

WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

Filled with the Spirit to Discern Guidance

July 5, 2015

I. Review - Seven ways the Holy Spirit leads and speaks to us

1. Through the Scriptures (Heb 4:12-13; 1Pt 1:11-12; 2Pt 1:19; 2Tim 3:16; Ac 17:11).
2. Directly to your spirit (Rev 3:20; 1Cor 6:17; Gal 4:6; 1 Jn 5:10).
3. Through the gifts of the Spirit, including dreams and visions (1Cor 12:4-11; Joel 2:28).
4. Through godly people
 - a. Pastors (Isa 40:11; 63:11-14; Jer 3:15; 23:3-4; Ezk 34:12-13; Ps 78:52-54; Hos 11:3-4).
 - b. Elders and other leaders in your church (Eph 4:11-13; 2Ti 2:24-26).
 - c. Peers and other godly people (Col 3:16; Phil 2:1-2; 1Jn 1:3; Pr 16:23; Dan 5:12-17).
 - d. Parents (Gen 18:19; Pr 4:11-13; 6:20-23; 13:1; 22:6; Eph 6:4).
5. God may use a fleece, or something similar (Jdg 6:36-40; Gen 24:12-27; Ac 1:26).
6. God may use of an angel (Ac 5:19; 8:26).
7. Circumstances (pay attention to them for God may be speaking to you through them).
Abraham (Gen 12:1-10; 11:2; 12:11-14; 13; 14:1-16, 17-24; 15:17; 19:29; 20:13; 21:22)

II. Guidance is a process, a journey in walking with God

A. Walk / Walking with God

Walk with God (Gen 5:22-24; 6:9; 17:1; Mic 6:8; Rev 3:4).

Walk in:

Him (Col 2:6).
the Light (1Jn 1:6-7).
His ways (Dt 8:6;10:12; 1Ki 2:3-4; Isa 30:21; Jer 7:23; Mic 4:5; 6:8; Zec 3:7; Mal 2:6).
His paths (Isa 2:3).
newness of life (Ro 6:4).
the Spirit (Ro 8:4).
the same steps (2 Co 12:18).
the good works prepared for us (Eph 2:10).
manner worthy of the calling (Eph 4:1).
manner worthy of the Lord, God (Col 1:10; 1Th 2:12).
the same manner as He walked (1 Jn 2:6).

Walk no longer:

in the darkness (Jn 8:12; 1Jn 1:6-7).
in the flesh (Ro 8:4).
as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind (Eph 4:17).
naked (Rev 16:15).

Walk by:

faith (2 Co 5:7).
the Spirit (Gal 5:16, 25).
the rule of (being) a new creation (Gal 6:15-16).

Walk as:
children of Light (Eph 5:8)

Walk carefully (Eph 5:15).

Walk observantly (Phil 3:17-18).

Walk as you ought to walk, and please God (1Th 4:1).

B. Steps - A walk (walking) happens by taking one step at a time.

Follow the steps of God (Dt 33:3).

God enlarges (our) steps for victory (2 Sa 22:33-39; Ps 18:36).

Steps holding fast to God's paths (Ps 17:5; 44:18; 2Cor 12:18).

The enemy attempts to make our steps slip (Ps 17:9-11; 56:6; 57:6; 73:2-3).

God establishes our steps (Ps 37:23-24; Pr 4:10-12).
steps do not slip (Ps 37:31).
the Lord directs his steps (Pr 16:9; Jer 10:23-24).
the Lord ordains man's steps (Pr 20:24).

A sensible man considers his steps (Pr 14:15).

We are to follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham (Ro 4:12).

If we are suffering, follow the steps and example of Jesus Christ (1Pt 2:21).

C. Questions to ask yourself - concerning guidance:

1. What areas of life is He speaking to you or dealing with you?
2. How is He speaking - Which of the 7 ways is He using?
3. Who are the people in your life that can help you sort it out?

D. We need to pay attention to the voice of God (warnings of not hearing).

Heb 2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. (Heb 2:3-4)

E. God is still speaking today

Heb 3:7-8 just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, (Psa 95:7-11; Heb 3:15; 4:7).

F. Hindrances to hearing His voice

1. Unbelief:

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. (Mt 13:58; 17:20; Mk 6:6; 9:24; 16:14; Ro 3:3; 4:20; 11:20, 23; 1Ti 1:13; Heb 3:12, 19; 4:2)

2. Disobedience:

Heb 4:6 Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, (Ro 11:30, 32; Eph 2:2; 5:6; Col 3:6; Heb 4:11)

3. Hardness of heart

Heb 4:7 "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

(Heb 3:8, 15; 5:11; Dt. 15:7; 1Sam 6:6; Ps 95:6; Isa 63:17; Mt 19:8; Mk 3:5; 10:5; 16:14;)

4. Fear - Unbelief and fear go hand in hand.

John 14:27 Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful
366 times in the Bible God says "fear not!"

Fear gives power to the devil

2Ti 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity (fear), but of power and love and discipline. (1Pt 5:8; Rom 8:15)

Jesus came to render powerless the devil

Heb 2:14-15 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

5. Sin

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

III. Testing (Examining) Guidance

A. Mark Virkler's test

Mark Virkler (*Communing with God* pg. 161) gives the following chart to test whether a thought (guidance) is from self, Satan or God. He says; "As the Bible tells us that we can test the spirit, the content and the fruit of Revelation to determine whether it is of God. The following chart is an expansion:

Self	Satan	God
Find its origin	Test the spirit	- (1Jn 4:1)
Born in meditation. A progressive building of ideas	A flashing mental thought. Was the mind empty, idle? Does thought seem obstructive?	Sensed in innermost being. Then transformed into thoughts. Was the mind focused on Jesus?
Examine	its content — test the words	- (1Jn 4:5)
A consideration of things I have learned.	Negative, destructive, pushy, fearful, accusative. Violates nature of God. Violates Word of God. Thought is afraid to be tested.	Instructive, a building, comforting. Thought accepts testing.
Inspect	Its fruit — test the fruit	- (Mt 7:15-16)
Variable	Fear, compulsion, bondage, anxiety, confusion.	Quickened faith, power, peace, good fruit, enlightenment, knowledge.

Mark goes on to make the following comments; "God has given us one another, and together we are the Body of Christ. We find safety in our relationship to a Bible - believing fellowship. All *rhema* (words) involving major decisions should be submitted to your spiritual overseer. Ephesians 5:21 states, 'Submit yourselves one to another,' and goes on to delineate the various areas of covering God has placed in our lives. Each is to lay down his *rhema* (words) before his God ordained covering, who provide safety from our tendency to rush off to do something that is not truly God's will. 'In the multitude of counselors there is safety'(Prov 11:14). Elders are the covering over a church, and those within the fellowship are to submit their *rhema* (words) to them for confirmation or adjustment (Heb 13:17). In an age of lawlessness, order is to characterize God's people. To whom are you submitted?

(Communing with God pg. 161)

B. Testing prophecy: Seven questions to ask yourself:

1. Does it edify, admonishing or exhort (1Cor 14:3)?
2. What are the fruits? Five test:
 1. Does the prophet have control (1Cor 14:32)?
 2. Does the word bring confusion (1Cor 14:33)?
 3. Does the word bring peace to you (1Cor 14:33)?
 4. Does the word bring freedom or fear (Rom 8:15)?
 5. Does the word bring life or minister death (2Cor 3:6)?
3. Does the word glorify Christ (Rev 19:10; Jn 15:26; 16:14)?
4. Does the word agree with the Scriptures (2Ti 3:16-17; Gal 1:6-9)?
5. Are the predictive prophecies fulfilled (Dt 18:20-22)?
6. Does the fulfilled word John you away from Jesus (Dt 13:1-5)?
7. Does the word bear witness with your spirit (1 Jn 2:20, 27)?

C. Seven signs of manipulative and controlling prophecies:

(Developing Your Prophetic Gifting; By Graham Cooke)

1. Usurping the will of others (acting as an infallible oracle).
2. Pulling rank (pushing a superior attitude).
3. Flattering (taking advantage of someone's vulnerability).
4. Giving dire warnings (employing implied threat).
5. Allowing no outside perspective (locking others into one's own view).
6. Using the phrase "the Lord told me so" (eliminating the need for feedback).
7. Promoting super-spirituality (boasting of personal accomplishment).