HOW TO BE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

**Firstly and foundationally – we’ve been on the subject of PRAYER**

* Prayer = simply put, COMMUNION or COMMUNICATION with God
* Communication is NOT a monologue, it’s a DIALOGUE, so JUST AS IT IS with any of our relationships in this life, we must LEARN TO LISTEN, and truly HEAR.

**So today > TITLE**

**How to Hear from Heaven**

**Jesus operated in the five fold ministry (earthly ministry)**

1. Apostle (sent one)
2. Prophet
3. Evangelist
4. Pastor (poimen = shepherd)
5. Teacher – not just one who is “apt to teach”, but a Master Teacher

**Another layer of this foundation –**

SPIRIT / SOUL / BODY – can God take us deeper in our understanding? YES!

**BY EXAMPLE > WHEN WE WERE SENT TO RHEMA >**

Pastor Hagin, now in his 80s and still pastoring, preached a message called – NO RESERVE, NO RETURN & NO REGRETS

**READ:** From the title, you can conclude that he was intentionally inspiring the students to give it their all, to leave nothing to chance, to not look back, to manage their thoughts so that the “woulda, shoulda, coulda’s wouldn’t captivate them .. causing them to **shrink back** into where they had come from, instead of **focusing** on what He had called them to do.

He wanted (and still wants them) to have “skin in the game”. To lay it all on the line. Having one foot in the world, and one foot in the church – doesn’t work. Eventually, as James tells us – being double minded causes us to receive nothing from the Lord.

Wavering is COSTLY.

YOU SEE - when a person moves according to God’s prompting – he/she MUST be led of the Spirit of God, **the inward witness**. They MUST have a knowing.

1. Daddy or Mommy can’t have called you
2. Great Grandma Jones can’t call you
3. Circumstances can’t be your deciding factor
4. Seemingly open & closed doors can’t be your confirmation (Satan operates VERY WELL in this realm, and he is well able to pen & close doors to confuse you).
5. Even if you’ve been prophesied over – REPEATEDLY, you are going to HAVE to KNOW you are called
6. You’re going to have to KNOW HOW TO BE LED for yourself

**Because WHEN – the place of obedience gets tough –AND it will – WHEN it gets tough – YOU MUST KNOW YOU ARE CALLED.**

Now, questioning or wondering if God has called you to your neighbor, I can AFFIRM that call by saying this ..

BECAUSE OF THE GREAT COMMISSISON – WE HAVE A STANDING ORDER (FROM HEADQUARTERS) TO “GO INTO ALL THE WORLD …. “

You could say it this way – we have a GREEN LIGHT TO GO!

It’s when the Holy Spirit, (like Paul) was CHECKED (or given a red light) to not go into Asia at that particular time, during that particular missionary journey that the Lord SPARED HIS LIFE by heeding and obeying the TIMING of the Lord.

I also remember a story shared by one of our instructors – Bro. Keith Moore

**STORY ABOUT PRAYER PHONE LINES**

Oftentimes, it’s like that – isn’t it?

INSTEAD of us seeking God earnestly and praying fervently UNTIL we get HIS COUNSEL on a matter – THEN, we move ahead actually FULFILLING what He has already COMMISSIONED, SUPPLIED and SAW HAPPEN from His high and lifted up place in the heavens.

No, instead – so often (I know I’ve done it) we move ahead with our BRAINSTORM idea and then ask God to BLESS IT!

Reality is – if GOD didn’t order it, He has …

1. No obligation to pay for it!
2. He cannot bless what He did not commission
3. But, when we miss it (and we all will), we can & should ask for His mercy!

**OK – SO LET’S DIG INTO THIS IDEA THAT YOU ARE A SPIRIT >**

YOU are a spirit. Recreated IN Christ Jesus. Made anew. Made alive! His DIVINE nature has now taken up it’s residence IN YOU!

So, if that’s true – then, when you get angry and YIELD to that anger – the REAL YOU didn’t just “get exposed” – no instead, YOU had actually RETREATED and the “old you” / unregenerated, dead man – made it’s appearance! In other words, YOUR FLESH – or, the part of you that is “decaying day by day” … has presented itself. (Word says)

When a BELIEVER in Jesus Christ operates in the “flesh” more than in the spirit, they will have hard time being “led by the spirit of God. Why?

Because the old man and the new man are constantly AT WAR with one another. The old man, though dead, continually tries to resurrect itself. The old man is ever with us, as long as we are in these earthly tents.

**Remind me again – what is the SOULISH part of your person?**

1. Mind / Intellect / Imagination
2. Will
3. Emotions

Different that the flesh, this part of who we are – is in fact, eternal.

However, to be ruled or dominated by our feelings is a low way to live this Christian life, AND – it’ll be VERY difficult to BE LED on the daily by the Spirit of God.

***2 Timothy 24 // WEB***

***No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of life, (STOP – WHY?) that he may please Him who enrolled him as a soldier.***

**If we’re to hear from heaven … do we hear as a child, or as a soldier?**

**When @ GO – scales of balance …**

* **CHILD = RIGHTS**
* **SOLDIER = RESPONSIBILITIES**

**So … TO THE DEGREE that we feed the flesh, VS saturating our spirit and soul in His Word and in His Presence – will be to the degree that we are enabled to hear.**

**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN … ON A ROAD TRIP >**

* Clouds are forming, rolling in, darker and darker still …
* You’re driving – NO ONE CAN SPEAK – radio is off, chaos shut down
* Distractions are eliminated
* **It’s AS IF – if I can’t HEAR, I can’t SEE**

**I sense we are in JUST SUCH A PLACE – right now …**

*(Repeat scenario)*

It’s certainly a natural analogy that brings home a spiritual Truth ALL THE TIME, but it’s ESPECIALLY in stormy times – clouds, clutter and the chaos of the moment seems to want to DROWN OUT the voice of God.

**Make note: DIFFERENCE >**

* **Silence in solitude with God**
* **Isolated on an island unto yourself**
	+ - **One is profitable and we’re called to a life practice of it**
		- **The latter is escapism and doesn’t really solve anything, but rather exacerbates issues we’re simply trying to run from**
		- **“Geographical cure” – if I can just start over, it’ll all be better**
		- **Trouble with that is … YOU are still there**

**Storm comes** > recently heard a story of a treacherous storm decades ago (Brenda Gantt)

Until the clouds part, and the sun begins to shine again, sometimes - it’ll be difficult to see with your natural eyes ... must have eyes of faith that see past the clouds, and into the clear skies!

**OT > Holy Spirit reside - temple / tabernacle - Holy of Holies**

**Prophet, Priest, King**

**TO CLARIFY >**

**OT Direction ... go to the prophet, priest, king FOR direction**

**We don’t go to P,P or K anymore (aka leadership) for DIRECTION, but we do go for CONFIRMATION - so, what if your leadership in your life differs on what YOU think you should do? FULL STOP.**

**Well … I’ll do it anyway!**

* **Tell a story about Word of Victory Ministries BUILDING …**

**First ask yourself this - do I truly believe they have my best interests at heart? Are they Godly leadership, born again & Spirit filled, endeavoring to hear the voice of the Lord? If so - then, I caution you - WAIT / contend for - agreement.**

**If not - you can still honor their leadership, (rooted in experience), but you’re not obligated to obey their leadership if it’s contrary to Biblical truth.**

**EXPOUND >**

* **Husbands / wives**
* **Parents / Children (example - job)**
* **Pastor / Sheep**

**BAD EXAMPLES >**

**Mother thought she was called to the mission field … 3 kids (EXPOUND)**

***Matthew 19:29 // NLT -- And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.***

**Well … God told me.**

**As soon as someone tells their GODLY leadership – “God told me” … there is NOTHING more your leadership can say. Because God told you.**

**Pastor Lynette Hagin cautions > if you tell everyone that “God told you” all the time, and ppl see you missing it, they’ll begin to question your ability to hear from God.**

**So … that begs the question – how can you tell if I’m missing it, or if someone in my spiritual care is / or has missed it?**

**Their decisions add SORROW in the final outcome.**

***PROVERBS 10:22 // KJV***

***"The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."***

**HOW MANY OF US WOULD SAY – I WANT TO BE ABLE TO HEAR FROM HEAVEN, BE LED OF HIM, BE IN THE VERY CENTER OF HIS PLAN FOR MY LIFE, IN THAT SEASON IN TIME? All of us!**

How You Can Be Led by the Spirit of God

Kenneth E. Hagin

NOTES: (Scripture / Story)

The Lamp of the Lord — God guides us through our spirit, not our physical senses or our mentality.

***Pv 20:27 NKJV, Romans 8:14, Romans 8:16***

 Man: An Eternal Spirit — There is a difference between our inward man and our outward man. The inward man is a spirit. God does something with the inward man, but not the outward man. We must do something with the outward man.

***Genesis 1:26,27 NKJV, PH 1:23-24, 2 Cor 4:16, 1 Pt 3:4, 2 Cor 5:17***

 Spirit-Conscious — The first step in being led by the Spirit of God is to become more aware of our own spirit.

***I Th 5:23***

 What Is the Difference Between Spirit and Soul? — The soul contacts the intellectual realm. The spirit contacts the spiritual realm.

***Hb 4:14, I Cor 14:14, John 7:37-39***

 The Saving of the Soul — saving the soul is a process. The spirit is reborn, but the soul must be renewed or restored with the Word of God.

***James 1:18-21, Rm 12:2, Psalm 23:3***

 Presenting the Body — The inward man must become the dominant one, if we are going to be led by His Spirit. We must place our body in submission to our spirit.

***Rm 12:1-2, I Cor 9:27***

**Number One: The Inward Witness** — This describes the primary way that God leads, the inward witness. It is not a physical feeling; it is either a velvety-like go ahead feeling in your spirit, or a check in your spirit that stops you. (Bro. Hagin would describe it like – washing your feet w/ your socks on – just doesn’t seem right). Sometimes it takes time to wait upon God before the inward witness becomes discernable enough to act on.

***Rm 8:16***

 Know-So Salvation — The first experience we have with the inward witness is that confident knowledge of being a child of God that comes with salvation.

***I John 5:10, I John 3:4***

 Fleeced! — Some warnings against the practice of putting out fleeces. Fleeces are an Old Covenant method of guidance used by spiritually dead people. We have a better guide — the living Spirit of God in direct communion with our spirit.

***Ezekial 36:26,27***

 Following the Witness —Get confirmation. Don’t be in a hurry. The leading will come in your spirit, which is the real you, so it will seem like it is “just you.” If your flesh fights it, it must be brought into submission to your spirit. Most of the time, God’s guidance is not spectacular... but it is always supernatural.

***Psalm 18:28***

**Number Two: The Inward Voice** — Jiminy Cricket – “let your conscience be your guide”. The conscience is the voice of our spirit. It is a still small voice that will speak to us if we are willing to listen to it.

***Romans 9:1***

 Effects of the Spirit’s Indwelling — For those who have been born again, the conscience is a safe guide.

***Acts 23:1, 2 Cor 5:17, John 3:16, Rm 6:23, I John 5:13***

 Two Experiences — There is a difference between being born of the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit. The new birth is a well of water that blesses you. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is rivers of water which flow out of you to bless others.

***John 3 NKJV, Acts 8:5, 12, 14-17, John 4:10-14, John 7:37-39***

 God Inside — The Holy Spirit dwells in your spirit. He communicates with you through your spirit.

***2 Cor 6:16, John 14:23, I Cor 3:16, 2 Cor 6:16***

 Depend on Your Spirit — Since the Holy Spirit is in your spirit, your spirit knows things that your head does not know.

***Mark 11:23-24, James 5:14-15***

 Tenderhearted — When you do wrong as a Christian, it is your own spirit, not the Holy Spirit that tells you. Your conscience, the voice of your spirit, must be kept tender or spiritual things will become indistinct.

***I John 3:20-2, John 14:16, I Tim 4:2***

 Feelings: The Voice of the Body — Our faith must be based on the Word of God, not on our feelings. Feelings can change with the circumstances, but the Word of God is always constant.

***John 16:13, John 14:26***

**Number Three: The Voice of the Holy Spirit** — When our spirit speaks to us, it is a still, small voice. When the Holy Spirit speaks, it is more authoritative. It may almost sound / seem audible, but it comes from within us.

***Acts 10:19***

 Judging by the Word — The Spirit of God and the Word of God always agree. This chapter offers some warnings about listening to voices. Some voices contradict the Bible directly, while others quote the Bible out of context. The Holy Spirit will communicate with our spirit on the inside of us and always in agreement with the whole redemptive message of the Bible.

***I TH 5:21, I Cor 14:10***

 My Spirit? The Flesh? or the Holy Spirit? — The question “Is it just me?’ misses an important distinction. If “me” refers to my inner man, my spirit which is born again, then it can be “just me” and still be valid guidance since my spirit is in communion with the Holy Spirit. It is when we allow the flesh to dominate us that we miss God.

***Pv 20:27, I John 3:9, 2 Pt 1:4***

 I Perceive — Many people believe that God causes or allows bad things to happen to us to teach us something. On the contrary, God warns us in our spirit about these things and if we learn to cooperate with Him, we can avoid many of the things that would harm us.

***Acts 27:9-10***

 Spectacular Guidance — Many people seek only spectacular guidance like visions or angels, and they miss much of God’s guidance, and can be easily led astray.

***Acts 26:19, Rm 8:14, Acts 10:9-11, Acts 10:19-20, Acts 11:2, Acts 11:11-12***

 The Spirit Bade Me Go — Some Scriptural examples of the Holy Spirit speaking.

***Acts 13:1-2***

 Guidance Through Prophecy — When guidance comes through a prophetic utterance, it must be judged by the Word of God and what we have in our own spirit.

***I Cor 14:1, I Cor 12:29, Acts 21:8-14, I Cor 14:29-30, I Cor 14:32***

 Guidance Through Visions — This chapter describes the three kinds of visions and gives Scriptural examples of each.

***Acts 10:1-3, Hb 13:2, Acts 9:8, Acts 10:9-11, Acts 8:26-29, Acts 9:10-12***

 Listen to Your Heart — Some examples of the mistakes that have been made when people chose to ignore the guidance of their spirit.

***Acts 27:9-10***

 How to Train the Human Spirit — Details on the four steps to training our spirit: Meditating the Word, practicing the Word, giving the Word first place, and instantly obeying the voice of our spirit.

***Pv 20:27, Joshua 1:8, James 1:22, Ph 4:6 – 8, Pv 4:20-22***

 Praying in the Spirit — Praying in tongues every day keeps our spirit in direct contact with the Spirit of God and is one of the greatest spiritual exercises there is.

***I Cor 14:14-15, I Cor 14:2***

**Let’s regroup and rehearse this > in our praying, HOW DO WE HEAR / HOW DO WE KNOW?**

• still / small voice

• inward witness

• confirmation

1. Visions – open eyed and with the eye of faith – yes, rarely
2. Audible voice – yes, but rarely
3. Angelic visitation – yes, but again rarely

Sky writing – He could, but He’s TOLD US how He would speak to us primarily, and so – if that’s so … then, we must attune our ears to HIS WAY of communicating His heart, good counsel, correction and direction to us!