



## How to be led by God?

Every believer should have a desire to be led by the Lord. It is to our benefit if we let the Lord lead us. We will be victorious and will avoid many potential errors, traps, and mistakes many have made and fall into. I personally desire above all to be led by Him and I try to live my life trying reflecting that. God's ability to lead us is greater than our ability to follow Him the same way His grace is greater than our sin and His love greater than our failures. If we want to be led by Him, He will. If you want to hear God, you will, and you do. If you do not want to miss God, you won't. He will see to it that you do not. Relax! Rest! Chill! You are in good hands. He put those desires in your heart and He will meet them.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

- a) We weren't created to be self-dependent. We were created to be dependent upon God and to be led by Him. As we walk, we need to have the Lord as the one directing our steps. This same point is repeated in Proverbs 20:24 "Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?"

The Word details that the Lord wants to and wills to lead, guide and direct us.

- A. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
- B. Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.
- C. Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.
- D. Psalm 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.
- E. Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

- F. Isaiah 48:17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.
- G. Isaiah 49:10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.
- H. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
  - a) One crucial way we have not paid enough attention to when wanting to be led by the Lord is these passages of scripture. Notice it says ALL. God just needs our acknowledgment and He will lead us. This is very profound and should not be overlooked.
  - b) The Lord wants to be involved in our affairs to help us in making sound decisions. He wants to lead and direct us, but this happens best if we let Him. Just as we trust the GPS (Global Positioning System) to get us to our destination, we need to do the same with the Lord to know where we are headed tomorrow and get there safer.
  - c) Not acknowledging the Lord is not trusting in Him and leaning on our own understanding.
  - d) To the degree that we trust the Lord and acknowledge Him in all our ways will be a major factor to our success and being led by Him.

I will focus on three primary ways to help us discern the leading of the Lord. In my personal walk with God, I have been led by Him as I stepped out by faith. One of the hindrances for many being led by God is they want to exclude faith. God always leads us in the way of faith. If it does not take faith, it ain't God. God is a faith God, and He operates like that,

There will be no time in our walk with God we do not need to walk by faith. As long as we are walking. We are to walk by faith.

Those who are waiting for everything to line up perfectly before they ever step out will never follow God. They will be waiting for eternity.

### **The Lord leads us in two main ways:**

1. General way (Word).

Psalm 119:133 Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

- a) This passage teaches that God orders our steps in His Word. Many are looking to be ordered outside God's Word, but this is the way it all starts.
- b) This is one-way God leads me and directs me. I have a habit of going to the Word and getting a promise for everything that I'm believing God for. I stand on the Word. When I sense the leading of the Lord, I ask the Lord to give me a word from the Word.

Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

## 2. Specific way (Holy Spirit).

If we know and allow Him to lead us in the General way, we will be led in the specific way. Many of us crave being led in the specifics but have ignored the General way He leads us. The place to start is God's Word.

### **The "Two P"s**

We need to follow the "two P"s—passion and peace. Passion is the what and Peace is the when—the timing of the "what". If we follow these basics in our decisions, we will get better results in the leading of the Lord.

#### A. Peace

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." — Isaiah 55:11-12

This is one of the primary keys to being led by God in following His direction. Nothing should be worth taking our peace. We need our peace to function soberly and make sound judgment. Something that takes your peace away has to be put on the shelf, dropped or ignored. If peace is gone, it is time to back off.

Sometimes we take the uncomfortableness of the flesh to be the leading of the Lord. Sometimes we are being stretched and there tends to be a lack of "peace." On many occasions, it is the flesh that is screaming for not wanting to change or suffer any loss, not the leading of God.

- a) “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” —Colossians 3:15
  - i) The word “rule” here means “to act as an umpire” (Strong’s concordance). An umpire helps decide or determine the direction of a point. Whether the point is in bounds or outbounds, positive or negative, green light to a point or red light to a point.
  - ii) Peace is God’s umpire for making decisions and getting direction.
- b) God leads to us through the peace in our hearts.
- c) We need to consider all the options. Many wrong decisions have been made because not all the options were considered. Don't let fear rule out God's possibilities but use your imagination to explore what will happen with each choice.
- d) Where do you have the most peace? God will always lead you in the direction where you have the most peace. Follow the peace of God. Discern the greater peace as you consider the option the Lord would have you take. In your spirit, there will be total peace over the right choice, but we aren't always totally in the Spirit, and it is not unusual for some turmoil to exist.
- e) Peace is the timing of what God wants to do. Don’t violate the peace. Whereas passion is the “what.”
  - i) During a purchase of a car or house, loans, spouse you marry, etc. for every single decision you will make, God will be there speaking to you.

## B. Passion

In addition to peace, Isaiah 55:11-12 also speaks to passion, “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

— Isaiah 55:11-12

- a) I believe this verse brings out the two keys to how we are led: Joy and peace. Joy represents passion and desire.

- b) One of the other primary ways we are led by God is through our passion (joy and desire). What are you passionate about? What are you excited about?
- c) Remember to not make decisions only based on passion and leave peace behind. You need to remember to operate in the two “P’s”—passion and peace. Passion is the “what”. Peace is the timing of the “what”—it is the when.
- d) Most people have passion, but not peace. They tend to follow the passion, leaving peace behind, and hence miss the timing of God.

### **Time aspect in God leading us:**

#### A. Little by little

Exodus 23:29-30 <sup>29</sup>I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. <sup>30</sup>By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.

- a) God leads us little by little. He does things in our lives little by little. He was going to drive the inhabitants of the promised land little by little. Many would have wanted Him to do it outright, but God had His reasons not to do it that way. One reason was that the land would become desolate and the wild beasts would multiply against them. The other reason was that they were not increased enough to inherit all the land at once.

#### B. Precept upon precept; Line upon line

Isaiah 28:9 <sup>9</sup>Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. <sup>10</sup>For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: <sup>11</sup>For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

- a) When God is leading us into the counsel of His Word, it follows the same principle. It is precept upon precept, not the whole counsel all at once. He teaches a little here and a little there until we get into the full counsel of His Word. If you have not yet realized, a revelation from God's Word comes in progression. It doesn't come instantly.
- b) Many people think that when it comes to spiritual things, no time is involved. The verses above make it clear that the Word of God is revealed to us little by little or step

by step. We do not get greater revelation without the basic revelation. First is the basic, and then we build upon that.

- c) We need to see time as our friend, not an enemy. Waiting is not hard if we have something to do as we wait. Although most of us want things to happen today, we are much wiser tomorrow than today.

### C. The blade, ear, and full corn in the ear.

Mark 4:26-28 "And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."

- a) These verses are portraying how the Kingdom of God works.
- b) It is like a seed cast into the ground. This seed takes time to grow. It doesn't happen overnight.
- c) When this seed is cast into the ground, it's first the blade, then the ear, and finally the full corn in the ear.

This doesn't go from seed in the ground to full corn in the ear. There are steps and stages involved in the entire process.

Lead us out to bring us in

Deuteronomy 6:23 <sup>23</sup>And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers.

- a) When God is leading us, He is leading us out of one thing to bring us into another, not to drown us. We should therefore yield to his leading. He led the children of Israel out to bring them into the promised land.

Lead us not into temptation

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

- a) Reading this passage of scripture can come off as if it is God who leads us into temptation. That is not true, and this is not what this verse is saying. Jesus was speaking and teaching here, and He knew that Satan was the tempter. He had called

him the tempter earlier in Matthew 4:3. There is no way He would be saying that God leads us into temptation.

- b) You will not find other scriptures teaching that God leads us into temptation, but you will find many that teach that Satan is the tempter.
  - i) James 1:13; Matthew 4:3; and 1 Thessalonians 3:5 all reveal that Satan is the tempter and the source of temptation. It would be wrong for us to take this one verse and use it as a foundation to a doctrine that is not accurate.
- c) It would be against His will to lead us into temptation and then turn around and deliver us. Jesus was not speaking that He does two opposites here, hence the word, "but." Deliverance is God's will, but leading people into temptation is not.
- d) This is speaking about guidance to be delivered from evil and temptation.

#### Delight in His way

Psalm 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

- a) We will be led by the Lord to the degree we delight in Him. The Lord leads some people more than other. Those who call upon His help reap this benefit.
- b) This is true also of the Holy Spirit. He helps some people more than other people. He is called the helper. Those that call upon Him for help or depend on Him for help will experience that help to a greater magnitude than those who do not.