

In the Spirit

The Promise:

(Jn 14:16-26) ¹⁶“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰“At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” ²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 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.

Jn 15 - “abide in Me/abide in My love” 7 times

(Jn 15:26) ²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

(Jn 16:7) ⁷“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

(Jn 16:13-15) ¹³“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, 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. ¹⁴“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵“All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

We abide in Jesus, are one with the Father, through the indwelling Spirit

“Live in the Spirit, Walk in the Spirit, be Led by the Spirit” (40+)

little about how, as if it assumed knowledge/activity (just do it)

1. the Impetus seems to be on us - He is available as our Helper

2. it is a continual, moment by moment Choice

contrasted with the flesh (Rom 8:9, 13-14, Gal 3:3, 5:16)

a. we can be led by: Desires, Emotion, Reason, Experience, Understanding, Circumstances
these aren't necessarily bad/flesh - are Inferior to being Led by the Spirit

b. we can be led by Scripture - alone is Inferior to being Led by the Spirit

(2Pe 1:20-21) ²⁰knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

We are constrained by scripture because He who wrote it won't contradict Himself, but is a subset of being Led by the Spirit.

ex: revelation - “He will tell you things to come” Jn 14:13

scripture vs personal revelation (Agabus “by the Spirit” Acts 11:28)

gospel vs word of knowledge/wisdom

human nature: rules over relationship, steps over understanding (ex: teaching math)

understanding concepts = freedom to adapt

scriptures aren't rules but revelation of the knowledge of Jesus (Jn 5:39)

learn His ways (word) - Helps job description (the promise ~ 1 Cor 2:14)

ex: woman caught in adultery - real issue of holiness

c. being led by the Spirit is individual and nuanced (maybe why no “how”, OJT)

(Jn 3:8) ⁸“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

it is more like sailing than following instructions

must put up your sail, launch out into the deep

3. Starting Point is a Heart Attitude

“ears to hear” 8 times in gospels, at end of each of 7 letters in Revelation

desire to be led, obey, receive truth, attentiveness

(next week - things that keep us from having ears to hear)

(Jn 10:27) ²⁷“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

speaking to all, sheep listen/follow

(1Jn 4:6) ⁶We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

what we hear reveals what spirit we're open to

4. Practical Steps

a. individual vs corporate leading (Prov 11:14, 15:22, 24:6)

b. immediate vs testing over time

c. Pray in the Spirit (1 Cor 14:15, Eph 6:18, Jude 1:20) (more in 2 weeks)

d. Worship in the Spirit (Jn 4:23-24)

We must Develop a Personal Relationship with the Spirit