

The Holy Spirit - VI

"Being Led by the Spirit"

I. BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT

- A. Can save a lot of pain, suffering, and heartaches.
 - 1. We don't have all the facts necessary.
 - 2. We don't know what the future holds.
 - 3. We don't know the full consequences of our decisions.
- B. Important decisions
 - 1. Major purchases.
 - 2. Marriage
 - 3. Career decisions; jobs
- C. Don't have to be spooky spiritual.
 - 1. Don't use as a cop-out ("I didn't feel led")
 - 2. Some things we don't have to pray about.

II. TO BE LED BY SPIRIT, MUST HEAR AND ACT ON WHAT WE HEARD

- A. Who has known the mind of the Spirit?
- B. We don't act on the will of God either because we don't know it, or know it and openingly rebel.
- C. If we be willing and obedient, we'll eat the good of the land.

III. GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS SPEAK OUT OF A BURNING BUSH

- A. Voice from heaven; send a telegram.]
- B. Blinding light (Saul's experience).
- C. Balaam's donkey; the rooster (Peter's denial).

IV. DON'T WAIT FOR GOD TO SPEAK OUT OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

- A. Experience the best teacher? Hopefully very effective, but not necessarily the best.
- B. Do we have to get desperate before God speaks or moves?
 - 1. Perhaps we have to get desperate before we trust God.
 - 2. May be sign of our stubbornness.
- C. God speaks to us out of circumstances because of His mercy.
 - 1. He doesn't say, "You hard head, I'll get your attention one way or another!"
 - 2. When we violate God's principles, we forfeit His covering or protection--we expose ourselves; make ourselves vulnerable to attacks of Satan.
 - a. How oft I would have gathered you...
 - b. I was there all the time, but you did not allow me to penetrate your spirit.

V. SOMETIMES GOD SPEAKS IN A STILL SMALL VOICE

VI. WHAT ABOUT FLEECES?

- A. A good way to get fleeced!

- B. God's design is to communicate with our spirit.
 - 1. This circumvents the mind. We don't reason out the will of God with our natural minds, yet God most often expects us to experience good judgment and common sense.
- C. Satan communicates through the flesh.
 - 1. Lust of the eye; lust of the flesh.
 - 2. What is enticing, appealing, looks good, feels good; don't consider the cost; live for today; don't worry about circumstances; Satan blinds the spirit.

VII. HOW TO BE LED BY THE SPIRIT

- A. Commit yourself to God.
 - 1. Dedicate yourself.
 - 2. Pray and ask God to lead you by His Spirit.
- B. Be sensitive to His voice.
 - 1. Learn His voice; become familiar with it.
 - 2. Wait before Him; Spend time with Him.
 - 3. My sheep know my voice.
- C. Don't predetermine what you want and try to force the will of God to fit it.
 - 1. Be sensitive to possible changes in thoughts, feelings, or directions.
 - 2. Examine your motives.
 - 3. Does this glorify God?
 - 4. Is it in agreement with His Word?
- D. Be careful about open doors.
 - 1. The first open door may not necessarily be God.
 - 2. Be aware of doors that could be enticing but not of God.
 - a. Don't be afraid to try the spirit--to see if it be God.
 - b. Don't be afraid to sleep on it (give it some time) unless you're faced with an emergency situation that demands immediate action--
don't move on an impulse.

VIII. THEY FOLLOWED THE LAMB WHEREVER HE LED

- A. We don't have our own agenda.
- B. It's not our will or our desire.
- C. Such great liberty, joy, and peace to submit to Him.
- D. Saul, it's hard for you to kick against the pricks! Why wrestle? Why resist?
- E. Lord, you know so much better! I trust you!