of the door. On your way out of the door, one of the crows flew by. And for whatever reason the bird decides to drop its droppings on you. And you are saying, “This can not be God’s will for me to go out that day.” And you go back and stay home because you say its not God’s will. But the opposite could be true. It could be God’s will, you are on your way out and maybe it was this demonic force that guided the crow to drop

the droppings on you to prevent you from witnessing to somebody who was ready. So circumstantial guidance could be taken either way. It's not reliable. But in the New Testament, we can trust that unsolicited, un-requested circumstantial guidance will occur. You can not request for them but God will send. And there will be a free flow if you walk in the will of God. Blessings overtake you. Angelic guidance in circumstances in the New Testament can not be solicited or requested for. But they will come, they will appear and they will minister to us and says, "This is what the Lord wants you to do," and stop. They will not give any more. They will give right up to what God ask them to do.

Apparently, as far as we could see in the Old Testament how much they need. And apparently, Abraham knew that there wouldn't be any failure. He had such trust in angelic guidance. So having seen how angels can guide circumstances in the scriptural manner and angelic guidance through the Holy Spirit, we need now to see how they could speak to us and how we could put ourselves in a position where we won't miss it when they speak to us. We are only looking at a few there are many hundreds of circumstances we could point to.

One of the most common ways in which angels speak and communicate to us is through dreams. There are so many times in the bible where angels appeared and spoke in dreams to people. Joseph had a dream and an angel spoke to him. All those leadings were a dream. An angel in a dream was guiding him. The remarkable thing about angels is that they could go in human disguise. You may not see them as angel with wings in a white robe giving you instructions all the time. They could come in human form. You could almost mistake them to be a human being. One of the most common ways of how they come is in a dream. And in your dreams, you could either see a clear-cut dream where the angel appears. Or in your dream, you could see a man or woman of God whom you know, giving you some instructions. In the book of Acts 16, it may have been an angel dressed in that manner. If you read the book by Roland Buck's daughter, "The Man Who Spoke with Angels," she mentioned how some of the angels from Africa visiting America at that time looked like African. So, they got their special disguise. Possibly, in Acts 16 the Macedonian man may be like this angel giving instructions like this, "Come over here and help us." I am saying it may be but I am not dogmatic about that. But we know that in the bible the angel can appear in human form, so human that we may mistake them at times for human beings. In the book of Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Angels can come in human forms.

So angel can come through dreams, sometimes they could speak through voice. Like on person who heard a voice saying get out of this house quickly. That person didn't know what to do but went out. Suddenly there was earthquake and the house fell off. If that person had not gone out, he would have died in there. So voices like that, who spoke them, who protected them, possibly an angel has spoken. Angels' voices can appear like thoughts to us. An angel may have woken some of you up, perhaps in the early morning, where you heard or even felt a hand waking you up. It is not an oppressive atmosphere but a joyful atmosphere. An angel could shake you up. You ask, "Where is the scripture for that?" Look at Acts 12 Peter was sleeping soundly the bible says and he was sleeping in prison an angel and shook him up in fact more than that you look very carefully at Acts 12 it says he struck Peter on the side and raise him up. Some of you may have experienced that an angel waking you up or you may have

heard a voice calling you while you were asleep. Have you ever responded to a voice calling you and you run down and said who called me and everybody said no. You thought you heard somebody calling you and bringing your attention to something. It could be an angel at work bringing you to attention to some matters. So, an angel could manifest in a dream and appear as an angel or in human form or you could hear an audible voice and you could hear as a thought that impresses upon you. Demons put thoughts in you. They put wrong thoughts. Angels put thoughts on the positive side.

And it is possible that on that day the servant of Abraham arrive at that well, there was this thought that came to Rebecca to go to the well there to get water. The thought was more urgent than before. While she was there besides her natural helpfulness, there could be a stronger impression to give a drink to the stranger and his animals. That's how angels move and work. For example, you are in the business world and you work together with the angels. Some of the angels are out there speaking to your clients and saying contact this fellow. They are involved in the affairs of man's life. They are saying, "Call this person, he can help you." See an angel led Cornelius to Peter. Angels are bringing people into your life. They are speaking to them, impressing them. Whether they are aware that angels are working or not it's the angels of God that have been leading them to you. Whether it is in your ministry, in your work, in your business, it pays to flow together with the angelic guidance that's happening all the time in our lives. We need to be able to give an atmosphere for the angels to speak to us so that we could be fully obedient to that aspect of guidance.

Hagin in his book said that he went into debt. And the Lord told him he has not been listening to his angel. And he remembered much earlier before this angel appeared to him, he had felt in his trailer somebody coming in at the time when he had a financial need. And he did not open himself to it. And much later the Lord told him if he had paid heed to that angel he would not have got into debt. The angel said that he has come to warn him and to tell him of certain things. And he had not paid attention to the angel who had come to minister to him. It's important for us to realize that angels could come into your life and we don't know how to relate to that because we are not sensitive to the realm of the spirit. They may not appear in a vision all the time. But you could sense their presence and you know that an angel is around. There are always with us all the time. But there are times when they have a message to deliver if we don't open ourselves to that message they carry we will not be able to move into the fullness of what God wants to guide us with.

There are some laws to the angelic guidance that they bring that we need to take note of. They are the same laws that operate in the Holy Spirit but we need to just list that down. Most of the time, an angel speaks to us when we are in a time of prayer. The angel appeared to Daniel when he was in a time of prayer. At a time when you are hungry and seeking for God most, you are really thirsty and hungry for God and you need direction, the Holy Spirit is working and could work but that is the time when angelic guidance can come. In Acts 10 Cornelius was hungry after God and continually he offered God his alms giving. An angel appeared to him. So there has to be this area of reaching out into God. Daniel was hungry and thirsty after God after the revelation of God and an angel was sent to bring him revelation. So, you have to be in that position to be sensitive to the angels of God.

Secondly, angels can speak in a time of crisis, especially things that relate to your physical well-being, food, clothing, shelter. In a crisis things that are important you can be sure angels are working. After all, they are sent to minister to your needs. The Greek word even says in Hebrews that they are sent to wait on you. In a sense, they have some things to deliver to us. And in a crisis time that involves food, clothing and shelter tune to discern what your angels are doing. So that when you are aware, you could flow together with what your angels are doing.

In Matt. 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him. No. 2 he was in an emotional crisis. He loved Mary and he could not accept what she was bringing in that message. To his natural mind, he thought that this couldn't be true. He finds it hard to accept the miracle of the virgin birth. In his mind, he already decided to put her away. He had made a decision in verse 19 because he was a just man and he was minded to put her away secretly. And while he thought about how he could do it, he fell asleep in that crisis and an angel appeared to him. Let me tell you angels are involved in your life partner. Angels guide the circumstances by which you meet your life partner and everything that have to do with your life on earth. Marriage has to do with this life not in the next life. In heaven, there is no more marriage at all. Anything to do with this life angels are involved, whether in a time of crisis, in a marriage, in a life partner situation, in food, clothing, shelter situation. Do you know that angels are involved in your buying the right car? Now we understand why God let angels do this work. Because these are minimal work. All these things that involve you buying which house, what concern has God whether you live in a one-room house? God cares for us no doubt these are tasks that He has delegated to His angels working with His Holy Spirit. As far as God is concerned, it makes no difference whether you ride a bicycle to church or you ride a motorbike or you drove in a car. It makes no difference in God. You are esteemed in God's sight as a king. We are all equal in God's sight. Remember that God loves us and He has sent His angels to take care of all these things. Angels will guide you to buy the right brand. Angels will guide you to the right office space. Everything that is included as the affairs of this life, angels have been assigned. Now you see how dangerous if you missed out on that. If you want to partake of the things of this life, you have to learn how to operate with the angels of God.

So, No. 2 is what I call a crisis situation. In any crisis listen carefully, discern in the spirit what they are doing. And you could hear them telling you. Hagin missed it at times even though he was perfect in many of His leadings but he missed it. If any time you get into situation, you got to borrow you have missed it. Your angels will never get you into that. Your angels will never get you into some sort of crisis. Angels will know the right thing to do because they are in charge of those things in your life. For all guidance related to that learn the signals that the angels have given to us.

The third area is that angels will not step into your life to appear or to speak to you unless you pass the test of temptation. Before that, they will protect your blind spots. In other words, there are many situations of life where there are areas that you choose and areas that you can not choose. I mean some choices are beyond you, for example your blind spots. But areas within your choice where you can be accountable to God for making the right choice the angels will not help you until you choose. Areas that

are beyond your control where there is no way you could make any choice to change it the angels protect you from demonic interference. There are so many demons out there and if our angels are not protecting us from our blind spots, the demons will have a free play on our lives. Those are areas that are beyond your free choice and control and the angels protect you a hundred percent. But the areas that are within your free choice angels will not interfere until you choose. Only after you make your choice then they come into the picture.

In the book of Mark 1:12 Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts, and the angels ministered to Him. They ministered to Him at the end of the temptation not before. We realize that He was hungry at the end of the forty days. Possibly the angels may have brought some food to Him after Satan left but Jesus had to make the right choices first. If you make the wrong choice, the angels couldn't help because they got to honor your free choice. So, be very careful to choose. Choosing is our prerogative and the strength will come from God to back up that choice. No matter how under duress that temptation is all you have to do is make the right choice and the powers of heaven will back you up.

In the book of Luke 22:40 He came to the place He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will take this cup away from Me, nevertheless not My will but Yours be done." The moment He finished making His choice an angel appeared to Him strengthening Him.

Paul was in a crisis situation where his life is at stake in the Acts 27. Notice Paul voluntarily went to Jerusalem knowing that he will be imprisoned. That was his choice. He knew that was God's will for him to be in prison that is in Acts 21. Even though Agabus prophesied that he would be in prison and people tried to persuade him from that, he persisted in obeying God. And being in prison there were some things that he could not make a choice since it was beyond his authority at that time. Acts 27:10 he knew that he is going to be in danger in that ship. If he had a choice, he could have chosen not to go. But he had no choice because he was a prisoner. He warned the captain. Thank God areas that are beyond your choice angels are at work. And when danger came until their lives were all in jeopardy, In chapter 27 Paul said to them in verse 22 And not I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve. There are circumstances that some of us go through that are not your choice. But in spite of that if they are not your choice and you can not help it angels will be there.

You remember Daniel did he choose to be thrown into the lions' den? He was framed and he was taken a prisoner for disobeying the edict of the king not to pray. Now he had a choice to obey or disobey that edict and if he chose to obey that edict, that may spell the end of Daniel. But now having disobeyed the edict and keeping to his regular times of prayer, he was arrested and he did not have the power to be free any more. Even as a Prime Minister, he became a prisoner. He was thrown into the lions' den and he came out unscathed. The angels shut the mouth of the lions. That's a comfort to all of us to know that areas beyond your choice angels will protect you. But areas within your choice you better choose right because if you choose wrong they are not under obligation to protect you. So, that's the third area of angelic work in our life.

No. 1 angels will work for you when you hunger in your zeal and your initiative towards God.

No. 2 in a crisis situation.

No. 3 you have to choose in areas where you have a choice for them to continue operating. They will only come and minister to you after the temptation not before. But areas beyond your choice they will always guard you and protect your blind spots.

14. GUIDANCE BY COUNSEL

Leading by counsel is in regard to the counsel of godly men. We want to see all the aspects that are involved in the leading of the Holy Spirit. There is one aspect of leading that the bible does recommend. It's also together with the leading of the Spirit because its godly men who could hear what God's Spirit is saying and they are able to give counsel. One of the titles of our Lord Jesus is that He is our Counselor and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace and Mighty God. So one of His titles is Counselor. One of the titles of the Holy Spirit is also Counselor and Comforter. So, we want to see how godly counsel can lead us. There are two types of counsel that the bible talks about. The reason why we are touching on getting counsel from godly people is because it is part and parcel of the leadings of the Spirit in our Christian life.

Let read Gal. 1 Paul writing here in regard to the revelation that he received and how he received it not from men in verse 12. Then he tells us after he received revelations of God in his life. Verse 15-17 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. In verse 16 Paul says he did not immediately confer with flesh and blood.

I believe that it was either Jerry Seville or Kenneth Copeland when they were fellowshiping one time with Oral Roberts in his early days. And he says, "What would you say to a young minister who is just beginning his ministry?" Oral Roberts looked right into his eyes and said, "Confer not with flesh and blood." There is a truth in that.

When we have a revelation from God, we have some of the things that God called us to do. We need to really hear it from God and know that God said and do it because God said it. And be willing to face opposition, misunderstanding that may come because God has spoken to you. All through the bible everyone to whom God spoke to was never fully understood. So there is a truth in that. But we want to see carefully what the Paul said in Galatians chapter one. He says, "I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood." When he said he did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, it does not mean that he did not confer with flesh and blood later on. If I say I am not immediately going to East Malaysia, I am not saying I am not going at all. I may go later. I am saying I am not immediately going. When Paul says he did not immediately confer with flesh and blood he does not mean that it is wrong to confer nor did he say that he is not going to confer at all. But he says he is at the present moment not going to confer yet.

Later on in the book of Galatians 2:2, I went up by revelation and communicated to them that gospel which I preached among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run in vain. So, in the end Paul did confer with them privately. So, the question of conferring with flesh and blood is not a question of whether we should confer. For we should since no man is an island and no man functions by himself. No minister stands alone separated by God and isolated from fellowship of other men. But they need to be built up by the Body of Christ. Sometimes what we received from God may be a little bit imbalanced and

we need to hear what the other side is saying to balance us a little bit and get the right perspective of what God is saying. So, Paul here did confer with the apostles. The question is not whether its right or wrong to confer but the question is, is the timing right or wrong. So, Paul says that when you want to receive a revelation from God, you need to get alone with God. Get the revelation established in your life. Get the Spirit of truth to reveal all the fullness of the revelation and then later in God's time you confer with godly men and women who can hear from their inward witness and the Holy Spirit.

With that in mind lets look at two seemingly opposing scriptures. Apparently, they are not opposing but outwardly, they seem to be. First of all in Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no counsel the people fail; but in the multitude of counselors, there is safety. There is a safety net in a multitude of counselors. In other words, it is good to seek counsel. And its important for us to fellowship with other members of the body of Christ who could relate to us in the realm of revelation that you move in, in order for us to be balanced. For every joint supplies to the edifying to the whole body, Eph. 4. In Proverbs 11:14 it says there is safety in the multitude of counselors.

Over in Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly. Nor stands in the path of sinners; nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight in the law of the Lord. Psalms 1:1 is opposite from Proverbs 11:14. There is a counsel that is not of God. If we walk in it there is a path that leads to destruction. On the opposite side, there is a safety in the multitude of counselors. So on one side its says its good to have counsel but on the other side it says there is a wrong counsel. The problem is not whether we should have counsel or not. We should watch and be led by the Spirit even in obtaining counsel. Most of the time, when people seek counsel they are just seeking to confirm what they want to do. If that's of God no problem. But sometimes all people are asking for is not counsel but for permission. They want to carry out what their hearts have purposed but they want somebody else to be on their side so that when they make a mistake they could put the blame on somebody else. So what they are seeking for is not counsel. They are seeking for permission. Can I do it? Do you think its right? Actually, they already intended to do what they want. But what they want to do is for somebody else to just give him or her the permission or to say amen to what they want to do. If it's of God no problem. If it's not of God there is a problem. So how do we discern counsel? How does counsel guide us? We have to draw principles in that area.

First of all, let's see some of the wrong counsel that was given in the bible that really caused great destruction. I Kg. 12 you see how counsel is so important it can mean the making or the breaking of a man or woman and the ministry or your life. In I Kg. 12, Solomon has died and his son Rehoboam took over a very prestigious position, a very prestigious nation, and a very prestigious inheritance. Gold and silver were so common. The bible says silver was valueless in Solomon's time since they were plentiful like stones. Imagine inheriting such a kingdom and Rehoboam in I Kg. 12 met with the people of Israel who came to him and told him their grievances.

In verse 4, Your father made our yoke heavy, now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you. So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed. Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon. It was a major decision. Its good to have counsel but look at the point here

that he is going to make a decision and he doesn't want to make it himself because its dangerous. In all the societies of men, in the whole history of mankind, in the rise and fall of nations and in all the achievements of men, a lot of counsel is involved, some good and some bad. Here is a making of a nation. Rehoboam asked for people to come back in three days' time while he seeks counsel.

Verse 6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people" These are the seasoned counselors. And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever." That was good advice. Sometimes the Holy Spirit leads you through counsel. He leads you to godly men. And here Rehoboam was given instruction by godly men but he rejected the counsel, which the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him. These are his buddies. And he asked them in verse 9 what counsel do you give. How shall we answer the people? Verse 10 Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us – thus you shall say to them: My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist. And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges.'" That's a different counsel.

Here is king Rehoboam. On one side was a godly counsel and it said go along with these people, lighten the yoke and you will keep the whole nation. His buddies and pals on one side said make it harder for them; tell them that your little finger is as fat as your father's waist. And king Rehoboam was torn in between the two counsels - one ungodly and one godly. Sad to say he chose the ungodly. As a result of that, ten nations pulled out and he lost a great part of the empire. All because he was led by the wrong counsel.

The other guy who led the break away was Jeroboam. Jeroboam pulled out ten tribes, gathered them and formed what we call the Northern Kingdom. King Rehoboam was only left with two tribes the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin and they formed the Southern Kingdom. Israel was split into two because of the wrong counsel.

Now king Jeroboam meanwhile has moved up north to form his own kingdom and establish his capital. It was the custom for the Israelites to travel to Jerusalem and do all the sacrifices there. That was in the book of Moses. It was the command of God. It is commanded of God that they must go down to Jerusalem to make all the sacrifices there. Can you imagine the threat that can be to his new kingdom? Jerusalem was in the Southern Kingdom and if his people from the Northern Kingdom were to keep going down to Jerusalem to make sacrifices, king Jeroboam may very soon lose his own people.

And there were some who told Jeroboam what to do about that. Verse 28 Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt." So Jeroboam also followed the wrong counsel and he built two golden calves and told the people that they don't have to go to Jerusalem any more for these calves are their gods. He should have trusted in the Lord. It was God who gave

him the kingdom, which was prophesied earlier to him in Solomon's time. If we don't see what we received as from God then we will try to keep it with our own strength. But if we don't understand that, what we received whether it is a blessing, prosperity or your position is from God, then there is no way you could keep it to yourself. You can only keep it as long as you rely on God. If you receive it by your own hand by the hand of flesh there is no doubt you got to fight and protect that. But if it came from God by His grace as long as you dwell in God and are dependent on Him and His grace you will always keep it. There is no fear or insecurity.

Here the wrong counsel led Jeroboam. He started the golden calf worship all over again. So, because of wrong counsel Israel began its road of backsliding away from God. How dangerous wrong counsel can be. Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly. Nor stands in the path of sinners. Nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

But the right counsel has sometimes preserved godly people. Turn with me to the book of I Sam. 25 the background of this story is David and Nabal. David was running away from king Saul and when Saul was pursuing him, David used to hide in a cave with all his mighty men. And it was nearby Nabal's shepherds. So, David's people used to protect Nabal and his entire shepherds. One day since it was a feast day, David asked Nabal if he could help his men. Nabal sort of scorned David and the news got back to David. This was what David said in I Sam. 25:13 Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword," So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies. I tell you David had one thing in mind. He was going to make mince meat out of Nabal. He was hot. When David got angry that was dangerous, he got his mighty men.

When they came down, the news spread. Somehow, Nabal was a very terrible fellow, hard taskmaster and ungodly man. When his servants heard how David's men have been rejected they were very frightened. They came to tell Nabal's wife, Abigail and said, "Look at what the master had said to David." So when David was coming down Abigail quickly got all the provisions and in verse 18 Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. And she said to her servants, "Go on before me, see, I am coming after you." She went as fast as she could. On the way, they met this mighty army of David coming down with his four hundred men.

When Abigail saw David in verse 23 Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground. So, she fell at his feet and said, "On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be." The gist of what she said here is in verse 28 Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the Lord will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the Lord, and evil is not found in you throughout your days. Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the Lord your God: and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out as from the pocket of a sling. And it shall come to pass, when the Lord has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel, that this will be no

grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself.

What she was saying was this. Here was David with his sword drawn and his men were coming all ready for battle to make mince meat out of Nabal. Here comes Nabal's wife Abigail; she fell at his feet and she said, "O lord," and she started giving him counsel. She said, "A day would come when you will be king. And one day when you are king, you may regret what you do now." This is a bold woman. She has her way to give counsel. Ladies you learn from her its tremendous. She approached in a humble way but her advice was very powerful. She said, "David what you are going through is unjust and one day when you are established as king, you may regret what you have done." That was encouraging. She gave an encouraging word. There are not many people who believed in David. He was not popular. He was regarded as an official outlaw although he was not in the wrong. But here comes a woman who believes in David. Before you can really give counsel, you must see someone's potential. You can not give counsel by just seeing the faults of people. There are a lot of people who are unofficial counselors and they don't see the potential - all they see is the fault. And they say, "Brother let me give you counsel. The next time you don't do this, don't do that." That's not counsel.

Abigail came and said, "God has appointed you. One day you are going to be king." That was an encouraging word. It was like water given in a hard dry thirsty desert. Then Abigail said, "David, one day when you are king you may regret that you shed blood innocently or in revenge." So she was counseling and said, "David, don't do it." Notice she didn't just say, "Don't do it." She also explained why David shouldn't do it. Its important when you tell people that you must also tell the reason. That's the art of leadership. A lot of leaders are only good at telling, "Don't do this don't do that." But they don't tell you the reason. This is why many times when I tell people who give instructions that they must also explain why. Understanding is the key to fellowship.

There was this girl who always pull the curtain down. The mother said, "Don't pull," and she runs away. The next day she was back at it again. Sometimes the mother would cane her and she cries. Then again, sometimes she would do it. This brother in Christ was wondering why she must keep doing it. This brother asked her, "Do you know why you should not pull the curtain?" The girl said, "I don't know. All I know is that people don't want me to pull it." But she doesn't know why she should not pull the curtain. So, he said, "Because if you keep pulling the curtain, it may drop on you. The whole thing may fall and you will be injured. That's why mama doesn't want you to pull the curtain." And she never pulls the curtain again. See training and discipline is not just whacking somebody just because they are wrong. Two whacks don't make one right. But the key is to communicate the reason.

So Abigail told David not to do it. Just think about what would your reaction be in the future. She gives him vision. There he is king and she said he would regret it. Because when he looks back at his past there will be this black dot there because of his hastiness of wanting to take action. And David was a very teachable man. In I Sam. 25:32 Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed is the lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand. For indeed, as the Lord God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from

hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal. Because of one woman who gave counsel, they were preserved and David was preserved.

We are talking about being led by the Spirit. You look at David's life and you will see that he was led by the Spirit all the time. But there are times when God uses people to give counsel to him especially in a time when he did not seek the Lord. This is one time he didn't ask God, "God shall I go or not?" He just went. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. He had a good heart and God blocked his way with godly counsel just to cause him to think again of his action. And he says to Abigail, "You are right."

Now the essence of godly counsel is not so much hearing the audible voice of the Holy Spirit or receiving spectacular leadings. The essence of godly counsel is this: most of the time, every one of us has to be led by the inward witness of what God is saying to us inwardly. And the essence of godly counsel is if five of us have our inward witness, we could check ourselves better. It's checking the common inward witness within the group of us.

Turn to I Co. 7:10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord. He says this is the Lord saying. And he gives certain counsel. That is thus says the Lord. Counsel is not thus says the Lord. Thus says the Lord is a prophecy. I want you to see the difference. You do not give counsel by saying, "Hi brother thus says the Lord." That is not counsel that is prophecy. Counsel is not the Lord said but it is the next two verses in I Cor. 7:12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say. He was giving advice and this was his counsel. See counsel can not be given with thus says the Lord. In giving counsel, you are saying this is what I sensed to be the right thing to do. Counsel is hearing your inward witness. Prophecy is hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. In a multitude of counselors, there is safety. Being led by counsel is where you got four or five sensitive people who could sense in their inward witness together with you on a course of action. It is still not thus says the Lord. Anybody who tries to give counsel with thus says the Lord is doing it the wrong way. Neither is counsel manipulation where the counselor says, "I want you to do what I want you to do. What I think you should do." Counsel is not giving everybody a piece of your mind. Counsel is your inward witness sensing what God is saying. But the difference is instead of one person being led by the inward witness with the inward voice you have four or five to let the inward witness sense the same thing. That is the safety that it provides. So, counsel is not just good advice. Counsel is your spirit man sensing. And it must be sensitive enough to pick up direction. It is not with your mind. It's sensing with your spirit man what is the right direction.

There are some cautions in seeking counsel. Even if four, five, or ten people said, "All ten of us have agreed that this is what we feel you should do." And you don't have an inward witness you don't have to go along. The essence of counsel lies in the inward witness.

I want you to see some difference here. In the book of Acts 21 Paul was on his way to Jerusalem and in verse 4 And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days, they told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem. They sensed something in the Spirit. They sensed it correctly but they interpreted it wrongly. So, they gave a wrong counsel. Paul did not follow their counsel although there were many of them because

he didn't have a witness. His spirit tells him he should go. In Acts 21, there comes a prophecy through Agabus the prophet in verse 11. Agabus says thus says the Lord and he gave a prophecy about how Paul would be in prison. And in verse 12 everybody told Paul not to go. The prophecy has been delivered. It didn't say to go or not to go. It just says there will be danger. Paul was in the minority and all of them were saying, "Please don't do." They were not just saying it - they were begging. Tears were in their eyes. They also love Paul. It doesn't mean that when you love somebody automatically everything you tell the person is good. They were sincere, their motives were right. Just because their motives were right doesn't justify every word that you say or every action that you do. And Paul said, "Why are you all doing this? I am not only prepared to go I am prepared to die." Why, because in Acts 20 Paul already knew it in himself. He already had a confirmation in verse 22, "And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me."

The essence of counsel lies with the inward witness. That is powerful when you have people who are sensitive to the inward witness. Therefore, before you could be a counselor the inward witness must lead you yourself. If you yourself are not sensitive to your inward witness and your inward voice, you are in no position to counsel another because counsel is not thus says the Lord. Counsel is sensing and saying, "I, and not the Lord say this." If I don't see somebody who is being led by his own inward witness and who accurately picks his own inward witness I don't want counsel from that person. If they can not be led by their inward witness, how can they help me with their inward witness? Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly. Nor stands in the path of sinners. Nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

But there is safety in the multitude of counselors. So what do we do? We need to fellowship and know that when people who are sensitive to the inward witness and then when they get together what do they sense? See this is a safety net. They may not get the thus says the Lord. There are many occasions when God does not give the thus says the Lord. He expects you to be led by the inward witness. That is the safety net of the inward witness. However if its your life that is involved you have to make the final decision. So, the safety net of counsel needs to be guided by these three points.

In the book of Acts 15 when they had to settle a doctrinal issue in the church, they based it on three points here. They didn't settle the matter by praying and fasting and then God gives the thus says the Lord and this is the right thing to do. There are some things you got to bring a multitude of counselors to decide. In Acts 15, the apostles had to decide whether Gentiles should become a Jew and keep Jewish custom or not. In chapter 15:12 Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. There was a lot of debate and dissension that was going on. Finally, Paul and Barnabas stood up and gave testimony. No. 1 there was good testimony. If something is right, it produces fruit. If God is telling us that Gentiles don't have to keep Jewish custom then God would show us that He is already working among them whether they keep the Jewish laws or not. Paul and Barnabas gave testimony of God's mighty workings among the Gentiles and that was the fruit of the truth. Verse 14 Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles. Verse 15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written. No. 2 counsel can not go against

the written Word. If somebody counsels you to do something against the written Word, it is wrong. It is ungodly counsel that leads to destruction. If you want to be a good counselor, there is no doubt you have to be very deep in the Word. Because counsel has to be in line with the written Word. You can have one hundred fellows counsel you in something but if I could show you one verse just one verse that what you are being counseled is unscriptural the whole hundred counselors are rejected because scriptures stands above all. God exalts His Word above His Name. The Word of God is still important.

No. 3 at the conclusion they said in verse 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us, inward witness. All of them have their inward witness bearing witness to their spirits. That's the essence of good counsel; it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us. You sensed the green light in you. Everyone checked their traffic lights and they say, "Its green light and this is the right thing to do." So, you never bypass these three points in good counsel. With all those as a guidance we should in God's time seek guidance and seek good counsel. We should throw out to some godly men and women what the Lord is saying to you. Sometimes the Lord says something and I have a thus says the Lord and I would just throw it out just to see how people are reacting to it. Just sensing the counsel of people and what the Lord is saying. You always have a lot of people saying amen to everything without even checking the inward witness. We need to be balanced here. On one side, we should not be like the stubborn mule that can not be counseled and is un-teachable. Yet, on the other side you must not be like a jellyfish where every Tom, Dick and Harry comes and tells you anything you go along without checking your inward witness. We must be balanced. We must understand the value of counsel for there are some areas where God's Spirit will lead godly man and woman into our lives to give counsel. Perhaps we missed God in some areas or at other times, we missed God in timing. And the counsel sort of put us back into correct gear and position. Then we could walk right with God.

There are times in the bible where Paul himself has given advice and counsel to others and he has been involved in the work of God in other people's life just as his life was. In Acts 11, it was Barnabas who took him to go to Antioch. Then he himself in Acts 16:1 took Timothy and in verse three Paul wanted him to go on with him. He didn't say thus says the Lord. That's a major decision to leave for full time ministry. Look at verse 3 Paul wanted him to go along. He didn't say, "Thus says the Lord." It was Paul sensing it as a right thing to do. We need to be balanced on both ends. On the end of receiving counsel you must not be like jelly fish neither like a stubborn old mule.

On the other side, if you are the one giving counsel you must be aware you are not using manipulation. It is easy to manipulate people's life when you are in the position to do so. Because what you say is taken very seriously. At the same time, you can not play God to people. When there is no thus says the Lord, no inward witness, you are playing God if you are giving direction over people's life. There is only one Almighty God and you shall have no other god.

Yet, at the same time neither must you just sit around when a lot of things are happening and you should say something, yet you are dumb. You do not warn the sinner. Like Ezekiel, God told Ezekiel if you don't warn them their blood is on you. That's the other extreme. You are just Mr. Dumbbell sitting down and you are not

saying something that should be said. But there are times when God will lead you to give a word to somebody.

God will lead you to fellowship with some people. If it's in the building of the body of Christ, God will lead you to do it. We have to be sensitive to that. God will lead you to fellowship for no man is an island. We need to be sensitive to God to realize that God has given His gifts, different instruments and all of them work together in harmony in God. The basic fact is that those who give counsel should not be authoritarian and say, "You either follow my counsel or you are out." That's a wrong attitude.

The right attitude is Gal. 6:1 you must approach with the spirit of meekness. You are not Mr. Know All giving counsel. You are just a small part in the body of Christ being requested to give your counsel in those areas. Be like what Abigail did. In other words, when you give counsel No. 1 you must love and you see the will of God in people's life. You must believe in them. Then No. 2 you must approach with a spirit of meekness, as Abigail did who didn't just say what to do or what not to do. She says why it should not be done. And David took the good counsel and he was preserved.

Good counsel leads us, the Holy Spirit will bring godly men across our paths and there will be safety in the multitude of counselors. Don't just run and ask for counsel - there is timing. Paul says, "I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood." You must confer with God first. If your relationship is not established with God forget about human beings yet. The only way you can really relate to human beings is when your relationship with God is right. So, you must confer with God first. Maybe you need to go to Arabia like Paul. Maybe to a resort somewhere and just keep quiet with the Lord. Be still before God searching what God is speaking to you and understanding what God is saying and then later in God's timing. Paul says in Gal. 2 he says he went up by revelation. In other words, God told him its time to seek counsel. So, those who give counsel needs to be led by the Spirit to give it. Those who seek counsel needs to be led by the Spirit to seek it. If the leading of the Spirit is not involved, forget it. There must be a leading of the Spirit on both ends. And when all flow with the Spirit that is the part and plan of God's leading for His people.

15. THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In this message, we want to talk about the leading of the Spirit through the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We are going to show a connection between the leading of the Spirit and walking in the Spirit and the fruit of the Holy Ghost. Before we do that, let's look at the book of Acts and see the leading that Paul had in his life. We have talked about how God can lead us through the inward witness and how God could lead us in all the various realms of His Spirit.

Lets look at Acts 13:2-3 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work in which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. Here is the first missionary journey beginning and Paul the apostle received together with Barnabas a spectacular leading. All the leadings of the Holy Spirit may not be spectacular. But all of them definitely are supernatural but some of them are more spectacular than others. We can not tell God how to speak to us. God will speak to us and it's up to us to hear Him when He speaks in a spectacular manner or an unspectacular manner and just be obedient to Him. Here in Paul's life in Acts 13 in the beginning of his first missionary journey and there was a spectacular leading. The Holy Spirit spoke but the bible didn't tell us whether they heard it only among themselves or whether there was an audible voice and all of them heard. The whole group was praying and heard that supernatural voice of the Holy Spirit and they just obeyed it and flowed along. It would be wonderful for God to lead that way but God does not lead that way all the time.

After the Jerusalem council, the second missionary journey took place in Acts 15 when Paul and Barnabas came back from Jerusalem to Antioch. They stayed there for some time. Acts 15:36 Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Lets us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the Word of the Lord, and see how they are doing." Now it doesn't say anything about the voice of the Holy Spirit. But what Paul was saying here is, "I feel good about it. I feel good about visiting these people." And there is an impression laid on his heart. Perhaps the idea came to his mind. And the Lord Holy Spirit was working. We realize that this was the leading of the Holy Spirit. Yet, it was not as spectacular as the first time. Now all he feels is something good on the inside.

Now we have talked about the five sensations of the inward witness. This is connected to that but yet different. This nature of ours, which is renewed by the Holy Spirit, flows with the mind of God. You sort of know the mind of God. And you know this is the right thing to do at the right time. Here Paul is sensing it that it's good to visit them. Then began the wonderful journey called the second missionary journey. The spectacular leading came much later. That is in Acts 16 they had a little dispute before they parted and two missionary journeys were born out of that dispute.

Now look at Acts 19 the time of Paul's third missionary journey. We want to see the beginning of the missionary journey. Acts 19 it tells us that Apollo was in Corinth that Paul having passed the upper regions and came to Ephesus. That was Paul's third missionary journey. But before that third missionary journey began, the two earlier missionary journeys had already accomplished many great and mighty exploits for God. And the third was possibly in a greater measure because there he set up a preaching ministry in Ephesus. The background of the third missionary actually

started in Acts 18. As Paul was ending his second missionary journey in Acts 18 it tells us in verse 18 so Paul remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Chenchrea for he had taken a vow. And he came to Ephesus and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent. He was in Ephesus preaching the Word. This was the end of his second missionary journey and they asked Paul to stay longer. It came from the desire in their heart as they heard the Word of God being preached. Paul says he can't but this is the statement he made in verse 21 but took leave of them saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." He did not say yes, but he felt good about it. And he said, "I would return again to you, God willing."

Now here is the difference if he were receiving one of the inward witnesses of the Holy Spirit he would be able to say, "Yes I will return." Because the inward witness of the Holy Spirit is a green light or red light.

Remember there are five sensations of the inward witness. The first is stenazo, a grieving that we sense in our spirit that tells us it is red light for the time being and the thing that we are involved with is in the permissive will of God. Secondly, there is embrimaomai, a complete red light that says no, no. Thirdly, there is tarasso, an orange light danger signal that tells you to be extra careful and watchful. Fourthly, there is paroxunomai, which is a green light and a stirring to do something. Finally, there is sunecho, a bright green light where there is unction and anointing of the Spirit to do something. We outlined them as two red lights, two green lights and one orange light.

Now if you have an inward witness in your spirit you would know yes or no. You sensed it. Paul felt good about it. Here was an open door and a request to Paul to stay on. Paul said, "No, I have to keep that feast in Jerusalem, but I will return if God wills." Some time later, we read in the book of Acts 19 that the apostle Paul went back to Ephesus and he established a teaching center there. All together, he stayed there for three years in Acts 19. Two of those years were in the school of Tyrannus and one of those years was ministering from place to place. Later on in the book of Acts 20 when he called on the Ephesians elders, he told them that for three years he had ministered with them. The leadings that he received were important. It resulted in tremendous souls saved. Many times, we think that we have to have lightning flashing, thunder roaring and a supernatural spectacular voice from heaven saying, "Thus says the Lord, go to Africa and minister the Word." But it may not necessarily happen that way. Some of the most powerful leadings of God that led to thousands upon thousands of souls being saved came from the impression of God's Holy Spirit placing it in the spirits of human vessels obedient to God. In fact, the work in Ephesus was one of the most powerful works that Paul established. Because of the work in Ephesus, all the known areas around Ephesus called Asia Minor heard the Word. And there in Acts 19 some of the most powerful miracles took place when the handkerchiefs and aprons that were touched by Paul's hands were taken to the sick or demon possessed and the sick were healed and demons ran out. All started with a good impression in him saying, "I will return, God willing." He just felt good about it.

As we study this series on how to be led by the Spirit let us say that of all these methods that God could use, the most important thing is to be aware of them so that

we could flow with them. The leadings of the Spirit through the fruit of the Spirit developed in our life are not necessarily strong enough to be classified under the inward witness yet. Yet, they are a working of the spirit man and within the spirit man. There is the reborn spirit within us. But it's the spirit man sensing all the various shades of the fruit of the Spirit, goodness, and love etc but not to the extent of the five inward witnesses of the human spirit.

For that how do we establish this truth? Lets look at the bible in the book of Gal. 5 and see Paul as he describes the fruit of the Holy Spirit. You notice in verse 22 the first word "but" the fruit of the Spirit is such and such. When you see a "but" in the bible you have to read the previous verses. The "but" in the bible tell us this is the conclusion of the reasoning of the former part of the sentence. That is what he says here is relevant to what he is presenting in earlier statements. In the book of Gal. 5 in the earlier verses, it says in verse 16 it says, Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. He is talking about walking in the Spirit. The subject he was introducing is how to be led by the Holy Spirit. He was not just telling them about Christian character although it is important. The Christian character has a characteristic tied to the leading of the Spirit. Here his main subject is walking in the Spirit.

He repeats that again in verse 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. In other words, the bondage of the law is not pressing upon you. In other words, you are living on a higher law. You are free from the bondage of the old law if you are led by the Spirit. I want you to notice the conclusion in verse 23 Against such there is no law. He says if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. And here he says but the fruit of the Spirit is and he named all the nine fruits of the Spirit and says against such there is no law. The meaning is still the same that you are not under the law but you are living under a higher law called the fruit of the Spirit, which is in line with the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

In verse 25 he says, if you live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit. He is again emphasizing a third time. After he talks about the works of the flesh he says if you are being led by the Spirit, if you are walking in the Spirit these are the results. These are the fruit of being led by the Spirit. He is pointing a contrast here. He says if you are not led by the Spirit then it must be in the flesh and he named all the works of the flesh. But if you are led by the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, these are the fruit and he named all of it. Therefore, the fruit of the Spirit is connected to the leading of the Spirit. If you are saying you are led by the Holy Ghost you are led by the Spirit and God has spoken to you whether through dream or inward witness or inward voice or the voice of the Holy Spirit or whatever manner the end result must produce love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control - it must produce that. Even if you saw an angel or saw a vision of the Lord Jesus and if it does not produce love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, based on the scripture we have a right to question your leading. You see the point there. See all things produce after its kind. What is born of the Spirit will produce the fruit of the Spirit. What is born of the flesh will produce works of the flesh.

If the result of all that we have studied on how to be led by the Spirit and all the various ways must produce and is supposed to produce the fruit of the Spirit, then the fruit of the Spirit is one of the finer confirmations. That is not the only confirmation of

judging the truth. Besides the fruit of the Spirit, there is the inward witness, you shall judge them by their fruit and you can judge by the Word of God whether it is in line with the Word. Sometimes outwardly, it looks like the fruit of the Spirit but if you examine it closely, you will find that it is not, it's the fruit of the human soul. The human emotion and soul has a certain measure of temperance, of peace, of human love, which is not divine agape love. He is not talking about human soul here. He is talking about the fruit of the Holy Spirit working within the human spirit. It is a higher and greater measure. The bible says the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will garrison and guard your heart and your mind. So there is a certain peace that could work in your mind and a certain peace that could work in the heart. But if it's the peace of God, it will quicken both heart and the mind. He is not talking about just the mental peace. He is talking about the peace that rises from within the depth of your spirit that garrisons or takes over your whole soul. There is a quietness and rest that your soul received. That's where we move into the leading of the Spirit.

If the results are the fruit of the Spirit then the beginning of it has to be the product of the Spirit. When God's Spirit speaks to you, the fruit of the Spirit grows within your spirit and will resonate in line with what you heard, whether you heard a voice or saw an angel, the Lord Jesus, a vision or a dream. We call that resonance where if you hit one of the two tuning forks that are exactly tuned to the same level of frequency, the vibration of this tuning fork here will cause the other tuning fork to vibrate. That is what I call resonance. Now when God speaks through whatever means or methods there will begin the resonance within our human spirit where we know it's the right thing. And when we act on it, it will still be flowing in the flow of the Spirit. So, we need to learn how to sense the fruit of the Spirit in our life.

Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Now the nine fruit of the Spirit are all working in our spirits. But you notice that for example the last fruit, self-control, it definitely refers to the control of your bodily fashion and activity. If you study that very carefully although it's the nine fruit of the Spirit which rises within your spirit it speaks about the various control in your spirit, in your soul and in your body realm, all from the human spirit from the Holy Spirit. He is moving forth and it's controlling your spirit, controlling your soul and controlling your body. Love, joy and peace are always the basic control of our spirit man. If your spirit man is right with God, it will always sense love, joy and peace.

The next three in that grouping that are called longsuffering, kindness and goodness talk about the fruit of the Spirit growing forth and controlling your soul. Then the last three faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, talk about the spiritual control that rises from the human spirit through the Holy Spirit upon your body. So, when the fruit of the Spirit is working in your life you would have your spirit, your soul and your body subject to the spiritual influences of the Holy Spirit. All the fruit of the Spirit we have mentioned is tied to love. That's why its singular, the fruit of the Holy Spirit. In I Cor. 13, all the fruit of the Spirit is actually listed under love. For example it says love suffers long. What is that? Longsuffering. And is kind. What is that? Kindness. Love does not envy, love does not parade itself its not puffed up. What is that? Peace. Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked - what is that? - gentleness. Think no evil - that is goodness, does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in

the truth. What is that? Joy. Bears all things, believes all things, hope all things - what is that? - faithfulness.

So we see all the various realms of the fruit of the Spirit. Think no evil ties up to goodness. But goodness in your life has to affect your soul. You not only have a good walk with God and good deeds you have to have good thoughts. So what we want to show here is all the fruit of the Spirit is tied to love. It is the working aspect of the love of God in our life. For God is love. Why don't you say God is peace? He is. Why don't you say God is joy? He is. Why do we just say God is love? Love brings all the other attributes of the fruit of the Spirit. All the other attributes of the fruit of the Spirit are in God and they are called love. As love comes forth that's where you began to have all the fruit of the Spirit. How do all the different fruit of the Spirit operate and work in our life? The basic element is love agape love in our heart that God has shed in our hearts the love of God in our life. We are to know that blessedness of the love of Jesus in Rom. 5 how the love of God has been poured in our heart and the love of God is filling our lives.

As you began to be led by the Spirit, the next element as you sense as you flow along will be joy. See Paul puts all the nine fruit systematically one after another because they are connected. Supposing you have the leading of the Spirit and if you saw a vision of God, what's your first response? Joy. You feel the joy of the Lord in your spirit. The joy of the Lord will rise within you. You know and you sense that joy that comes to you. The leading could come through the inward witness. Together with the inward witness, you sense joy. The joy of the Lord bubbling forth that comes to you, you know that you are in the will of God. The joy of the Lord gives you strength to operate and do the will of God.

Now to understand the fruit we need to see its opposite. Most of the time in the English language, we say that the opposite of love is hate. But the opposite of love in the bible is self in the New Testament. You see love means dying to self and loving as God love. In the English language, the opposite of love is hate. Of course, there is hate involved in the lack of love. But the bible classifies all selfishness as non-love. You can not love without dying to self. Jn. 3:16 says that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. 1 Jn. 3:16 tells us that greater love had no man that He could lay down His life for His brethren. The bible talks about love and it is selflessness. The opposite of joy in the bible is discouragement. You can not have joy and be discouraged at the same time. When the bible use the word, "Be of good cheer," the original language actually is saying, "Be filled with the joy of the Lord. Be encouraged in the Lord."

When the Lord told Moses and Joshua, "Be strong and of good courage," an element involved in that is joy and that's when courage of the Lord that comes. Joy is tied to courage in the bible.

The joy of the Lord is your strength. If you have joy, you have courage. You lose your joy you lose your courage. Paul says rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice. There is what I call the nine steps leading of the Spirit. In whatever method God spoke to you as you take the first step joy accompanies it. Joy bubbles in you, courage bubbles in you. Strength bubbles in you. When God appears to you, you have courage. You dare to do things that others do not dare. You dare to do new things because you have heard from God. There is courage and boldness. Most important

there is joy. The world may be full of fear and anxiety but you have joy. The first step is joy.

Then as you take the second step in the right direction peace comes over your life and slowly its being translated upon your soul. That is why the book of Philippians 4 it says the peace of God which passes all understanding shall guard or garrison your heart and your mind. See the fruit of the Spirit is flowing out through your spirit to your soul and to your body. It's beginning to flow into your mind right now. It is now all over your heart and all over your mind as you walk in the Spirit. If you are being led by the Spirit and you received a leading in whatever form or method and you start moving and if there is no joy you better stop for a while and seek God. Perhaps you have missed God in His timing. You may be doing the right thing but at the wrong time. You know that if you do the right thing at the wrong time its also wrong. Or you could be doing the right thing with the wrong motives also its wrong. And of course, if you are doing the wrong thing then it's wrong.

And as you move, you should sense that joy. If you are perfect in motives, in time and in action joy will fill your life. You are moving in the kingdom of God and not in the kingdom of darkness. For the kingdom of God is love, joy and peace. If you are moving out of the kingdom of God, you are stepping across the boundary into the works of darkness and the works of the flesh and you begin to move out of love and joy. So, the first step is joy. The second step peace. And it's not an ordinary peace. Sometimes our heart is peaceful but our mind is confused and at other times, your mind feels a type of peace and calmness but your heart is troubled. That is not a perfect state. Always obey your heart. The world around us can be filled with confusion but if you know and sense the peace of God in your heart and mind you know you are doing the right thing in the right time. The most important thing on this planet earth is just to do God's perfect will in our life. Whether you are privately doing or publicly doing it the most important thing is to do God's will.

The first step love, second step joy, the third step peace. Let us look at the gospel of Luke for a moment. Lk. 1:79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. To guide our feet into the way of peace. See how the leading of the Spirit is tied to peace. Peace is not just a state of being. In Lk. 1:79 peace is a path, which you walk. Guide our feet into the highway or the way of peace. The peace of God will guard your heart and your mind. We need that because the leading of the Spirit in your life could be against the works of the enemy and you need the peace of God to undergird your heart and your mind.

As you begin to walk the third step into peace, then you take the fourth step into the leading of the Spirit. The bible says in Gal. 5:22 the next fruit of the Spirit is longsuffering. Why is that so? If you are led by the Spirit the enemy will challenge you. The enemy does not like you to be led by the Spirit. And as you walk in the Spirit love then joy then peace and you continue moving the next fruit that starts coming on your life is longsuffering. If you are led by the Spirit you may not see the result immediately. You need to suffer long. Now longsuffering is not just patience. Longsuffering involves an actual suffering. You could be patient without suffering. But long suffering is as you stand you are being challenged darts are thrown at you and it costs you intense suffering. I am not talking of suffering of disease we are talking about the sufferings of Christ that you are sensing. God is long suffering. He puts up with things that grieve Him. As you take the fourth step in the Spirit, you

begin to confront the realm, of the mind and the enemy. That's where if you are truly led by the Spirit if you know that God has spoken something to you, you will be able to endure.

There are a lot of people who says God told me this, God told me that but when they start moving in the Spirit and they confront difficulty they give up. And people in the world say, .How come he says, 'God told him this,' and it doesn't work." And the name of Christ is blasphemed because of that. If God really spoke something to you, it will always come to pass. But if man says it, it may not come to pass. So we have to be sure of God's leading. Let me tell you, you would be challenged. The enemy will come into your life and challenge you whether God really told that to you. He will come to you and say, "Did God really say that to you?" If you were in the Spirit, you would say to the enemy, "Yes, He did, so get out of my way." But Eve started doubting. We are talking about the realm of the mind now. The fruit of the Spirit now had to control your mind. We realize that unless the leading of the Spirit captures our spirit, our mind and our soul we will never be able to bring it forth. It has to capture all of our being. You have to love God with your heart, your mind, your soul, your strength and all of your being. So by the time of the longsuffering the leading of the Spirit began to capture our full soul began to work now.

Gal. 5:22 kindness. Kindness is your response to the challenge if you are led by the Spirit. Now you have taken the fifth step. The fourth step you are being challenged. The fifth step if you are led by the Spirit you will not respond an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a leg for a leg. If you respond by taking revenge, you just show people that you are not led by the Spirit. See how important the fruit of the Spirit is. If you respond in any other way, it becomes the work of the flesh. Notice that violence is mentioned there in verse 19 and 20 The works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like. If you are led by the Spirit you will show kindness in responding to any challenges. You repay evil with good. That may cut off a lot of people's so called leading. You notice when people say, "I am led by God to do this." When they are challenged, they lose their temper and the works of the flesh come out. How can that be the leading of the Spirit? Outburst of wrath is included in non-leading. Kindness bubbles through you. Kindness is your response to evil.

Then the sixth step is goodness. Goodness talks about how it has been established in your life as a character. We could be so renewed and changed in God that you literally know that this is the right thing to do. See the leadings of the Spirit has been so ingrained into your character that you know this is right. At first, you may be like Paul. You may have heard the voice of the Holy Spirit audibly speaking to you. But as you begin to move in God and you have grown in the Lord now you are experience all you sense is, "Its good for us to visit them again." See that you feel good about it. He sensed this was a good thing. Not all the leadings of the Spirit have to be a definite leading and a definite voice, a definite vision, a definite dream, no. Some of the leadings could be just the response of your human spirit as the door is opened and you sensed you feel good about it. I am not talking about natural goodness I am talking about spiritual goodness. You feel good about it. It's in line with the Word, in line with the fruit. The fruit of the Spirit is goodness. You notice it's a good thing then go for it. It's now a part of your character. Paul sensed that it was good.

Now there was another time when Paul was in Tarsus in Acts 11. Barnabas came and told Paul and took him to Antioch to minister together with him. He never mentioned anything about the leading. It was a leading. Paul has to pack his bags and make his home in Antioch. Literally none of us will ever do it unless we have a definite leading. Yet there was a leading involved. I am sure when Barnabas came to Paul in Acts 11 and said, "There is work in Antioch. We need your help." Paul could say, "Let me pray first. I am led by visions. No vision no going." God may lead by vision but we can not compel God to talk to us that way. God has many methods. Or you can not say, "I didn't hear the audible voice of God."

Now let me point out to you the senses of the inward witness - *stenazo*, *tarasso*, *embrimaomai*, *paroxunomai*, and *sunecho* are all the five sensations of the Spirit. Now it may not be that strong yet. Perhaps the *sunecho* or *paroxunomai* the fourth and fifth sensations that we have touched on may come when he reached Antioch. Now all he has is Barnabas is calling. What he possibly could sense is, "I feel good about that." Then he starts taking his step and joy fills his life; he then starts taking another step and there is peace. It may be inconvenient to pack his bag and travel. I mean Tarsus is his hometown. He may sense the emotional strain of parting with his loved ones. I mean he suffers but he sensed all these things. By the time, he reached there, God could signal to him the green light in his spirit. Now there are a lot of things in life that God is leading us in that manner. Sometimes we missed it because we are waiting for a vision or a dream. We should learn to flow with that fruit of the Spirit in our spirit man.

In Gal. 5 the next fruit is faithfulness. It's from the Spirit and it begins to operate into the realm of the body. Faithfulness is not faith. See faith is a substance in Heb. 11:1 the substance of things hoped for the evidence not seen. But faithfulness is a character of having faith. And it means that your physical being and your whole body is now geared to obeying God continually. When we say someone is faithful, we are also saying that person in times of difficulty has kept doing his job. When we say someone is faithful, we are saying in season or out of season, that person keeps on doing that job. In cold and in heat, in popularity and in persecution that person keeps doing the job - that is faithfulness. It talks about the deeds of the body and discipline. That is the seventh step he began to take faithfulness in God. He kept at it. Sometimes God's Spirit leads you and you have to just keep at it and keep at it although you don't see the results yet. You keep faithfully sowing, faithfully obeying the principles of God, knowing that the principles of God and the leading of the Spirit in your life will in the end will bear fruit.

When Jesus selected the twelve apostles, one of them failed. But there were these eleven apostles who up to the last night when He was betrayed still showed attributes of flaws in the character. But Jesus faithfully keeps ministering to them, keep on encouraging them, keep on pouring His life into them. And the whole key to evangelism lies on these guys. He left no book; He left nothing to these eleven apostles whom He would depend on to evangelize the whole world. Jesus was faithful to God's call. In season and out of season sometimes they don't show the attributes of faith at all. They were showing unbelief at times and Jesus rebuked them. They had strife among themselves and Jesus corrected them. I mean in the flesh some of us may give them up but Jesus did not. It's God who brought them to Him and He faithfully poured His life.

Sometimes when God gives you a vision or dream or spectacular leading and you obey God and you just jump into it, halfway through you face all kinds of difficulties and challenges and you don't have longsuffering and faithfulness you may give up. Some people, I suppose, would give up even though it's the leading of the Spirit in their life because they have no stamina. Basically, they have no faithfulness. God did not say that the reward would be immediate. He did say you would be rewarded in this life and in the life to come. But He did not say that the rewards are immediate. That's what we always thought.

Like Moses when he first obeyed God, he thought that immediately Pharaoh would set them free. He had a surprise of his life when Pharaoh did not set them free. In fact, he came back to God and complained. Look at Exodus for a while. See Moses was not patient, kind and longsuffering. In Exodus 5 the first time Moses encountered Pharaoh he faced difficulty. Now here is where he needs longsuffering. Here is where he needs to learn to be faithful. In verse 22 Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me?" Look at this Moses he is complaining. Thank God, he stopped when the Lord starts speaking to him and starts sending him back at least another nine more times. Ten is the number of trial, a completion of trial, the number of being tested. So we need faithfulness to come forth.

Gal. 5:23, gentleness. That is a different word from the word kindness. The word gentleness means mild mannered or meek. That is the eighth step. Now meekness has come upon your life. Now when God's Spirit leads you, you know you are right. You don't have to justify yourself. To be meek is to let God justify you. You don't even have to prove that you are right. If you are right you are right – there is no need to prove it and God will back you up. The book of Numbers tells us how when Moses was challenged by Aaron and Miriam, he was described as the meekest man in the world. By the time you reach the eighth step, meekness has become a part of your life. Jesus said the meek shall inherit the earth. Meekness means that even though that something could be done in the flesh you refused to go in the flesh but you rather let God's Spirit bring it forth. Meekness is a quality that David had when two times he had the opportunity to kill Saul. At first he almost did. He cut off a piece of Saul's garment and his heart smote him. The bible did not say the Lord smote him but it says his heart smote him. Something in him the goodness in him stopped him. The character of goodness that he has developed began to convict him and he realized that it was not a good thing to do, so he spared Saul. Later on, he had another opportunity and he refused again to kill Saul. Although David was supposed to be the king and the Spirit of God has left Saul, yet David said that Saul is the anointed one and he will not lay his hands on him. He prefers that God enthrone him than he enthroned himself.

That's the quality of meekness where you will not pursue the right end by the wrong means. The end doesn't justify the means he uses. The quality of meekness means that you had the opportunity to use the wrong means to the right end and you refused to do it. Because you know it's wrong. There are a lot of people who justify the ends by their means. Some say, "If the motive is right then whatever I do will be right," - that's not right. The quality of meekness is that you will receive it by the right method. You would not have it in the wrong method. You want it to come the right way. God has promised a lot of businessmen prosperity. And out there in the world, the first thing you have is a trial. The devil comes and says, "Do some illegal

transactions to earn some quick easy bucks.” Perhaps the devil’s kid comes and tells you, “I want you to do this and this and I will pay you a hundred thousand dollars under the counter.” Some undiscerning Christian businessmen would say, “Bless God for the overflowing blessings.” Hold it a moment – the “blessings” have come in illegally. You are presented with a choice. Meekness says, “This is the wrong method, so I will reject it straightaway. I want to receive it the right way.” Sometimes people buy a lottery ticket, put it in their bible and say, “God I thank you Jesus was made poor that I may be rich.” Yes but He is not going to make you rich through gambling. It’s going to be by your hard work and God’s principles. It won’t be illegal. If God supply your needs illegally then it means unlawful. Meekness says, “I will be patient and faithful,” and you keep on doing the right things by the right ways. Let God be the one to bring the fruit. Let God send the harvest. What you get by compromise you will never be able to keep nor will you be satisfied with but when you received by faithfulness and meekness you will be able to keep it and you will really enjoy it.

The ninth step it tells is in Gal. 5:23 self-control. By the time you reached the ninth step, you have perfect control of your flesh. If you have temperance and self-control all those works of the flesh will never come up at all. Your flesh is perfectly subject to the Spirit. And it becomes a perfect instrument of the Spirit. It will bring you into a tremendous realm of God’s blessings.

16. GUIDANCE FROM SCRIPTURES

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

We also need to read Jn. 16:13-14 However, when He the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth for He will not speak on His own authority but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

In these two passages that we have just read, Jesus outlined the coming of the Holy Spirit and what the Holy Spirit will come to do in our lives. Both passages are related. One speaks about how He will bring to remembrance things that He has spoken - that's the words that Jesus has spoken to His disciples. The other speaks about the Spirit of truth leading us and guiding us into all truth. And involved in that is also a revelation and guidance of the things to come.

Notice that to be led by the Spirit is stepping on the revelation of God for the future. See you are led into the future and things that have not happened yet. Therefore, when the Spirit of God leads you, He guides you into things to come and decisions that you have to make now that will affect your future. He will bring revelation of things to come to you. He may reveal something that is in the present and not in the past so that you could make a proper and right decision to move into the future and into the will of God that He has planned for your life.

In all the leadings of the Holy Spirit whether leading by dreams, vision, inner voice, inward witness, by angels, by manifestation of God, there is one essential point that John 14:26 is talking about here. He says that the Spirit of God will bring to our remembrance the things, which Jesus has spoken. Now in the context of His disciples it means that God will bring to remembrance all the scriptures that they had at that time. They didn't have the New Testament. For them, it would mean the Old Testament plus some to the things that Jesus Christ has spoken to them that they may have forgotten in their natural conscious mind. But the Spirit of God will bear witness and bring them scriptures or words that Jesus has spoken. In other words, the essence of the meaning of Jn. 14 is that the Holy Spirit will lead us and bring scriptures to lead us, to guide us. Scriptures that will be taken from the vast reserve and the store houses of the written Word and from that which have been implanted into our lives that it could lead us into the things of the future.

In all these manifestations and leadings, if you want to be certain, there must be a chapter or a verse in God's leading in your life. Whether God shows you a vision or dream, one of the most powerful conclusion you can reach if you are led by the Spirit is when God inspires a chapter or a verse to you to confirm the things that you are going through or are supposed to be led through. He has manifested many forms of supernatural leadings to me, but the Word of God cemented all of them. There has to be the final touches. That is what I call the cementing of the Word of the leading in our life.

For example, when we were starting this church, besides the leading of God where He gave us the name of the church, He showed structural things and many other detailed

things to us. Besides all these things, He also showed scriptures to me. He also brought to our remembrance scriptures. And the scripture that He inspires was the life of Joseph. It was an encouraging and cementing of what He was doing. He has been talking about how you are going to go through all these things. And these are some of the principles and things that you are going to hold fast to. So, it's encouraging. It's encouraging where you are going through a situation you got supernatural leadings and then you have scriptures. He told me, "Son this is what you are going through. And as my sons and children were faithful here, I want you to be faithful here."

We are going to show some examples of how this works in the lives of the disciples so that you could identify similar workings in your life. God can take any scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. What we are talking about is the written Word of God. We are not talking about anything outside the written Word. Perhaps for example, God may be speaking to you through dreams, visions or audible voice. To cement that leading in your life, He may inspire you and say, "This experience that you are going through is like the wilderness experience. It is like the cloud leading the Israelites." Once He tells you something, you seek the whole picture that you are receiving.

Sometimes when God speaks to us audibly or by inward witness or the inward voice or dreams and visions, what we have is what we call a jigsaw puzzle. There is a little bit here and a little bit there. But how are we going to put the jigsaw puzzle together? If you get the pieces mixed up, you will not experience the leading of the Spirit. If God said that something will take place in five years' time but you put it as one year in your schedule, you have arranged the jigsaw puzzle wrongly. You are going to have a very messy leading. You are going to be frustrated and even though God has spoken you are not led. You are not arranging the jigsaw puzzle the way God wants it.

So how do we arrange the jigsaw puzzle? The written Word of God cements some of those things. No matter how much leading you have received, you still need the written Word. Sometimes He speaks to you through the passage that you are reading that particular morning. That's the area that God said you are going through. And His supernatural leadings could fit in the position where God is leading you.

Lets look at some of the examples in the bible in the leading. Scriptures form the foundation by which all the little pieces of jigsaw puzzle fit together in our lives. They are our guides and they protect us from error and mistakes so as to prevent us from veering off into the ditch. Remember when God has spoken something to you but if you are in the right place doing the right thing but at the wrong time, you will suffer some setbacks.

In spite of all the supernatural things that have happened in the lives of the apostles and the disciples of Jesus Christ, they still couldn't figure out the purpose and meaning of His death. After His resurrection, Jesus had to show scriptures as He walked with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus in Luke 24:26-27 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter in His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Now God was doing a new work in the life of His disciples. He was moving them out of Judaism into a new era, into a new form of worship, into something that was contradictory at times to their Jewish traditions. Yet, at times, what they had as a

tradition points to what they are now. God was introducing to them the fulfillment of the Old Testament types and shadows. But in the new direction that He gave them, He gave scriptures for that. In spite of being with them supernaturally He inspired and brought to them scriptures. So that when they finally realized that it was Him and He had gone off they would now base their entire life on this revelation from scriptures that God has given them. Jesus gave them scriptural guidance so that they can base their understanding and guidance on the scriptures that were given to them.

Now how are we going to get those scriptures? It's not going to happen by just opening the bible blindly and getting the guidance. That's not the way to get guidance. It's through the Spirit bringing to your remembrance and prompting them in the corridors of your mind and memory, drawing it forth from the Spirit into your mind. Sometimes you may not even know that scripture before. But the stories are there and you are trying to find where the scripture is. John 14:26 says that He will bring to remembrance all the scriptures to cement the leadings that He has for our lives.

Let me show a few more examples. In the book of Acts chapter one, the disciples of Jesus Christ were praying in the upper room. The Lord Jesus appeared to them and told them to wait at Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Ghost. So here, they were in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ praying in the upper room. As they were praying here in Acts 1, something was happening in the mind of Peter. The process of John 14:26 was happening where the Spirit of God brought scriptures from the Old Testament to the remembrance of Peter who was supposed to be the leader of that group. As Peter was praying together with the rest, his mind kept remembering those scriptures. Supernaturally the Spirit of God was bringing to remembrance the Word of God during that time and he knew that he was supposed to do something about replacing Judas Iscariot. Now that's the leading of the Spirit involving scriptures. And finally, in Acts 1 Peter stood up and said in verse 16 Men and brethren the Scripture had to be fulfilled. Now who gave him the scripture? Of all the thousands of scriptures, he had one. Who gave him that? It was the Holy Ghost bringing to remembrance what John 14:26 was talking about. It could be the word of Jesus or the word of God, the word of God came through Jesus anyway. Indirectly the Word of God is the word of Jesus because He is the Word. He was called the Word. In the beginning was the Word. In Acts 1 he remembered the scriptures and he quoted the scripture in verse 20 For it is written in the book of Psalms: Let his dwelling place be desolate. And let no one live in it and let another take his office. What was he doing? He was quoting scriptures to show that it was time for the fulfillment of that scripture. That scripture was written hundreds of years before and Peter was saying that they were supposed to fulfill it now. They selected Mathias to replace him. From this scriptural leading, we see the supernatural work of the Holy Ghost.

Let's look at some other leading in the bible that the Holy Spirit cemented by means of the Word. In the book of Acts 15, the early church had to make a decision. They had many testimonies by Paul and they had much controversy. Now the whole church was seeking to be led by the Spirit. They wanted to be led by the Spirit. So, in Acts 15 the most important factor that was involved was in verse 14-15 Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written. The whole discussion may have taken hours. There was a lot of dissension and discussion and James was

possibly sitting and listening to everything. He heard the Judaizers spoke against the revelation that Paul had that Gentiles don't have to keep the commandments of the Jews. During that time as James was sitting there, the Holy Spirit was invisibly and silently bringing scriptures to the remembrance of James according to John 14:26. Of all the thousands of scriptures, He brought out a few. The Holy Spirit was saying, "James, these are the scriptures for what you are experiencing." And finally James stood up and he said brethren what we are going through now is exactly what the scriptures say that it is written in verse 16 and 17 After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down: I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up. So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the Lord who does all these things.

When they heard the scriptures, they sort of cemented what God was leading them. Now they were not just led by the scriptures. The inward witness was also leading them because they said that it agrees with their spirit and the Holy Spirit. Later in Acts 15 they says in verse 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us. They were being led by the Spirit notice that. But they had the scripture to cement what they were doing in their life. There were thousands of leadings in the bible by the Spirit. And the most amazing I find when I read through the whole New Testament is that always the apostle found the scriptures relevant to their particular area of activity or contention. Always the Holy Spirit brought to their remembrance the scriptures relevant to their situation whether it was decision making or not.

Sometimes you got to interpret and understand those scriptures. You could take a little here and a little there, put them all together, and say this is what you are going through. And that would cement all that God is doing in your life. We realize that there are people who do it the opposite way. Instead of letting the Spirit bringing the scriptures, some people try to lead the Spirit. Or rather, they have something they already are determined to do, and then they find the scriptures to prove themselves. That is in the flesh. You could do that and you usually do it by taking scriptures out of context. So there is what I call a counterfeit of guidance by scriptures. It's just like the devil quoting scriptures to Jesus in the desert. Remember the devil was trying to tell Jesus to throw Himself down. And the devil said it is written He will send His angels. He is trying to convince Jesus that this is the right thing to do by scriptures but it was taken out of context. Nowhere in the scriptures, it says to jump down and the angels will bear you up. Usually you can tell the false and the truth by the context. We all know that to be led by the Spirit your inward witness has to work and your mind has to have some relevant consciousness. That's where the scriptures come in. The scripture is brought to your mind to confirm your inward witness that is already working and the leading of the Spirit in your life.

Here is another example in Acts 13. We see here in verse 2 and 3 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. No scripture is mentioned here but I want you to see that there is an understanding that they had of the scriptures that God is saying all the time to them. Paul always hanged on to these scriptures in verse 47 For soothe Lord has commanded us: "I have set you as a light to the Gentiles. That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth." Paul had the scripture in his mind all the time.

Here they were in the church of Antioch and they were separated apart by the Spirit as the church prayed together. As they launched forth into their missionary journey, they began to do their ministry. As they carried out their ministry, they found that they had more grace to Gentiles than Jews. That was something very controversial in those days. It was a very peculiar controversial leading of the Spirit.

It would be just like one of you today come to me and say, "I had vision the other day and an angel of God called me and ask me to go to Iraq and witness to Saddam." That would take all of us aback. Do you know what you should do? Because it's so controversial, so peculiar, so unusual and strange, you had better ask God for scriptures to confirm that vision. God may give you a special scripture and inspire you. And through your remembrance comes Elijah appearing before Ahab. If that were what God said to you then I would interpret it this way. God has to give you a supernatural sign because Elijah went with a supernatural sign. Plus involve with that is this - Elijah according to our understanding stands in the presence of God always. That is where your understanding of the bible is critical to the leading. The more bible knowledge you have, the more you know the Word at the back of your hand the sharper your visions and leadings in every other areas and sharper in discernment. The moment a person comes and tells me that he had a spectacular leading plus a scripture given to him, then your knowledge of the scripture will help you to analyze it. From the scriptures, we know Elijah had spent a lot of time praying. God has heard his prayer and now God is sending him there with a special sign. So, I would examine the individual and find out whether this person has been spending a lot of time praying. Then I would find out whether there was a spectacular sign that the person was sent with. It may not be that you have to go there and say that there will be no rain for three years. But the principles of the scriptures are applicable.

And so here was Paul who has been moved in the Spirit. God was opening doors to the Gentiles and it was something that was against the Jewish tradition. So, what cemented the leading? It was the scriptures. As they were being led into the area that was controversial, they had a scripture. In the book of Acts 13 in verse 47, it says I have set you as a light to the Gentiles that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth. That scripture was referring to Paul and Barnabas. It was a confirmation of what God is leading in their lives.

There are many more scriptures and areas of leading that we will trace throughout the bible. Let look at Paul in some of his unusual leading in I Cor. 14 Whenever I read the scriptures and the writings of Paul I am astounded by this fact that every time Paul is led by the Spirit to move or to do something he always had the scripture behind him. He always had the scripture that will confirm his leadings. Sometimes, he would come up with a very unusual scripture that the Jews may have neglected. But still, he brought it forth. In I Cor. 14:21 when he talks about the manifestation of tongues in the New Testament dispensation, he quoted Isaiah. In I Cor 14:21 In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people. And yet, they will not hear Me." Notice that was the direction the church was taking in tongues. Paul quoted the Old Testament in Isaiah 28:11 as his scriptural backup for this speaking in tongues.

Now we also need the guidance of the Spirit to relate the scriptures. But some of the scriptures are totally incomprehensible until the light of the Holy Spirit comes. It's just like Joel chapter 2. Do you remember in the book of Acts 2 where it talks about

the Holy Spirit coming down and Peter stood up and said what we are experiencing is what Joel prophesied. Notice what he was doing. He was taking scriptures that were given hundreds of years ago and they were fulfilled now. What about the Lord Jesus when He went into the synagogue? He opened the bible to Isaiah chapter 61 the scroll that they happened to be reading. He took it, opened it, and said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me etc.," closed it, and said, "Today it's fulfilled." Notice the scriptural leading that was present even in the life of Jesus and the fact that when He appeared to His disciples He especially gives them the scriptures. This tells us the importance of the written Word in the leading of the Spirit. It is an encouragement to our lives. God can take the written Word and began to lead and teach your life. It is a very peculiar work of the Holy Spirit.

See besides His visions, revelations, each point of work that the Spirit puts me into He always brings scriptures to my remembrance to confirm with the written Word what He has been speaking to me. In that way, I could draw nourishment and encouragement from the written Word to flow along with the spectacular leading. This is an important aspect of God's leading. God could be speaking to some of you and for example, He could be saying, "Your position right now is like Paul's second missionary journey." Then you can have more clarity in your leading and be able to fit the jigsaw puzzle into your relevant situation. You will have to read and meditate more on Paul's second missionary journey to draw the comparisons and similarities.

Sometimes I see a vision or something that I can not fit into the plan of God for my life. Then as I pray on that matter, a scripture would come to my mind. God would begin to show me, "This thing you are doing - all right these are the scriptures that you are supposed to be fulfilling." Like for example, I sensed He was leading me to Singapore. But together with that leading comes this scripture Acts 19 where Paul entered the school of Tyrannus and taught the Word of God systematically. Then I know I was supposed to do that. Now there is the scripture, there is the spectacular leading. So, I put that together and I sort of understand the greater details of what God was speaking to me. No. 1, I know that God wants me to teach the Word systematically there. No. 2, I know that I am responsible for all the expenses there because Paul rented the school of Tyrannus. Then No. 3, I realize that what is being done there is going to be an impact to spread out to the region abroad because you read in the book of Acts 19 at Ephesus that the work there was affecting all the neighboring areas. And what God was also saying that the situation of Singapore was something like Ephesus. Can you see the relevance there?

Now there is no way in our natural mind you could fit one and one together. There is no natural way you could take for example Isaiah 28:11 and fit it to what Paul fitted it in I Cor. 14. You would need the scripture to bring it to remembrance to your life. For example, God could be speaking to your life and you say, "Lord I know You are telling me to minister the Word." Then suddenly God brings to your mind the partnership of Aquilla and Priscilla in the work of the gospel. What do Aquilla and Priscilla represent? You look at God's Word and understand the husband represents Aquilla and the wife represents Priscilla. Then as you study scriptures pertaining to Aquilla and Priscilla, then you begin to see the relevance and details of husband and wife team in the ministry.

For example, as we were establishing this church and progressed into a different realm God began to bring to my remembrance that this present work that God has is

like David's mighty men being built. That was the scripture He gave to me. As the work was picking up God began to say just like David the work of God has not been fully established but that was building the mighty men. And slowly this whole work began to gain recognition little by little. And little by little, people were added. Then when God spoke the scriptures I saw something in the scripture that he was speaking about. Like for example, you notice that suddenly whole groups of leaders from certain section came and joined David. So God also began to speak that there will be leaders from other places joining and helping you in that work. Can you see that when God speaks supernaturally, He also gives you a relevant scripture?

John 14:26 takes place as the Spirit of God brings to your remembrance things to come so that you could understand and cement the whole picture of what God is doing together in the Holy Ghost. So that is a powerful area of the leading of the Spirit in our life. We need to pray and ask God's Spirit to inspire us with the relevant scriptures.

Now there has to be some guidelines involved in that. No. 1 the scripture the Holy Spirit brings to remembrance must never be taken out of context. The context must be relevant to the situation, just like Paul in the book of Galatians used the word Haggai and Sarah in a very unusual way to talk about the two covenants. But that is relevant in what he was bringing from the book of Genesis. God could be speaking to some of you and saying, "You are coming out from your situation to a land I will show you." Then He brings to your remembrance Abraham in Gen. 12 who was called out of his kindred. Then you know what God is telling you. Behind that scripture, He is telling you that your relatives are going to hold you back. God is saying, "Watch out because your very loved one is going to hold you back." He could speak to you if you are in that kind of situation. But remember the context that you are drawing from.

No. 2 as the scriptures are brought forth to us, remember that not every detail apply. For example, if God spoke to you about the wilderness and say, "You are like the Israelites coming out from the wilderness." And you say, "O dear God that means I am going to be delayed for forty years. That also means that I am going to have the manna. O Lord I got to start murmuring." We have to get the guidance from the Spirit to see which part is applicable and which part is not applicable. And we need to be very positive about that. Whatever is negative, He says it doesn't apply then you don't apply it.

For example, in building our new church building, God spoke to my heart and say its something like setting up the tabernacle of Moses and building the temple of Jerusalem. That doesn't mean that some of the other adverse things that happened to the temple of Jerusalem are also going to happen to your building project. We must remember where it stops and where it starts. That's No. 2 – we differentiate what principles apply and what principles do not. Certain details do a part and certain details do not. You would still need the same Holy Ghost to bring you to remembrance and say which part applies to you.

The third area the scriptures are brought to remembrance that we need to be fully aware of is that it still should not violate the principles of the inward witness. It has to bear witness to your inward witness. If the scriptures that are being brought to you bear no confirmation in your inward witness then it could possibly be the enemy bringing it to cause condemnation in your life. The enemy also can say, "It is written,"

but it is out of context and irrelevant to bring discouragement to your life. I know people who sometimes are in despair and the enemy has brought scriptures to them and tells them just like Paul delivered the sinning man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, these things are going to happen to you too. So, it brings despair in your life and that's not God. The scripture is for building up and not for destroying.

No. 3 it still has to be borne witness by the inward witness. Why do we still need the inward witness? See the inward witness in us is for the spirit man but the scriptures are for the mind. God brings understanding to our mind using scriptures that we can remember and trying to point details that we are not picking up. So He brought those scriptures to stimulate our mind to begin exploring and opening ourselves to certain details that He is speaking to us that our mind is not picking up.

So, what is the basis or comparison with the remembrance of scriptures? Its just like for example I have to describe to Brother James the taste of a guava. Lets say that he hasn't tasted a guava before, how do I tell what the guava taste like? I could go into a detailed description and he would still have no idea how a guava tastes like. The best way is to find out what fruit he has eaten. Lets say he has eaten a pear. So I say a guava in a small way tastes like a pear but a guava is not as sweet though. And it has a certain flavor but the flavor is not so strong. Although we can not pass the information thoroughly the best is give him a guava and say, "Here is a guava. Eat it and see." That would be the simplest way.

What God does is this. Our mind needs to understand. Our spirit completely comprehends God. Now when our spirit tries to communicate to our mind it's just like me trying to tell him what a guava tastes like. So there are certain things my spirit is receiving. And the spirit is trying to communicate to the mind. The mind may not receive certain things yet. The mind does not understand and sees no relevance yet. So, what God does is that He takes the scriptures, which are neutral ground, and He brings relevant scriptures to our minds to begin stimulating our minds and open our minds to some areas and things He is trying to speak to us. Then when our minds began to see how relevant those scriptures are we open ourselves more to the Spirit. Then the Spirit may add more revelations in the context of our life. So, that's how God leads us in those realms. It will always flow with the inward witness and there is a co-relationship between the inward witness of the spirit man and the understanding of the mind.

17. OBJECTIVES OF BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT

John 14:17 The Spirit of truth whom the world can not receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him by you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you.

There is no doubt that as we study on how to be led by the Spirit that we have to look at the Person of the Holy Spirit. He says the Spirit of truth whom the world can not receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. We want to realize that in everything in this life there are two spirits involved. It is either the Spirit of God involved or it's the spirit of the world. Paul did tell us that the spirit of the world is involved in many of the things of this life.

Lets look at I Cor. 2:6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew, for had they known they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Now the rulers of this age represent all the principalities, powers, and wicked rulers of the darkness of this age and the wicked spirits in high places that govern the condition of this earth. Also please look at the book of II Cor. 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God should shine on them. Also Eph. 4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart, who being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness to work all uncleanness with greediness. The background of it is chapter 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

We realize that some of the things in this life are born of the flesh. But the bible classifies everything born of the flesh and everything of the work of man as indirectly connected to the spirit of this world. You can not avoid it but in this world that we live you are either influenced or moved by the spirit of this world or by the Spirit of God. Let me tell you that many times, the spirit of this world moves many Christians without their realizing it. Everything of this life that comes to your eyes and your ears, every act or deed, of a man or a woman who live in this world is inspired either by the Spirit of God or by the spirit of the world. Although we don't realize it that even the newspapers carry the spirit of the world. If you look at them, the spirit of the world is involved. If you just dwell too much on it, you will be drawn by the magnetic influence of the spirit of this world. Even the neutral things of life like for example a lot of worldly presentations, advertisement on products, the Internet and all these things are conveying the spirit of the world and the spirit of the lust of the eyes. You look at most advertisements and they appeal to the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. These spirits are involved.

What we need to realize is there is no compromise between the two. I am not saying that therefore you can not look at the papers or look at the news. But you must be aware that when you are handling those things there is a subtle influence that can

come upon your life. When you handle those things, you must be very alert and discerning. What happens is that that same spirit sometimes comes into a person's life. Many times Christian businessmen mix around with other businessmen who are worldly. The spirit of the world can creep into you as you associate with such worldly people. If they do not watch out that spirit will influence them in the decisions they make. Then it can creep into the church when such businessmen also sit in the church board meetings and make decisions affecting the church. The spirit of the world and the Spirit of God can be lusting against one another as the book of Galatians tells us - one is fighting against the other. We need to be aware of that.

Under these two major spirits are many sub-divisions. For example on one side is the Spirit of God and working with the Spirit of God are the other spirits called the angels. There are many types of angels, viz, warring angels, archangels, worship angels, ministering spirits. So there are many other realms of angelic activities that work together with the Holy Spirit. On the other hand is the spirit of the world, Satan himself being the chief of all of them. And he uses the fallen angels who are the wicked spirits in the heavenly places and wicked rulers of this age and the principalities and the powers. So, he is using all of them and everything of this life that you handle. As long as it's a product of man, it is either under the influence of the spirit of the world or the Spirit of God. It either imparts life or imparts worldliness.

Here in the bible it tells us in the book of John 14:17 that there is a Spirit of God whom Jesus Christ sent and it says whom the world can not receive. In other words, if you live by the spirit of the world and are influenced by the spirit of the world, the Spirit of God can not lead you. There are two spirits involved and two laws involved. What happens here is that before the Spirit can lead us, we must live in the Spirit and we must be in the Spirit. Before you can swim you must be in the water. You can't swim without the water. The very words I say that you are swimming imply that you are in the water. To be led by the Spirit implies that you must live and be in the Spirit.

The reason we are teaching this is because a lot of the decisions of men even the decisions sometimes of church leaders are influenced by the spirit of the world and not by the Spirit of God. God is not pleased if the spirit of the flesh moves you. Lets look at Gal. 5 and we have said that the whole passage talked about the fruit of the Spirit as an important factor to being led by the Spirit. Many times when Christians meet together, it is not so much to seek the mind of Christ as to seek to put their own ideas forward. That is despicable to God. We need to be people who are pliable to the law of prayer and learn to be led by the Spirit. I am speaking instructed by the Spirit. God wants us to move into the realm of the Spirit because we are close to the end times.

Anybody who moves in the spirit of the world, or is influenced by worldly ideas or acts by the ideas coming from the spirit of the world will not last in this present generation. This is the hour of judgment where those who are led by the Spirit and built in the Spirit will last. Those who do not build in the Spirit will not last. Ten or twenty years ago, some of the work of Christ was born of the flesh and it lasted temporarily. But in the past few years, many prophets declared that God is not going to tolerate that anymore. Good ideas are not enough. It's important to be led by the Spirit.

Gal. 5:16 I say then; Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Verse 18 it says But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. The key theme is led by the Spirit. Now look at verse 25 If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit. Living in the Spirit precedes walking in the Spirit. Walking in the Spirit speaks about movement; it speaks about being led. But before you can walk in the Spirit, you live in the Spirit. Now there are two laws and two spirits that work all the time. Perhaps you could visualize that this whole place is filled with water. Let's imagine that the sea level is ten feet above the ground. Now we are all submerged underneath. We are all submerged under the law of sin and death under the influence of this world which all of us are in. Before we are born again our spirit, our soul and our body was submerged under the influence of the law of sin and death and under the influence of the law of the spirit of the world. We were all submerged underneath. And there was this gravitational pull of sin and weights that pulled us lower and lower. Thank God for Jesus Christ when we are all born again our spirit man was born again. Our soul is not been fully renewed. And our body is still in the law of sin and death. Our spirit has now risen out of the law of sin and death. Our spirit is no more influenced by the law of sin and death. Our spirit is now moving by the law of the Spirit of God whom the world can not see. That is why the world can not receive the Holy Spirit. Our spirit is out of the law of sin and death. Unless we pull our soul above the level of the law of sin and death by the renewing of the Word of God and developing the mind of Christ, the Spirit can not lead us. See the soul is still subject to the law of sin and death.

When I fellowship with some Christians, sometimes I could discern that a great portion of their mind and their soul still operates according to the law of sin and death. You could discern that some people's soul and some people's body still operates based on the law of sin and death and on the law of the spirit of the world. God is not pleased with that. Before the Spirit can lead us, our spirit, soul and body must be fully submerged into the realm of God. We must burst out of this pool of the law of sin and death. Many of us find that our spirit has been released but that is not good enough. Somehow, by the grace of God we must pull our soul into that realm where our soul rises above the level of the law of sin and death. If the law of the Spirit of life touches your mind, your mind is different where the life of God is imparted into your soul. There is an impartation and you have a different kind of mind. There is a transformation of the mind that takes place. This process is not instant. It's gradual. If God transforms your mind, you become more in a position to be led by the Spirit. Therefore, you see that many Christians claim to be led by the Spirit but actually, a great majority of them are not. I find in the Christian walk and in the ministry a great many Christians are not led by the Spirit. They are led by the Spirit a portion of a time and think that they are led by the Spirit a hundred percent all the time.

The only way to be led by the Spirit is No. 1 to be free first. How can you swim when your hands are tied? You must be free first, free from the influence of the law of sin and death. A lot of Christians find it hard to be led by the Spirit because their mind keeps on thinking the thoughts of this world. Their minds keep on lusting after the things of this world. Their mind keeps on coveting after the pleasures of this life and the things of this life. How can the Spirit lead you? You must be free first. Free from the influence and the domination of the spirit of the world. It takes time and diligence to get out of that. Only when your mind is free then your mind can now be opened to the spirit realm.

Then God starts dealing with the body realm where God wants to renew our body until our body is literally free from the law of sin and death. I believe it can be done. It can be transformed until our physical body is no more subject to the things of this world and can be translated into God's realm. One day as we walk with God our body will be completely free from the law of sin and death and from the spirit of this world where spirit, soul and body are free from the law of sin and death and that is when your body is no more subject to death. That's when you are free and you move into immortality. That's powerful when the body moves out of the law of sin and death. That is where the devil becomes fearful. But it's awesome in the sight of God. There are very few people who have reached that point. Enoch and Elijah had reached that point where they have been translated bodily physically. Even their physical bodies are caught into the spirit world. I am just pointing to the possibility of that happening when we move into the realm of the spirit of law of life. But the moment your soul is transformed by the Spirit of life, you are in a position of being led by the Spirit. Even though your body may not be in the position yet, keep following of the things of the Spirit and your body will one day be pulled along into the realm of the spirit.

The bible tells us here in Jn. 14:17 that the world can not and does not receive the Spirit of God.

The world is unaware of the work of the Spirit of God. I could paraphrase it and also say the world and those who are under the influence of the worldliness and the spirit of the world are completely unaware of the Spirit of God. They do not receive Him at all. Why do they not receive Him? Two reasons are given in John 14:17. No. 1 they do not see Him because the world neither sees Him nor knows Him. So, No. 1 He is invisible. He is not in the realm where your eyes could see; your hands could touch or your physical ears could hear. The Holy Spirit is invisible to the world. That makes it difficult for people to believe and accept. But those of us who learn to live in the spirit world like Paul, we live in the spirit realm and we see the invisible.

Let me show forth how many Christians are still in the carnal realm. They move in the carnal realm because they are still being moved by what they see. They are still being moved by what is around them with their physical eyes. They are not moved by the Spirit of God. For example, in the matter of giving, people are moved only when they see a need. Do you know that God is not pleased just with that? That is carnal movement. The bible in the book of II Cor. 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. We understand the portion about giving grudgingly - that means you must give willingly and not being forced. But the other portion is you don't give out of necessity. In other words, you don't give just because you see a need. You have to be in the Spirit to discern the need. But the vast majority of Christians live in the carnal realm. Only when in the carnal, they see a need then they are moved. Even the people of the world could do that. Even the people of the world with human sympathy could do that. There are a lot of non-Christian philanthropies that give to charity because of the need that they see. But Christians are supposed to move at a higher level. I don't base my giving just because I see any need. Because if I do I perpetuate a condition of need. In other words, I encourage people to have needs so that I could give. That is not the system of God.

You don't give to Jesus because you see Jesus has a need. You give because you see in the spirit realm and you know that you are led by the Spirit. Giving by the Spirit is

one of the areas the Spirit starts teaching you to be led in the realm of giving. Many times the Spirit speaks to me, "Son give to this person, give to that ministry." We don't broadcast, we don't tell people but we have to learn the leading of the Spirit that way.

As you move in giving, you will learn how to move and hear God in the healing realm and in the other realm. I am pointing to the fact that the vast majority of Christians move in the carnal realm. They give out of necessity and not because of the leading of their heart. When I am led by God to give to a person, I don't give just out of need. If I give out of need, that is charity and that's a different area. If I see someone without food, out of compassion I can provide a meal for him or her. But that's not the only realm of giving. Sometimes you give to a person so that, that person can have an opportunity to be a giver too. Not just to meet that person's need. You may think that is not an important realm but dealing with finances is the first area God begins to deal with your life. If you are not faithful in finances, you will never be used by God in other areas. That is one of the most basic areas that God deals in our life. I could point to many other incidences but I am just pointing to a principle in the bible how many Christians are carnal and not spiritual in their giving. So, they missed out of the blessings of God.

We see this realm here that in the world the Spirit is invisible. But those who move into the Spirit to them they see the invisible as visible. Paul moved into that realm in the book of II Cor. 4:18 While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. In other words, he is saying we move in the invisible realm. We move in the realm of God where eye does not see nor ear hear. But it's only spiritual eyes and spiritual ears that see and hear into that realm. The reason why people can not be led by the Spirit is that they are not accustomed to moving in the invisible realm. Or the world does not receive Him because they neither see Him nor know Him.

The world doesn't see or experience the blessed Person of the Holy Spirit. And He is such a real Person. It grieves my heart sometimes where as I fellowship with people, some of the very things they are saying I could sensed the Holy Spirit being grieved and they could not. I said, "Lord what is wrong with these people? Don't they know that the Holy Spirit is there and they are hurting Him?" Sad, but many people are not accustomed to that invisible realm. Some of the things they do quench the Holy Spirit. See the Holy Spirit is a Person. He is invisible but He is real. We have talked about all the different types about the leading of the Spirit. But in this message, we want to talk about the Holy Spirit as a Person. We have to be aware of Him, aware of His Personhood and aware of Him being present all the time.

If you are having your home cell meeting, be aware that He is right there. If you are in a discussion or a meeting or family discussion to make a decision please remember He is there. He is invisible there and we tend to forget Him. But He is there. The difference between the world and us is this - the world can not accept the fact that there is an invisible Person of the Holy Spirit but we can because we have been brought up and trained by Jesus. And Jesus said He would remain invisible. As you walk with the Holy Spirit, people can not see the Holy Spirit but He is there. He is there teaching, leading and guiding you. And that is the first reason why the world can not know Him or receive Him. Don't let His invisibility hinder you from knowing

Him as a Person. There are some things and some forces that are invisible to the world but it has not hindered the world from making use of them. T.V. waves, radio waves are invisible but the world has tapped on that. Just because something is invisible, it doesn't mean we could ignore it. Radiation from heavy metals is invisible but deadly and dangerous. Those invisible forces are very powerful that we must not neglect. How much more if that is in the natural that the Person of the Holy Spirit is always there. We see Him, we know Him.

No. 1 He is invisible, No. 2 the world doesn't know Him at all. That's why the world doesn't receive Him. The world doesn't know Him, how He works, how He feels. If the Holy Spirit is a Person He has feelings. He can be grieved and He can be quenched. But the Holy Spirit is not outside - that's what John 14:17 says. He is with you and He shall be in you. And you are always aware of the fact that you are carrying the Holy Spirit in you. You are a carrier of the Holy Spirit. Paul always walks with that mental frame of mind. He says we are vessels of God, earthen vessels to contain the glory of God. In II Cor. 4, he talks about how we are earthen vessels to contain the treasures and the glories of God. So, that frame of mind is always there. The Holy Spirit is in me. He can feel things differently from me. He has His feelings separate from my feelings. So we are just earthen vessels. Wherever we walk, we must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in us, what He feels, what He says. We have spoken about His voice and some of His communications to us. He is a Person and we must be sensitive to His feelings. In that way, we get to know Him.

What do you mean when you say you know a person? You know their likes and their dislikes. Some of you I know well enough to know what is your favorite food. And if you know me you probably know what kind of food I like and what kind of food I dislike. So, you learn the likes and dislikes of a person. You learn their life style. You learn their habits. So, the Holy Spirit is in us. When we know Him, we know His feelings. And there are two main areas of feelings we can develop. One is when He is grieved. Eph. 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. We can grieve the Holy Spirit by No. 1 saying something that He doesn't want us to say. No.2, by having an attitude that He doesn't want you to have. No. 3, doing a wrong action that He doesn't want you to do. It can be in the realm of words, attitudes, thoughts and actions. He is very conscious of these areas. And it can cause Him to grieve if you harbor a wrong attitude against somebody. If you say a wrong word against somebody, or you act wrongly in a certain realm, the Holy Spirit will be grieved.

Notice Paul continues in Eph. 4:31 Let all bitterness, (now bitterness is your attitude, bitterness is your feelings of hurt and strife, revenge and vengeance and anger) wrath, anger, (wrath has to do with vengeance, anger has to do with irritation) clamor, (that is in the area of evil) and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Malice is to have an evil intention and evil motives. It could be some actions that could be outwardly good or bad but your intention is evil. I would say that most of the time that malicious intention is not present in Christians. But once in a while, there are those with malice too. If we are not watchful, we allow the spirit of the world to develop malice and evil in our lives. Notice here that all these things will cause Him to be grieved.

Sometimes, it surprises me as I fellowship with people that they are grieving the Holy Spirit and they could be grinning from cheek to cheek without knowing it. I am

amazed and I say, “God, how can this person grieve the Spirit and not know it.” Sometimes, if he or she is supposed to be a Christian leader I am ashamed. That is why we can not let that continue. We must pull up our bootstraps. We must put on the Lord Jesus Christ and we must live the standard that God wants us to live so that we move the more in the Spirit.

God has been dealing with me in the Spirit to move in some signs but I am not able to move in our congregation at the moment yet. But there are two signs of the Spirit that He has spoken to me about that I have started operating in other countries but I have not been able to move that much here. God is telling me that the more I move into that realm the more I have to “de-fellowship” from people who walk in the flesh. I could bear witness to them, share with them the Word, but I am not to continue with them because it becomes dangerous, not only in their influence over my life but also to them. I am talking about moving into the realm of the Spirit where I would be able to pick up someone and tell that person’s name and their symptoms. I am talking about moving into the higher realm of the Spirit.

And the more you give your spirit, soul, and mind to God, to consecrate yourself and to serve Him more you can not afford these kinds of people who move in the flesh. I will not have a single one of them working with me. Because it becomes dangerous also for them. Because if I start moving into that realm I pick up sins in their life. And I tell them and if they don’t repent that’s their responsibility, it’s not mine. If I consecrate myself a hundred percent and you consecrate yourself fifty percent you better watch out. If we consecrate ourselves a hundred percent and another consecrates fifty percent, where is the fellowship? If we do not walk in the light, how can we have fellowship with each other? If one walks in darkness and in the spirit of the world and the other walks in the Spirit, how can they have fellowship with one another? First John chapter one says how can we have fellowship with one another.

We are talking about being led by the Spirit, moving people deeper and deeper into the realm of God. I want to say that I am not staying still all the time. Where I was one year ago is different every year. I press on deeper into the things of God. And if any leader who works with me refuses to continue to grow, they can not last long with me. If I grow and they don’t grow, they will still think of me about two years ago. I am not the same two years ago as I am now. In fact, if we don’t grow we are backslidden. This year we are supposed to move more in God than we were one year ago. See this year we are supposed to have more wisdom than last year. We grow right with God. This year we should have more commitment than last year. Next year, we should have grown more in God. We are not playing church. We are not just setting up an organization just to keep it running. We want to see the church of Jesus Christ perfected. We are heading on into glory. And nothing must hinder the work of God.

The sad thing is that people are not sensitive to the grieving of the Holy Spirit. There are three different realms of grieving the Holy Spirit. There is a realm where people grieve and they do not know. The reason is their hearts are hardened. Eph. 4:18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. Sometimes if the spirit of the world and the law of sin and death still rule in our soul, we will grieve the Spirit by doing things and having wrong attitudes that are displeasing to the Spirit. And if we don’t know it, how are we to be led by the Spirit? If we are not sensitive to

the grieving of the Holy Spirit, how can we be led by the Spirit? So there is a realm where people's hearts are hardened and they don't even sense the grief of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is grieved, the angels weep, and the people don't know. One day when we get to heaven, we will know. But now because the spirit of the world has corrupted and hardened the hearts, the sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's feelings is not there at all.

Then there is a middle realm that I call tender-heartedness grieving. Eph. 4 verse 30 it says do not grieve the Holy Spirit verse 32 says be kind to one another and tenderhearted. You are sensitive to the grieving of the Spirit. The word grieve is a Greek word that is sometimes translated as sorrow. That is the middle realm.

Then there is the third realm that is even more important. You not only sense grief but you completely abhor, despise and hate the evil. In Heb. 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness. Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions. Notice it says that you hated lawlessness and it says therefore. If we are not sensitive to righteousness or lawlessness, forget about the anointing. It's only when Jesus loved righteousness and hated lawlessness therefore God anointed Him. We have to pay a price. I know people who lose their anointing because they fellowship with people in the flesh and the spirit of the world gets into them. When people have a wrong attitude or begin to speak wrong words or fall into wrong actions, they lose their anointing. You can't keep the anointing unless you love righteousness and hate lawlessness. Now this is a different realm here. It is one thing to feel sad about evil and another to despise evil or hate evil. I am not talking about feeling angry. But there is something in you that just disliked it and abhorred it. Some people get angry at the works of evil but they fight them in the flesh using violence. Some pro-lifers burn down abortion clinics and gun down doctors who perform abortions. I am not talking about that. They themselves need renewal of mind because you don't overcome evil with evil. That's what they try to do, using the flesh to overcome evil. You use the Spirit of love to overcome evil. So, what we have here is a deeper realm of grief. You are so grieved that you abhor the evil done. To you it's like abomination. Your development in the Spirit has grown deeper.

Some people are in the realm where their hearts are hardened. Some are tenderhearted. A lot of us here are in this realm but we need to move on into this realm here where our hearts develops to the extent that what God hates we hates and what God loves we love. What God abhor we abhor. Its one thing to read in the bible that something is abomination to God and another thing to have us feel the same abomination that God feels about it.

Let us look at I Thes. 5:19-20 Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. We are talking about the Person of the Holy Spirit. Grieving is when something is wrong and He is telling you and you are not listening. Wrong attitude, wrong word, wrong thought or wrong action. Quenching is when He is telling you to do something but you are not listening. On the other side He is not doing anything but there are some things being done that He is not happy with. In this realm of quenching, He wants to do something but we are not allowing Him to; we quench. The Greek word for quench pictures a fire that is about to start and water is poured on it. The fire of the Holy Spirit comes out and we quenched it. A person does not only personally quench the things the Spirit wants him to do but could also quench the working of the Holy

Spirit in other people's lives. Another person can also quench the Spirit in your life. Sometimes we see young eager believers learning to be led by the Spirit, no doubt as you learn you are allowed to make honest mistakes. If you made a mistake twice, you didn't learn from the first one.

Sometimes you see a believer wanting to move into the things of God, some of the things they are receiving are from God, and the Spirit is telling them to do something. Then some self-righteous Pharisee comes along and says, "Perhaps that is not of God." Do you know what that fellow is doing? He is quenching the Spirit too. So not only can you quench the Spirit in your own life. If you are being led by the spirit of the world and not by the Spirit of God, you may even quench the things that the Spirit wants to do in other people's life.

I know because there was one occasion it happened to one Singapore brother. He was being led by God to give a huge sum of money to a missionary. He was already signing the check. And another Christian came and brought a bad report about the missionary. He not only grieved the Spirit he quenched the Spirit too and tried to prevent this person from giving to that missionary. That's amazing but it happens all the time. In many situations sometimes somebody may say, "I am led by God to give to this person." I say, "Hey, don't give to this person like that." If you are right, then it is not a problem. But if you are wrong, you are quenching the Spirit. You are answerable to God. You have just prevented someone from being led by the Spirit and from obeying the Holy Spirit. So, people think that quenching is only within them. No, you could be quenching the moving of the Holy Spirit in somebody else too.

That is why we must be people of prayer. Don't jump to conclusion, don't be hasty. Don't be moved by the spirit of the world and the world's ideas and traditions. And many times people without prayer, without fasting, without waiting on God jump to conclusion and they quenched the Spirit. It can happen in a church committee meeting, it can happen in any meeting, it can happen in any situation. Because the spirit of the world is still influencing them. I am very cautious before I say that so-and-so is not led by the Spirit. If somebody says that he or she has the leading of the Spirit, before I say anything that is contrary, I'd better make sure I hear the Spirit for myself regarding him or her. I must be prayerful and I must sense the Spirit in the invisible realm. These are areas that are very serious to God.

Let me tell you the leading by the Spirit consists a hundred percent of all our Christian life. It's a serious matter learning to be led by the Spirit. It is possible to be grieving and quenching the Spirit at the same time. In other words, you could be saying the wrong thing, having the wrong attitude and also at the same time stopping another person from obeying the Spirit. You are doing both.

Now in I Thess. 5 there are also three degrees of quenching. If you are in this area here where your heart is hardened, there is no doubt that what the Spirit tells you, you can not perceive. I Cor. 2:8 and 9 that the natural man does not receive what the Spirit is giving. So, whatever the Spirit wants you to do, if you can not even sense any quenching or grieving, you are just dead wood. That is I Cor. 2. We learn to be led by the Spirit and you are not afraid of anything. If I am sure that the Spirit has led me in a certain way even if I were to go alone and everybody drop out I would still go ahead. It's most important that we have to have boldness and a consecration to obey the Spirit come what may. So, it's important for us to be led by the Spirit.

I Cor. 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world. He is saying if you have the spirit of the world influencing your life you can not receive the things of the Spirit of God. Because its blocked out by the things of the world. But the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. Verse 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. Who is a natural man? A natural man is someone under the influence of the spirit of the world. A natural man is someone who is led by the spirit of the world. He follows along with the tide of the spirit of the world and it has a heavy input and influence on his life. So if you are right here as a natural person under the influence of the spirit of the world you can not even sense the things the Spirit is putting on you. You can not get any direction; you can not sense any grieving or any quenching.

At the second level in I Thess. 5, you sense the quenching. You sense the quenching. You know the fire has been put out. You sensed it in your life. And people who experience that go into a crisis of depression. When you put out the things of the Spirit, life is burned out of you. So, it tells us here that I quench the Spirit.

Now verse 20, Do not despise prophecy. This is the third degree of grieving. Some Christians are over here in this area of despising prophecy. The opposite of despise is to receive. Not only just to receive but you receive it with a powerful of attitude of reception. And that attitude is found in Isa. 64:4 For since the beginning of the world, men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him. Who are those who wait for Him? Isa. 66:2 For all those things My hand has made. And all those things exist, says the Lord. But on this one will I look, on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at My Word. That is the third degree here. You not only sensed that the Spirit is quenched and you fear to quench Him but over here every word that the Spirit of God speaks to you, every direction that He given into your lives, whether visions, dreams or thought or any area, every leading of the Spirit in your life causes a trembling and awe in your life. Then you have reached this third point. There are very few people in this realm.

Remember we are answerable to God to obey the written Word, as we are to obey His spoken voice. We are accountable to obey the written Word. And of course, the spoken Word can not contradict the written Word. But if God tells you to do something and leads you by the Spirit, you are also answerable for that at the judgment day. That's awesome if you think about that. If God tells me to go to a country to minister the Word, if I don't its awesome to think that one day, I have to answer for that. He will ask me, "Why didn't you obey?" And I can not say this person tells me not to. This must be ingrained into our lives we must be in such awe and trembling that if God is the one who tells you to help somebody, don't let another person hinder you from doing that. If God is telling you to minister to another person's need don't let somebody take that blessing from you. If God is telling you to obey Him by giving a prophecy, a word or functioning in a gift, don't let somebody take that from you. Somebody can quench you but if you are filled with such awe you will still obey even if you have to weep and cry. That somebody might not be somebody you do not know. Most of the time, it's somebody you know. It could be your loved ones who walk in the flesh. It could be your own friends who walk in the flesh.

This is a warning from God - we are accountable to be led by the Spirit. We have to put this awe into our lives that we are accountable to be led by the Spirit. That is the reason why in all those years there are some decisions that I made have been unpopular but I pushed forward because I fear God more than I fear man. If God tells me and speaks to me about certain things come what may even if I have to give the shirt on my back to obey I will. Even if all my friends were to forsake me, I will. We got to balance it a little bit. If you are married, you have a husband or wife and God is telling you to do something that affects the whole family, you have to wait for him or her. You are not solely responsible any more. You are only responsible to convey God's demands on your life to your husband or wife and wait for him or her to respond positively. And if some decisions in your life are going to affect the whole family you make sure that your whole family moves in it before you move. But if it's a decision that does not affect them and it's yours and yours alone, you are accountable to God to be led by the Spirit. And may we receive the leadings of the Spirit with trembling at His Word.

18. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Today we are closing the series on how to be led by the Spirit. This is one of the first questions that came to me.

Question 1, “How do we train ourselves to hear God’s voice?” and “What is the basic training processes that are required.”

There are three points that I would like to emphasize in our preparation to hear God’s voice. No. 1 lets turn to the book of Rom.10:17-18 So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: Their sound has gone out to all the earth:

And their words to the ends of the world.” Notice here in this quotation it says that the sound has gone forth throughout all the earth in regard to the preaching of the Word. Then there are other scriptures that mention that the heavens declare the glory of the Lord.

What we see is that God is speaking all the time. That’s one of the things we need to regard.

God is not keeping quiet. God’s Spirit is speaking all the time. The Father is speaking all the time. God is transmitting messages to us in the spirit realm today. The voice of God can be heard today if we were to tune to it. But before we can tune to it, we need to believe and recognize that God is speaking direction into our lives. God is speaking revelations into our lives. The question is not whether God’s voice is coming or not; it is whether it is being received. The transmission side is O.K. It’s the receiving station that sometimes has problems. So No.1 we need to realize that God is speaking all the time. He is speaking right here if you hear Him. He is speaking 24 hours a day to our lives. When I say He is speaking I am not saying that He speaks in the same way to everyone. There is the inward witness, the inward voice, the voice of the Holy Spirit or other more spectacular ways that God uses in speaking to us and we need to pick up the signal from God all the time.

The second major important thing is to be opened to the various methods and channels that God uses to speak to us.

Now how do we train to hear God’s voice? No. 1 we have to believe that He is speaking to us.

It’s our side that’s the problem. No. 2 is to be opened to every method and channel that He uses. He uses somebody sometimes to convey a word to you or sometimes through some gifts that are given to you. Sometimes you hear God’s voice through your reading of the Word and through other channels, and line upon line, precept upon precept, a little here and a little there the Holy Spirit builds up a composite picture of what God is speaking to us. I am not saying that you got to depend on one area alone. All these areas must harmonize together. Generally, they are all in harmony together.

For example, there was a girl who shared with me how God was speaking to her about the harvest. When she read the Word of God, she began to see scriptures on the

harvest popping out to her. Subsequently somebody gave her a picture. Guess what the picture was? It was a picture of somebody reaping the harvest. Then there were things that kept happening along the way that continually pointed to the message of what God was speaking to her.

The thing is that if we are not opened to these things then we are not opened to the way God is speaking to us. When He speaks, He will usually speak in more than one way. There will be confirmation after confirmation, after confirmation. There will be many channels that He used to transmit the direction to our life making sure we do not miss it at all. Let us be opened to all the various methods. Sometimes it could be through the words of somebody else who did intentionally give it as a prophecy. Somebody led by God to meet you and share with you something.

The third point is that after all your leadings and all that you are opened to, check it up with the Word. These are the three major points we want to emphasize in our training to hear God's voice. No.1 is to recognize that He is speaking. No. 2 to be opened to all the various methods that He uses. No. 3 whatever it is get back to the Word, check it up with the Word and back it up with the Word. The final assurance comes from the written Word. As you train yourself in those areas and those directions, God's leading in you could become clearer and sharper. You begin to hear God's voice where people can't hear God's voice. And you began to pick up confirmation where people don't see it as confirmation. I am not talking about circumstances I am talking about a general overview. There are a lot of times when God is speaking and people are not picking up His voice.

Question 2, "Are the spectacular leadings of the Holy Spirit limited to some?"

I believe that this question is in regard to whether everybody sees visions, revelations, and some of the more spectacular leadings. Is it limited to some people? And the rest of the body of Christ just goes by the general leading. From a study of God's Word, we realize that there is a tendency for some towards that direction. Lets look at the book of Deuteronomy 18:18 onwards I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren and will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which he speaks in My name, I will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. And if you say in our heart, "How shall we know the word which the Lord had not spoken?" When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen to come to pass that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you shall not be afraid of him.

The first part of the verse that we have read refers to Jesus Christ. The word Prophet is capitalized because it points to Jesus and how God will raise Jesus Christ up as the Prophet. But in the latter portion of that verse, you notice that God says that He can speak through people whom He will raise especially as prophets. Now there is a particular group of people whom the bible calls the dreamer of dreams and one who is akin to visions. That is a particular group of people that God points to that seems to have a call of God into a prophetic office either in the three realms. Either they give out prophecy or they operate in the realm of the ministry of prophecy or stand in the office of a prophet. Those people can have a leaning towards being opened to the

spectacular. I would say that if God calls a person to that realm, then it has to be that the person has an opening to that spectacular realm of visions and revelations.

One of the words that has been used in the book of Samuel to describe prophets is the word seer. The modern word that we will use in that area is visionary. A visionary is one who sees visions all the time. There is a possibly of a particular group of people whom God has specially called to be prophets. They have a responsibility in God to function in that realm. So in the Old Testament the prophets have more authority than in the new. In the new they only confirm in the old, so they confirm they even leads God's people because not everybody has the Holy Spirit.

So in particular to this question here, "Are the spectacular leadings limited to some?" It's not limited to some. The question could be phrased in a different way. Some are inclined to the spectacular. But all may if they spend sufficient time with God and move into the spectacular leadings. God has not reserved that spectacular for some elite group but as Moses said, "Would that all are prophets." Some don't seem to be doing anything from the time they were born, yet they seem to be people who are akin and open to visions and revelations. But there are some who are not that way. So it's not limited to some but some are more inclined towards that area than others.

Then how do the rest of us move into that spectacular and understand it. In the book of Jn. 1:47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Notice here that there was no indication that Nathanael was a man akin to vision or not, possibly no. But when he came to see Jesus, Jesus said, "I saw you under the fig tree." In other words, Jesus had a word of knowledge about him. Jesus must have seen in a vision that Philip went and fetched Nathanael and brought him to Jesus. But before Nathanael came, Jesus had already seen him and could tell him whether he was under the fig tree or under the sycamore tree. But He says, "While you were under the fig tree I saw you." Jesus gave two words of knowledge about him. No. 1 Jesus said that he was a man without deceit. No. 2 Jesus said that He saw him under the fig tree. Nathanael expressed an openness to receive from God.

Now that is important. Immediately when the gift of God confronted Nathanael through Jesus Christ he did not question in the wrong way. He did not doubt or have unbelief. He had a childlike openness and he said, "You must be the Son of God. You are the King of Israel." In short, the Messiah. With his childlike openness immediately Jesus responds in the next verse Because I said to you, "I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these," And Jesus pronounced a blessing on him saying, "You shall see heaven open and the angels of God coming and descending upon the Son of Man."

Now the criterion of His blessing was based on the reception. If you notice this those who are simple hearted; those who are open to God and not doubt tends to move very quickly into the spectacular realm. But society and education trains us to be skeptical. As a result, you find that many people who are country folks and who live in tribal areas seem to be immediately open to the spectacular. While those in the secular

realm of sophisticated society tend to see very little of the spectacular. I believe there are areas of unbelief areas of skepticism that prevent the Spirit of God from doing more.

I think the opposite of what Jesus' words would apply. If you do not believe about the fig tree, how can other things come? So the positive side applies to Nathanael - he believed about the fig tree and Jesus said there is some more coming for him. So the question, "Is the spectacular leadings limited to some?" The answer is no. However, some have a tendency to lean toward the spectacular. It may be ingrained and inborn in some, or God may have pre-destined a prophetic gift to function in your life all the time. And those of us who are not so gifted, there is a way to get in by spending more time with God and God's Word and along the way you hit something. Something has to hit when you spend more time with God especially about 8, 10, 11, 12 hours with God a day. It's not easy to spend that amount of time with God since there are thousands of interruptions. Even if you pray from 6 p.m. to 12 midnight, it's only 6 hours. If you spend a lot of time with God somewhere along the line, this blessing that Jesus pronounced on Nathanael will hit you. Most people are acclimatized to spending one hour with God. That's for baby Christians. That's the reason why we don't see that much of God moving. We don't see the spiritual realm of God. I believe Jesus spent all His time with God as much as He could. Besides preaching, teaching, and spending time with His disciples, Jesus practically spent all His spare time with God. No short cut.

Question 3, "What is the most important thing to do to hear God?"

Rom. 12:1-2 one most important to do to hear God is to say, "I will renew my mind." The mind is the greatest block to hearing God. Rom. 12:1-2 Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. II Cor. 4:3-4 But even if our gospel is veiled it is veil to those who are perishing, whose mind the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. It tells us that the blockage is in the mind. The god of this world seeks to blind the mind of people. And he does blind the mind of people by giving them the wrong doctrine, the wrong teaching, wrong principle and people accept that. Unbelief is not non-belief. Unbelief is believing the wrong thing. Non-belief is ignorance. Ignorance means you don't know anything at all. But unbelief is not ignorance. Unbelief is believing in the wrong things. Choosing to believe the wrong thing that the devil gives to us, human traditions give to us and that is against God's word. These things prevent us from hearing God. So that is the most important thing to do to hear God - the renewal of the mind.

Question 4, "Do daily leadings differ from yearly leadings?"

I believe this is what you are asking. Are the daily leadings in my life different from those special leadings that He gives us from time to time, that it may take a few years for us to fulfill them? For example, it is a different leading to do what you are supposed to do during the day as compared to what you are supposed to do over a period of time, like relocating to another city to live. Some leadings influence your

whole life and some leadings are on a daily perspective. So the question is, “Are they different?”

Apparently, there are some differences that are involved because of the magnitude of the decisions. The greater the decision in the leading that will affect your life and your family, the greater is the sense of leading. But the lesser it affects the total overview of your life, the leading may not be as astute, spectacular, urgent or strong. Let me give an example. Perhaps you are going to attend some meetings conducted by a minister of God. You are driving to that place and you know that it is very difficult to get a car park. You are believing God for a car park. As you are driving to the place, it is very unlikely that you see an angel directing you to the exact car park. It is very unlikely that you see an angel sitting on the top of the bonnet of your car and leading you all the way to the car park. Most probably, all you have is a sense. As you go there, you know that is one thing for God to provide and it's another to be at the right place at the right time. It's very unlikely that you hear a voice and say, “I want you to go now at about ten miles per hour; turn left and wait for the blue car over there.” But you possibly have a sense that you sort of know that you are going to wait here a while because there is a car coming out.

In the natural world, we don't spend as much time deliberating decisions that are minor as we do over decisions that are major. If you have to shift to different country, it's a major decision. Or if you have to resign from your job to enter the ministry, it's a major decision. You don't make major decision just at the spur of a moment. God is merciful enough to us to give us enough confirmation and deliberation to do that.

For example, if God is speaking to you to sell your house and give all the money away and follow Him, I would say that, that kind of decision can not be made at the spur of a moment. Don't try to give the example of Jesus Christ coming to His disciples and saying, “Come and follow Me.” If you read carefully comparing the gospel of Mathew and Luke with the gospel of John, the disciples had already seen Jesus before that. John chapter one was before Jesus called them to come follow Him. And Peter had met Him before. So we realize that there were some relationship they already had. They had gone to see the Messiah's place where He stays. And they conversed with Him and one day He came back to them and said, “Come follow Me.” That was not the first time He encountered them.

So in a major decision that will affect your life expect a stronger, more confirmation and more avenues that speak the same thing. So there is a slight difference to that question. I need to add an addition to that based on our development in our normal life. The normal way that you hear God could be stronger than others based on your spiritual growth. In other words, you could be so akin to the inward gentle voice of your human spirit and of the Holy Spirit based on your growth in God that you literally sort of know it even when you park a car. As you drive in there is sort of a vision and you know you can find an empty car park on the fourth floor of the building. This happens because of your normal spiritual development in God. Whereas for those who have not grown and developed in that area, again in the renewal of the mind, even to hear God in that simple way will take a long time.

So when we say there is a difference we are talking about difference in urgency, level of confirmation and the strength of His leading in your life. But that is qualified also by our normal walk with God. In other words, there is such a thing as being normal

for your life. Being spiritually normal does not mean your spiritual growth remains stagnant. Normal spiritual growth can increase the sensitivity of hearing the human spirit and hearing the Holy Spirit in your life. On things that are not so important, you have an inner knowing especially if you spend a lot of time and you are hearing from God all the time. There are other things that you seem to know even though you didn't ask from God. You seem to know for example what that person is going to do things within the house. You have been seeking to spend time with God for about 8 to 10 hours a day. There is something that you know that goes on that you normally would not know if you don't spend that amount of time. Sometimes a person may say a few words and roughly you know what is going to happen. So you have an inner knowing of things to come, so you anticipate ahead of time. This becomes a norm for you because of the time you spend with God. This time with God has to be trained and maintained. If you don't spend that amount of time with God, that kind of knowing would not be as much. In fact, it decreases since it depends on your fellowship with God. So there is a norm and there is a special.

The question is, "Do the daily leadings differ from the yearly leadings?" The answer is yes. The daily leadings are your norms. Then the yearly and those that are going to be life transforming that will affect you totally are what I call special leadings. So, under the special you would have over and above the normal that God will speak to you. But the normal are at different level and increasing your time and quality of communion with the Lord can increase your sensitivity to the daily leadings.

Question 5, "Can we ask for a prophet's confirmation?"

The answer is no, not in the New Testament. But perhaps you could phrase it this way. Could we ask for confirmation then the answer is yes. But if you say, "Could we ask for a prophet's confirmation?" No. You know why, because you are limiting God to one avenue of speaking. And every time you make a decision that limits God, it is never a wise move. So the question, "Can we ask for a prophet's confirmation?" The bible in the New Testament does not allow us or teach us to ask for prophet's confirmation. This is not Old Testament. You could pray, "God, teach us to hear You clearly and could You confirm this area?" And you don't limit God to how He confirms. Just be open. In other words, you are saying, "Lord, let me have more avenues of You speaking in this direction, especially of those areas of what I call yearly or special." But don't limit Him to the type of confirmation He gives. He may choose to give a prophet's confirmation or He may not.

Nita Johnson had a very peculiar experience when she went up to heaven and experienced the weight of glory on the Old Testament prophets, which was heavier than the weight of glory on the New Testament prophets. She was also given the reason for this. Read her experience as follows:

The prophets of today are not of the same caliber as the Old Covenant prophets. I was once taken to heaven and escorted behind a thick royal blue curtain where I found waiting for me every Old Testament prophet sitting at a long dinner table. The table was fit for a King. I was told to sit down and commune with them for a while, which I did. The presence of Yahveh was so overwhelming I couldn't stay there long. I wanted to stay forever, but my spirit was not able to bear the Shekinah presence that seemed to dwell within that veil. It was too weighty for me.

After a short time the angel that had escorted me behind that veil to dine with the Old Testament prophets came and escorted me out of the room and to another room, hidden behind a blood red veil. Behind this veil was another dining room table. Seated at this table were the New Testament prophets. Again I was in awe but I immediately noticed that the presence behind this veil was not nearly as weighty as the presence behind the other. I was immediately able to bear this presence and could have stayed as long as I wanted without trouble. I asked the angel why this was so. He instructed me that the New Testament prophet does not bear the same weight as the Old because each believer now has the Holy Spirit in him or herself. The Lord now expects the believer to live by the life and direction of the Holy Spirit rather than the prophet like the Old Testament believers had to do.

(For the rest of her article, read “False Prophet or True?”)

Question 6, “Can the flow of circumstances confirm the leadings of the Holy Spirit?”

That is a question that has two answers. It depends on which stage you are at in the particular leading of the Holy Spirit. The straightforward answer to that is no because we are not led by circumstances. So I would answer the question in this way. If you are talking about the circumstances that must immediately flow, then I would say sometimes the circumstances flow as God leads you. Sometimes it doesn't flow immediately because there is a devil out there and there are people who are unbelievers out there. If there are no devils, no demons and everybody knows God of course all circumstances will flow together. But because we have opposition from the devil our archenemy who consistently try to use circumstances against what God tells us to do, therefore we can not depend on circumstances. So the first straight forward answer to that is no, we can not depend on circumstances because you may not have the circumstances immediately flowing in your way. You may have to exercise faith to over turn the circumstances that stand against you to fight the fight of faith. Otherwise, there is no fight of faith. To follow God's leading in your life is to go against the tide until the tide goes with you.

So the first answer is no but the ultimate answer is yes if you are talking about the ultimate answer. See in the end as you choose to follow God and you exercise faith in the end all circumstances will flow along with the direction you are going. In other words, God will send you circumstantial help arranged by angels and in the ultimate end the final count you win if it's a leading of God. In other words, you can not make a statement like, “If God calls you to do something, God may lead you to do something without success.” I believe God believes in success. If God spoke to you, and if God has sent you out, then there is a purpose for you to do those things. You would succeed in what God tells you to do in the final end and not in the middle.

So in this question the first answer is no, so that you don't depend on circumstances. But ultimately there will be a flow of circumstances arranged by angels to help you fulfill God's leadings in your life. Angels will be working the circumstances out so that there is a divine flow. In spite of oppositions when you reached a certain place, there comes providential help and God-sent coincidences. When John G. Lake sold his house, his business and gave everything away, he took his whole family and went to South Africa. The moment he landed there was a lady there waiting and she said, “Are you John G. Lake?” He said yes. She said, “The Lord has spoken to me and He

has provided this house and it's yours." There is a flow of circumstances. In the ultimate end, God does guide you circumstantially but don't depend on that.

Question 7, "Can the manifestation change with time?"

Possibly the person asking this question is asking that if God leads one way when I was a five year old Christian can He change His leading in my life when I am a ten year old Christian? The answer is yes. God's leadings in our lives vary and change. He may work specially in your life in one area that later He does not work any more. But overall, through the situation the basic guidance systems will be there - the inward witness, human spirit voice and the Holy Spirit voice. But in the other spectacular realm and some of His special leadings in your life, He may change in His methods and means of leading in your life. Different phases of ministry have different workings of God. We need to be opened to how God works and how God speaks to us. Sometimes when you are acclimatized to God doing things in a certain way, and God wants us to continue to go deeper in Him, He would change His working in our life for work in a creative new way so that we keep on learning all about Him over and over again.

We allow two questions from the floor.

"How to discern the voice of the Father, the voice of Jesus and the voice of the Holy Spirit?"

That is a very subjective question. The voice of the Father is very subjective because if I describe it I can only describe how I hear it. But the way each one of us hear it may be different. I tend to personally hear the voice of the Father as a bit more basely. That doesn't mean that God had a based voice. But that's the way I hear it. Usually if you can not differentiate between the voices, there are the keys that differentiate between the voice of the Father, the voice of Jesus and the voice of the Holy Spirit. You notice by the message. Sometimes the message that comes forth is, "I the Lord am your God, I died for you." You know who is speaking - Jesus. You differentiate as much as possible from the message. If it's the Holy Spirit He will just speak to you and just say, "Do this and do that." If it's normal directive, it's usually the Holy Spirit. If it's a word that says, "I have sent my Son I have given Him to you." Who is that? The Father. So you could tell mainly by the message.

Now subjectively there is a slight difference. Of course, we recognize that biblically all the manifestations of the Father's voice or Jesus' voice speaking comes through the Holy Spirit. But there are times you realize that the Father Himself is speaking. It is different from our human spirit. You recognize it by the content of the message. Somewhere along the line, the content of the message that God speaks gives you the clue who is speaking to you. There are certain things that are in the jurisdiction of the Father that are not in the jurisdiction of the Son or the Holy Spirit.

Any other question? The question is in one of the sessions we talked about recognizing the voice of the Holy Spirit from inside. I remember we said its something like an inward thought but it's something stronger coming to you. Our brother is asking, "How is it that the inward voice of the Holy Spirit is different from the thoughts that are outside?" How do we recognize the difference?" No. 1, by the pressure and direction since the voice of the Holy Spirit is from inside you and the

Holy Spirit lives inside you. When He speaks you sense a lifting up from inside. When the enemy thoughts come to you from outside you feel it pressing down on you. So the pressure and direction help me differentiate between the voice of the Holy Spirit coming from within and the voice of the enemy coming from without. I am talking not in the natural but in the spiritual. There is a spiritual pressure and direction. If you don't believe in spiritual pressure and direction please read Isa. 61 there is spirit of heaviness against the spirit of liberty which the book of Corinthians says where the Spirit is there is liberty. So there is such a thing as a heaviness and the bible is not talking about physical heaviness it's talking about spiritual heaviness.

Secondly, how I tell the inner thoughts that come from the Holy Spirit from the thoughts that are outside is what I call in the nature of the voice. When some people speak, in the natural you could sense love in their voice. When we all speak even with the same person sometimes when the same person is speaking you could tell when they are hurt, when they are happy, when they are peaceful. Within the same person, you could tell the differentiation of the type of emotion he or she is going through. Then different people have different voice and each one of our carries our spirit. Sometimes when a person speaks, you could feel condemned because that person has a very critical spirit. You could feel an overwhelming sense of discouragement, condemnation, anger, bitterness and a host of other negative emotions when that person speaks. Out of the abundance of his heart, his mouth speaks and unfortunately, his heart is a cesspool of bitterness and poison. So in the same manner you could tell the voice from the nature.

Trust what you hear in your deepest prayer and worship life than what you hear from outside. Then sometimes you hear some impressions outside while you are doing natural carnal things. It is very strong and sounds like the Holy Spirit. But when you go back into prayer, see God will allow you to pray about that. And that voice tells you, "No need to pray, just do it," then you know there is something wrong. And in your deep prayer, you sensed that is not of God of what you are hearing. Now this third point is qualified by the fact that you don't have sin in your life. Sin in your life and a perverted conscience affects your hearing and will completely throw you in disarray. That tells us that we have to have all our sins cleansed by the blood so that there is no interference from some strongholds in our lives. If that is not done, if you are living in sin and living in disobedience, even in your deepest "prayer", there is an absurdity in that. It is something that is absurd because how can you be in sin and deep prayer together? The two doesn't go together. But some are very religious about that. They haven't forsaken sin, haven't forsaken disobedience but they go deep into these "spiritual things." You may hear from Satan who imitates and tries to be an angel of light. So in your deepest time with God you can still hear from the enemy because sin is an open door. So it's qualified or rather disqualified by the presence of unrepented sins.

When that is covered, you can trust what you hear. Based on all these years of serving God in the ministry and learning to be led by the Spirit I have made some mistakes here and there. As I begin to analyze that, I realize this. Every single one of those mistakes was choices and decisions that did not fully come out of the depths of prayer. But in your deepest prayer some of them could be even impressions and things that just come from outside and you are so tuned to that but it's only the things that comes from the depths of your prayer that you can trust. Even that has to be qualified.

I am not talking about the initial stages of prayer. When you wake up the first thing in the morning and start praying the first ten minutes, you hear all kinds of things, especially at four in the morning. You have to still question it and pray some more. It's possibly what you hear at the second hour of prayer or third hour of prayer that you can really trust. I am not saying it can not be of God. It could be God speaking to you the first thing in the morning. But you got to pray through something to check up on what you hear besides the normal check of the inward witness and the confirmation of scriptures that we have taught. So trust what you hear in a deep prayer.

I want to close from the book of Jn. 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. Notice He did not say, "My lamb." He says, "My sheep." I am sure Jesus knows about lambs and sheep. He exhorted Peter to feed His sheep and His lamb after eliciting a response of "I love You," from Peter in the last chapter gospel of the John. Hearing from God and being led by the Spirit is not something that is instant. I want to emphasize this that it comes by growth. You have to grow into it. You have to grow into something of God. You have to grow from a lamb to a sheep. And in the process of time, we have to just do the best, learn the best we know how. Follow the Word and the Spirit diligently as He works in our lives. Grow deeper and deeper in your prayer life and your worship life. In that way, through the months and through the years your sensitivity to being led by the Spirit would deepen and be sharper. It comes by growth. Just don't worry too much on how to be led and live your whole life in anxiety. But just focus on Jesus Christ, yield to the Spirit and keep the goal of just growing in God. Just grow to worship God, grow to love Him, grow to love His precious Word. Just keep growing in God and it will come naturally or rather supernaturally through our growth in God. We grow to know God.