



THE 7 LEADINGS OF GOD Lesson 1 Introduction To The 7 Leadings Of God

In recent times, being led by the Holy Spirit has been a very needful and popular message among the Church in general and Pentecostals in particular. This message was needful in order to improve the Christian's accuracy in service to Christ and to help prolong their life. But, as with all doctrines and teachings, it has grown in desperate need of pruning. These lessons have been written with the intention of pruning, tweaking, and re-asserting how we as Christians are to be led by God—not just the Holy Spirit.

IN THE BEGINNING

It must be pointed out that not every Christian believes that God still speaks. Sadly, these Christians are ignorant and may render themselves of little benefit to the Kingdom. Beginning with the creation of Adam and Eve, God demonstrated His desire to fellowship, communicate, guide, command, and help mankind. The Lord walked and talked with Adam and Eve. God's fellowship with man included blessings, commands, assignments, and corrections.

- **And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over . . . every living thing that moveth upon the earth. **Genesis 1:28****

God's will could only be accomplished if He first revealed it to Adam and then gave him his assignment. God blessed them first, then He gave them five commands:

1. Be fruitful
2. Multiply
3. Replenish
4. Subdue
5. Have dominion

God set divine boundaries and parameters for man and then communicated them to him. God cannot righteously judge if He does not first communicate His expectations.

- **And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, . . . and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat (*food*) . . . ³⁰I have given every green herb for meat (*food*): and it was so . . . ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely. **Gen. 1:29, 30b; 2:16-17****



We clearly see that God’s will from the beginning was to fellowship with man and communicate with him. It is a blessing any time God speaks to man, but divine leadings and fellowship also involve commands, assignments, corrections, and help. Why would we expect the heart of God to be any different today? We all believe that we are to have a “relationship” with God and that we are to enjoy “fellowship” with the Lord, but neither of these exist without two-way communication.

THE 7 LEADINGS OF GOD

New Testament, born-again believers have been given more tools and abilities when it comes to being led by God. Our lives ought to be the most God-glorifying, Gospel-reflective, wisdom-defined, truth-lived, decision-accurate lives in the history of mankind. The remainder of these lessons will focus on the seven leadings of God. We will briefly introduce the seven leadings here:

1. The Holy Scriptures

The scriptures are the primary way God communicates to us today. New Testament believers have been afforded the written Word of God in a form not available to man for 4,600 years. Early New Testament believers only had the Old Testament. The New Testament was written over a period of about 60 years after the ascension of Christ. Consider what God says about His Word:

- His Word is forever settled under heaven (**Psalm 119:89**).
- His Word is magnified above His name (**Psalm 138:2**).
- His Word is more pure than silver tried seven times (**Psalm 12:6**).
- His Word is Truth (**John 17:17**).
- His Word (the scriptures) is God-breathed, and they are good for doctrine, reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (**2 Timothy 3:16**).
- His Word is the seed of our Salvation, it lives and abides forever, and it endures forever (**1 Peter 1:23-25**).
- Jesus is the Word made Flesh (**John 1:14**).

The Holy Scriptures are a source of leading that requires time, discipline, and mental comprehension.

2. The Wisdom Of God

Wisdom is the principal thing. God’s Word is the epitome of Wisdom. His Spirit is called the Spirit of Wisdom. Many times we don’t need to pray and fast as much as we need to ask, “What does wisdom say?” Or, “Is this a wise thing to do?” Studying and knowing the Bible will automatically grow wisdom in your life. Sometimes wisdom is crying out so loudly, prayer isn’t necessary at all. Wisdom is a source of leading based upon the scriptures, experience, and mental comprehension.

3. The Peace Of God

The peace of God as a source of leading is the first source of leadership that begins to leave man's mental realm. The peace of God is a peace that passes understanding. By definition, it will usually bypass our mental faculties and even defy them. **Isaiah 55:12** declares that we will be led forth with peace.

4. The Holy Spirit

As with many doctrines and teachings, the Church tends to generalize and lump subjects when the scriptures exhort us to **"rightly divide."** This is the same with the leadings of God. We tend to classify all divine "leadings" as "being led by the Holy Spirit." These lessons will help to rightly divide these seven leadings. Being led by the Holy Spirit is supernatural and divine. Jesus called the Holy Spirit a **"guide into all truth"** and a revealer of things to come (**John 16:13**). He receives of the Lord's and reveals it unto us. Being led by the Holy Spirit is the will of God for every Christian. **"As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14)."** This can often be thought of as the **"still small voice."**

5. Preachers—The Oracles Of God

I've placed preachers after the Holy Spirit for two reasons: 1) every believer has been given the Holy Spirit to be with us always. The preacher isn't with us always. He or she is only with us a few times a week at best. And 2) any good preacher or pastor wants the sheep to be more dependent upon the Spirit of God than him or herself. We want you to know your God better than you know us. As **1 John 2:27** says:

- **But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.**

Remember that faith comes by hearing the Word of God preached. But preached by whom? By God's preacher—His oracle (**1 Peter 4:11**).

6. The Word Of The Lord (Jesus)

The "Word of the Lord" is spoken of over 225 times in the Old Testament. It is usually in reference to the Lord (Jehovah) speaking to His servants the prophets. It is a much more authoritative word or leading than the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. Though the Holy Spirit does speak to us on behalf of the Lord Jesus (**John 16:13**), there are times when the Lord Jesus does things from His own authority such as Paul's encounter on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:3-6**), Ananias' vision concerning Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 9:10-17**), and Paul's commandment toward the married believers in **1 Corinthians 7:10**, to name a few.

7. The Supreme Voice Of God (The Father)

The scriptures reveal that the utterances and declarations of God the Father are different in nature and occurrence than the Lord's or the Holy Spirit's. Granted, they are the Trinity—one God, but three persons—but each member of the Trinity has a different role and



operation concerning mankind. Consider the Lord's baptism by John: God the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus the Son as God the Father spoke from Heaven. Also consider the Trinity's role in our self-intercession according to **Romans 8:26-27**: Jesus searches our hearts, directing the purpose of the Holy Spirit, as He (the Holy Spirit) intercedes for us according to the will of the Father. And finally:

- **God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds:
Hebrews 1:1-2**

Having a relationship with the Creator of all things means that you can expect to be led by Him. Be prepared for an improved life as a Christian as we study *The 7 Leadings of God!!*

THE 7 LEADINGS OF GOD Lesson 2 How To Be Led By The Scriptures

We have begun our study of *The 7 Leadings of God*. This lesson will cover the first leading on our list: being led by the scriptures. We have addressed the Church's focus on being led by the Holy Spirit while perhaps neglecting the other ways we can be led by God. We acknowledge that ultimately the Holy Spirit (who is the Spirit of God and therefore is God) is instrumental in each of our seven leadings, yet we must still distinguish their individual mechanics. We can see the Holy Spirit involved in each of the seven leadings as follows:

1. **Being Led by the Scriptures**—the Holy Spirit inspired the scriptures, yet Jesus is the Word (the scriptures) made flesh. He is the Spirit of Truth while God's Word is Truth.
2. **Being Led by Wisdom**—the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom.
3. **Being Led by Peace**—the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of peace producing the Fruit of the Spirit called peace (and Jesus is the Prince of Peace).
4. **Being Led by the Holy Spirit**—(which we will skip over for obvious reasons).
5. **Following the Leading of Preachers**—preachers are anointed by the Holy Spirit to oversee, guide, and give watch over our souls.
6. **Being Led by the Word of the Lord**—though this is Christ's authoritative leading, it is still manifested via the medium of the Holy Spirit.
7. **Being Led by the Voice of God Almighty**—alas, He is a Trinity, and His Spirit is the Spirit of God.

We can clearly see that the Holy Spirit is involved in each of these leadings, yet they all stand unique and divided. Though we could easily mix all of the above together, let us now begin to rightly divide and study the individual leadings of God, starting with the scriptures.

BEING LED BY THE SCRIPTURES

With over 31,000 verses, 613 Old Testament Commandments and 1,050 New Testament Commandments, if studied and embraced, the Bible will produce a very broad foundation for what to do in life. In fact, direction isn't required where the scriptures are clear. It may be that many Christians fail to be led by God because they have neglected to study their Bible.

- **The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple**
⁸**The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart:
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.**
⁹**The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever:
The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**
¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey and they honeycomb.**

11Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.
Psalm 19:7-11

Psalm 19 makes several declarations about God's Word: it converts, it imparts wisdom, it rejoices, it enlightens, it warns, and when kept, it rewards!

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

This famous verse contains a very simple truth: God's Word provides light for where we are going and what we are doing. Without that light, we walk in darkness and know not at what we stumble.

- **All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching (*doctrine*), for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**
2 Timothy 3:16-17 CSB

This passage reveals four abilities of God's Word (all scriptures). God's Word is profitable for:

1. **Teaching Sound Doctrine**—Doctrine is not just what we believe, it's what we live. We can change our entire life by studying the Bible and living (not just believing) sound Bible doctrine.
2. **Rebuking**—A good rebuke is hard to find, but if you're dangerously wrong, you can count on the Word of God rebuking you and correcting your life—just by reading it.
3. **Correcting**—Correction adjusts your path, direction, and trajectory. If you're off course, it gets you back on course.
4. **Training in Righteousness**—Training brings understanding, purpose, and direction. Studying the Scriptures will give us these three needful things: understanding, purpose, and direction. Instruction trains us and tells us what to do.

Allowing the Scriptures to produce these four works in our life will complete us and equip us for every good work. Christians who lack good works in their life reveal they aren't students or doers of the Word of God.

NO NEED TO PRAY

Prayer for God's direction is necessary only when His will is not known. God's will is revealed in the Bible. Studying the Bible can fill many gaps in our knowledge of His will. The scriptures help to build guides and parameters in our life. Once those parameters are established and sure, no prayer may ever need to be offered in those areas again. For example:

- **Abstain from all appearance of evil.**
1 Thessalonians 5:22

This verse creates a boundary prohibiting Christians from bars, liquor stores, dirty movies, dirty friendships, clubs, vulgarities, etc. No prayer would ever be needed for direction or permission from God to go anywhere near these places, for the scriptures have already given us direction.

- **Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Malachi 3:8**

No prayer should be necessary concerning whether or not to tithe and give offerings. The Bible has spoken very clearly.

- **Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. Luke 17:3**

No prayer is ever needed concerning forgiveness. If someone has sinned against you, you must forgive them; no ifs, ands, or buts. The only prayer that may be needed is the prayer for help, "Lord, I ask you to help me forgive my enemy. I want to obey you, but I need help."

The Bible addresses almost every situation we may ever encounter. If you need direction, begin with studying your Bible.

MY PERSONAL LEADINGS FROM THE WORD

The following are scriptures the Lord used to correct, redirect, realign, or adjust my life. These verses represent milestones in my personal walk with Jesus Christ.

1996

In 1996 I had a very deep chest cold that I could not shake, nor would the prayer of faith heal. The Lord spoke the following verses to me to teach me about walking in love with my roommate:

- **For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh to damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 1 Corinthians 11:29-30**

1998

In 1998 I had a dear friend betray me. The Lord taught me about forgiveness.

- **And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32**

2002

In 2002 God began to adjust my mouth habits and my knack for hyperbole and exaggeration using the following proverb:



- **Bread of deceit is sweet to man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.**
Proverbs 20:17

2005

In 2005 I returned to CCF (the church from where I had been gone six years) only to find it a den of carnal fellowship. The following verse screamed at me and confirmed that the whole of the church was headed in the wrong direction:

- **Neither should there be vulgar speech (*obscene stories*), foolish talk, or coarse jesting—all of which are out of character—but rather thanksgiving.**
Ephesians 5:4 NET

2008

In 2008, after about nine months of pastoring, I still refused to receive any kind of financial compensation. Pastor Jerry Klooster rebuked me with the following verse:

- **For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.**
2 Corinthians 12:13

2010

In 2010 God began to deal with me to have meetings at church, both departmental and leadership. I was leery of meetings like this, but the Lord dealt with me from the following verse:

- **Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.**
Proverbs 27:23

Meetings are one way to be diligent, look well, and to know the state of my flock.

FINAL THOUGHTS

God's Word is His will revealed. The better you know His Word, the better you will know His heart and understand His will. Reading the Bible is the quickest way to hear from God and the primary way God will lead us!!



THE 7 LEADINGS OF GOD Lesson 3 How To Be Led By Wisdom

We have previously covered that the primary way God leads us is through His Word—the Bible. The Bible is God speaking to us. But sometimes the Word is silent on our specific situation or problem. In this case we should look to the wisdom of God for leadership. Studying the Bible will grant you knowledge, but experience and the Spirit of God will grant you wisdom. Knowledge is a collection of facts. Wisdom knows what to do with those facts. Knowing God's Word is the primary way we are led by God, and wisdom is based on the Word. It is a natural extension of knowing of the Bible.

- **Get wisdom . . .** **Proverbs 4:5**

Why?

- **When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; ¹¹[it shall] preserve thee . . . keep thee . . . ¹²[and] deliver thee . . . ²⁰That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.**
Proverbs 2:10-12a, 20
- **The wisdom of the shrewd person is to discern his way . . .**
Proverbs 14:8a NET
- **. . . Wisdom is profitable to direct.** **Ecclesiastes 10:10b**

Wisdom helps you find the way of righteousness. It is one of the seven primary ways God leads us.

- **So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.**
Psalms 90:12

We only get so many years on planet Earth to accomplish something for God. Wisdom will improve your accuracy and efficacy for the Kingdom and for yourself. Let us seek after wisdom so that we may improve our decision-making and quality of life.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT WISDOM

The Bible has far more to say about wisdom than it does about being led by the Holy Spirit (though the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom). In order to magnify wisdom and build our faith for it, below is a list of verses describing the benefits and abilities of wisdom:

- The Lord gives wisdom (**Proverbs 2:6; Psalm 51:6**).

- Happy is the man that has wisdom (**Proverbs 3:13**).
- Wisdom is better than rubies (**Proverbs 8:11**).
- Wisdom builds things (**Proverbs 9:1, 24:3**).
- Fools die for lack of wisdom (**Proverbs 10:21**).
- A man is commended according to his level of wisdom (**Proverbs 12:8**).
- Wisdom is better than gold (**Proverbs 16:16**).
- Whoever gets wisdom loves their own soul (**Proverbs 19:8**).
- Wisdom will cost you something (**Proverbs 23:23**).
- Correction brings wisdom (**Proverbs 29:15**).
- Wisdom excels over folly (**Ecclesiastes 2:13**).
- Wisdom is necessary when you receive an inheritance (**Ecclesiastes 7:11**).
- Wisdom brings profit (**Ecclesiastes 7:11**).
- Wisdom is a defense (**Ecclesiastes 7:12**).
- Wisdom gives life to those that have it (**Ecclesiastes 7:12**).
- Wisdom strengthens the wise (**Ecclesiastes 7:19**).
- Wisdom makes your face to shine and brings boldness (**Ecclesiastes 8:1**).
- Wisdom is a delivering power (**Ecclesiastes 9:15**).
- Wisdom is better than strength (**Ecclesiastes 9:16**).
- Wisdom is better than the weapons of war (**Ecclesiastes 9:18**).
- Wisdom is profitable to direct (**Ecclesiastes 10:10**).
- Wisdom is shown to be right by the lives of those who follow it (**Luke 7:35 NLT**).

TWO TYPES OF WISDOM

The Bible speaks of two types of wisdom available to mankind: man's wisdom and the wisdom of God (natural vs. supernatural wisdom, or we might also say head wisdom vs. heart wisdom (**Proverbs 2:10**)). Obviously, God's wisdom is superior (**Proverbs 21:30, 23:4**), always surpassing man's wisdom, but this does not negate or diminish the usefulness and value of man's wisdom. Some have neglected natural wisdom in order to appear spiritually superior and in doing so have suffered loss and demotion.

JESUS INCREASED IN WISDOM

If Jesus could increase in wisdom, so can we.

- **And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit (*attitude, resolve*), filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. Luke 2:40**
- **And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature (*height and age*), and in favour with God and man. Luke 2:52**

There is no evidence Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit until His baptism in the River Jordan. What is very clear is that He continuously increased in wisdom. The wisdom of God and the Law of God were steering His life. Let us be like our Lord and increase in wisdom!

HOW TO GET WISDOM

We are not born wise, neither are we born-again wise. Wisdom must be sought out and obtained. The good news is that wisdom is not elusive. She cries out!

- **Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square. ²¹She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate: Proverbs 1:20-21 NLT**
- **Doth not wisdom cry out? and understanding put forth her voice? Proverbs 8:1**

Wisdom is not hard to find. Truthfully, wisdom is easier to hear than the voice of the Holy Ghost. Wisdom cries out. The voice of the Holy Spirit is often a still, small voice.

- **Wisdom is the principal (*wisdom is supreme*) thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Proverbs 4:7**
- **The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7 NIV**

The beginning of wisdom is simple—just get some! Knowledge abounds today, but wisdom is rare. Modern man has the world's database of knowledge available in the palm of their hand, yet they continue to make foolish and harmful decisions. Every Christian must continuously grow in wisdom. The quickest way to get wisdom is to ask:

- **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of the God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth (*rebuke*) not; and it shall be given him. James 1:5**

To obtain wisdom for any situation is to slow down and ask for it. Wisdom should be something sought for every day. Here are other biblical ways to obtain this tremendous source of direction:

- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: **Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10, 15:33**
- Wisdom can be taught: **Job 32:7, 33:33; Psalm 105:22; Proverbs 4:11, 30:3**
- Get wise counsel and advice:
 - **A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels (Proverbs 1:5).**
 - **Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Proverbs 11:14).**
 - **The way of the fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise (Proverbs 12:15).**



- **Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom (Proverbs 13:10).**
- **Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established (Proverbs 15:22).**
- **Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end (Proverbs 19:20).**
- **Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war (Proverbs 20:18).**
- **For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counselors there is safety (Proverbs 24:6).**
 - **DON'T FULFILL PROVERBS 18:1:**
 - **“He who separates himself seeks his own desire, He quarrels against all sound wisdom.”**
 - **DON'T FULFILL PROVERBS 26:16:**
 - **“The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.”**
 - **DON'T FULFILL PROVERBS 14:12 or 16:25:**
 - **There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**
- Correction imparts wisdom: **Proverbs 29:15**
- Study the Bible, especially Proverbs (which mentions wisdom 53 times) and Ecclesiastes (which mentions wisdom 25 times): **Proverbs 1:1-4**

May we all be wise as serpents, yet gentle as doves!!!



THE 7 LEADINGS OF GOD Lesson 4 How To Be Led By Peace

We are continuing our study on *The 7 Leadings of God*, which we shall organize by frequency of occurrence. A little analogy may be helpful to understand our teachings thus far. In geology and soils engineering, earth materials can be classified according to their sizes ranging from boulders down to clay-sized particles. If we were to take a large volumetric structure, such as a warehouse, and fill it full of boulders first, there would still be plenty of room for material of the next smallest size: cobbles. Once filled with cobbles, there would still be plenty of void space to allow for gravels, then pebbles, then sand, then silt, and finally clay. Boulders would fill the largest volume; the smallest volume would be filled by clay. This example should help us to understand the major leadings of God and the frequency of their activity in a normal Christian life.

THE LEADINGS OF GOD AS RELATED TO GRAIN SIZE

Boulders	The Word Of God
Cobbles	Wisdom
Gravels	Peace
Pebbles	The Holy Spirit
Sand	Anointed Leadership
Silt	The Word Of The Lord
Clay	The Supreme Voice Of The Father

We previously covered the first two ways God will lead us: by His Word and through wisdom. This brings us to number three on the list: peace. Just as we saw that wisdom is rooted in the Word of God and is a natural extension of the Bible, peace is then rooted in wisdom and becomes a natural extension of the spirit of wisdom:

- **But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.**
James 3:17

Also concerning wisdom:

- **Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.**
Proverbs 3:17

The Word begets wisdom. Wisdom begets peace. God has called us unto peace (**1 Corinthians 7:15**), so finding and maintaining personal peace should not be very difficult to do. Furthermore, peace is the third fruit of the Spirit, so having it is essential to mature Christianity.

Peace is the first of out seven leadings that begins to leave the concreteness of the written Word and the stability of common sense and sound counsel. By definition, supernatural peace is often peace that “**passes all understanding**” (**Philippians 4:7**). For this reason, we must have a thorough understanding of it.

LED BY PEACE

There will always come a time when direction in life is needed and both the Bible and sound wisdom are either mute or neutral on the subject. These scenarios can include where to go to college, which major to choose, which job offer to accept, travel plans, missionary trips, business dealings, etc. In these types of situations, we can look to the peace of God to lead us.

- **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 55:12****

As we saw with wisdom in the last lesson, peace is tied to both the Word of God and the Spirit of God. Yet, as we rightly divide the Word, we must classify it as its own separate leading. When peace is leading you, others will bear witness with joy and approval. Apparently even the trees and mountains will be in agreement.

- **Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. **Psalm 119:165****

The primary key to being led by peace is to know its presence in your life. The first way to develop God’s peace in your life is to love His Word. Loving God’s law will build such a foundation and atmosphere of peace in our lives; we would easily detect its absence if we were ever to make a decision which forfeited that peace. When you habitually abide in peace, you’ll know the instant it leaves you.

- **Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed (*established*) on thee, because he trusteth in thee. **Isaiah 26:3 (cf. Rom. 8:6)****

The second way to build an atmosphere and lifestyle of habitual peace in your life is to keep your mind stayed on Him. This requires a disciplined mind (see **Philippians 4:8**).

- **Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. **Philippians 4:9****

The third way to establish the peace of God in your life is to obey the spiritual leaders God has placed in your life by following their example. We are not responsible to follow every preacher or teacher—just the one God has assigned us to. This will help stabilize your life and create a lifestyle of divine peace. Now should that peace ever leave you, you must go back after it:

- **Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.**

Psa. 34:14 (cf. 1 Pet. 3:11)

Should you ever find yourself at a place where your life totally lacks peace, you must go back to that last place where you had it. You must seek that peace and pursue it, paying whatever price necessary.

- **There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest (peace) in my bones because of my sin.**

Psalm 38:3

Personal sin makes it very difficult to be led by the peace of God. Sin is like static to a radio signal. Clear up the sin, and your sensitivity to the peace of God will clear up as well.

WHY BEING LED BY PEACE WORKS

It may help to understand why being led by the peace of God is trustworthy, especially when the Bible is perhaps silent, or wisdom is muted in our decision making.

- **I will hear what God the LORD will speak; for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.**

Psalm 85:8

The communications of God to His people and to His saints will always bring peace. Even if it's a rebuke, the end result is the peaceable fruit of righteousness. If God is truly leading you, peace will be evident and present.

- **And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance (confidence) for ever.**

Isaiah 32:17

Accomplishing the will of God is the work of righteousness. Accomplishing any work of righteousness will automatically create or produce peace, quietness, and confidence. Rebellion and disobedience have the exact opposite effect in the spirit realm, producing tumult, tension, frustration, and confusion. This is why the presence of peace is always a good indicator that God's will is being accomplished.

- **For I know what I have planned for you,' says the LORD. 'I have plans to prosper (give peace to) you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope.**

Jeremiah 29:11 NET

Peace will always be found in the plan of God for your life because that's exactly what God called it: "plans of peace." Many foolishly choose to override peace in exchange for pleasure, notoriety, wealth, or convenience. Always side with peace.



- **I am the LORD, I have no peer, there is no God but me. I arm you for battle, even though you do not recognize me. ⁶I do this so people will recognize from east to west that there is no God but me; I am the LORD, I have no peer. ⁷I am the one who forms light and creates darkness; the one who brings about peace and creates calamity. I am the LORD, who accomplishes all these things.**

Isaiah 45:5-7 NET

This profound passage reveals to us how God views light and peace, darkness and calamity. It helps us understand why we must always seek peace and pursue it. God said He forms light, and what's created in its presence is darkness. Likewise, when He creates peace, everything else is left calamitous. Any decision made without peace will bring about calamity. And any life that refuses to repent and enter back into that realm of peace will only continue into greater calamity and chaos.

HOW TO BE LED BY PEACE

Philippians 4:6-7 shows us a very easy formula for being led by the peace of God:

- **Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

This really is a simple function. Pray and then wait for peace. No peace? Don't proceed. Peace? Proceed. If you don't lack peace, proceed with caution, committing in your heart you'll walk away if a lack of peace ever arises. Never, under any circumstance, push through a lack of peace.

There are so many scriptures concerning peace. Our lives should be consumed of it, and we should be sensitive to even the slightest glitch in its presence. May we all endeavor to be led by this magnificent peace that only the Prince of Peace can give us. Amen!

THE 7 LEADINGS OF GOD

Lesson 5

How To Be Led By The Holy Spirit

We have arrived at number four on our list of *The 7 Leadings of God*. This one is the most famous of all (especially to the Pentecostal)—the leading of the Holy Spirit. In order to demonstrate the importance and frequency of divine leadings, it may help to view them as a pyramid with seven levels. The foundation is the Bible—the Word of God. The next level, smaller in size but higher up, is wisdom, followed next by peace, an even smaller but higher level.

The fourth leading relates to the Holy Spirit Himself. It is perhaps only fitting that He is the middle of our pyramid analogy. The smaller size represents a leading less frequent than the leadings we previously covered, which were peace, wisdom, and Scripture. Realistically, the typical, well-fed Christian will hear from their pastor more frequently than they will hear from the Holy Spirit. Still, I place the Holy Spirit at a higher frequency ranking because the minister is not always available, while the Holy Spirit is. And though not every Christian actually has a pastor, every genuinely born-again believer does have the Holy Spirit and is therefore subject to His leadings.



The pyramid is completed with the last three layers: the leading of the ministers, the leading of the Word of the Lord, and the leading of the Supreme Voice of the Father.

THE STILL SMALL VOICE

- **And he [the Lord, by the Word of the Lord] said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and**

strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: ¹²And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. ¹³And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? 1 Kings 19:11-13

The voice of the Holy Spirit will more often be a “**still small voice**.” Discouraged and afraid, Elijah had returned to Mt. Sinai in hopes of having a spectacular encounter with God like Moses did before him. Alas, it did not go as planned. The Lord passed by Elijah on the mountain and the following preceded Him:

- First there was a great and strong wind. But God was not in the wind, though God’s presence had produced a wind in the days of Moses on the mountain (**Hebrews 12:18**).
- Secondly, there was an earthquake. But God was not in the earthquake, though the presence of God produced an earthquake in the days of Moses on the mountain (**Exodus 19:18**).
- Thirdly, there was a fire. But God was not in the fire, though the presence of God produced a fire like a furnace in the days of Moses on the mountain (**Exodus 19:18; Hebrews 12:18**).
- Finally, there came a still small voice that asked Elijah a question, the same question the more powerful “Word of the Lord” had asked him four verses prior: What are you doing here? God was not in the loud and spectacularly supernatural events. On this day, He was the still small voice.

These three supernatural events on Mt. Sinai were clearly not God, but they did manifest after He passed by. I call them the ghosts of revivals past. I believe these three events (wind, earthquake, and fire) were the work of familiar spirits. The move of God was no longer at that mountain because God had moved His people into their promised land—Israel. Elijah was chasing an old move of God and ended up encountering supernatural lying signs and wonders. This is why we don’t live for the spectacular, and we must be careful chasing the supernatural. God led Elijah by his still small voice asking, “Why are you here?” and commanding him to return to Israel and finish his work.

The leading of the Holy Spirit is a smaller, quieter, less spectacular event than it has perhaps been made out to be in years past. But what does that look like?

A PROMISE FOR MORE TRUTH

Jesus indicated to His disciples that He had much more to say to them (and to us), but they were not mature enough in that season to receive it. This meant that in the Lord’s absence, someone else would have to continue to reveal, share, and guide them as they grew and matured individually. The Holy Spirit *is* that someone.

- **I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.**
¹³Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, . . . John 16:12-13a

Jesus promised to continue to be with His disciples through “**another Comforter**” (**John 14:16**). We must understand how the Lord Jesus continues His earthly ministry toward us through the Holy Spirit. This is why every born-again believer can expect to hear from the Holy Spirit. Jesus still has more He wants to say to us. The Gospel of John records what are classically called *The Five Paracletical Teachings of Christ*. These are the five things Jesus Christ taught about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Our lesson will borrow from those five teachings of Christ. (From these five teachings, we will extract six truths.)

1. The Divine Helper—aka Comforter (*paraklete*)

First and foremost, Jesus called the Holy Spirit our helper. He (the Holy Spirit) can be expected to do the job Jesus was doing while He (Jesus) was still in the earth. Jesus could only be in one place at one time. The Holy Spirit can be with all believers at once.

- **I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.**
John 14:16-17 NASB

According to the Greek a *paraklete* is a helper, an aid, an intercessor, a succorer. By implication, this also means we can expect the Holy Spirit to encourage, console, strengthen, exhort, and instruct us. These are all valuable leadings.

2. A Divine Remembrancer

One of the ways the Holy Spirit leads us is by reminding us of everything Jesus has ever spoken to us. This reiterates the fact that the “leadings of God” are rooted in the Word of God.

- **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**
John 14:26

The Holy Spirit reminds us of what the Bible says. That means that this leading of God might often be dismissed as a “mere convenient memory.” Don’t diminish such a leading. It may not be as spectacular as a vision or divine appearance but remembering the exact scripture the Lord wants you to know at the right moment is just as divine as operating in the Gifts of the Spirit. However, it must be pointed out that this leading is dependent on you actually knowing the Scriptures. What happens if you don’t know the Bible or have never studied it? What will the Holy Spirit be able to bring to your remembrance?

3. A Guide Into All Truth

Before the Holy Spirit was ever poured out at Pentecost, Jesus prophesied that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth.

- **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide (*one who knows the way; authorized to lead*) you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself . . .**
John 16:13a

Jesus said, “**Thy word is truth,**” so part of the Holy Spirit’s leadings is through our own personal Bible study. This portion of the Holy Spirit’s leadings, once again, deals with the Bible. However, there will also be times when the forces of deception seek to mislead us. As the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit will alert or warn us when someone or something is trying to deceive us, and He will steer us away from deception.

4. A Foreteller

Here, this divine leading leaves the Word of God and operates in the realm of prophecy and the Word of Wisdom.

- **. . . but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**
John 16:13b

“**Things to come**” does not refer to Bible study or doctrine. It is understood that these kinds of leadings/revelations/warnings are individualistic and only come as He wills. I would classify this supernatural foresight as a Gift of the Spirit, specifically the Word of Wisdom. It might include warnings, like: “*Don’t get on that plane,*” “*Resign in September and it will begin in Africa,*” “*Pray for them or she’ll end up pregnant,*” or “*The Scudders will move to Uganda and serve the Catinellas.*” Notice that these personal examples would not be found in the Bible, but they still reveal the will of God.

5. Prosecutor/Convictor

- **And He [the Holy Spirit] when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;**
John 16:7 NASB

“**Convict**” comes from the Greek *elegcho*, meaning *to convict, refute, to expose, with the implication of shame, to correct, to call to account, to severely chide*. “**The world**” in this passage comes from *kosmos*, meaning *the entire human family*. This would include you and me. We are part of the human family. Furthermore, Jesus upbraided and rebuked His disciples when He was with them. Part of the Holy Spirit’s leadership in our lives involves the conviction of sin. He lets us know when we are guilty. This can happen through prayer, while we are hearing the gospel preached, or through the reading of the Bible.

6. A Proclaimer/Revealer

It may be foreign for us to consider a proclamation to be a “leading of the Holy Spirit,” but

in keeping with the vein and context of John 16, this is exactly the case.

- **He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew (*proclaim, declare, report, announce*) it unto you. **John 16:14****

This leading may more accurately be classified as a revelation. If Jesus gave it to the Holy Spirit to give to us, we neither had nor knew it before it was given; it was hidden from us. The proclamation or announcement of this truth from Jesus would be classified as a “revelation.” It glorifies Jesus when we receive what He has for us from the Holy Spirit. As you’re led in and through the Word, you can always expect the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to you from those scriptures. These revelations from the Holy Spirit would include anything that belongs to Jesus, such as understanding, knowledge, plans, purposes, anointings, doctrines, psalms, hymns, promotions, etc.

THE INWARD WITNESS

What’s the heart behind all of this? Why does God want to lead us by His Holy Spirit?

- **For as many as are led (*to lead by accompanying*) by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness (*testifies*) with our spirit, that we are the children of God. ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. **Romans 8:14-17****

All the language in this passage points to our Father/child relationship with God (e.g., sons, adoption, Abba Father, children, heirs, etc.). If we have been truly born-again, then we are born-again of the Spirit of God, which is also called the Spirit of Adoption. The reason we can expect God to lead us is because we are His precious children—children He so greatly desired that He was willing to purchase us by the blood of Jesus. As His own children, He will do His part to lead, guide, reveal, and foretell so that we are properly cared for.

OTHER LEADINGS

Having just covered the primary ways the Holy Spirit will lead us, we must understand there are other more spectacular but rare ways we might encounter a few times in our lifetime. These include:

1. **Trances/Visions (Acts 10:9-34)**: Peter’s trance while in Joppa is also called a vision (“**in a trance I saw a vision**”). In this vision the Lord *revealed* to Peter that the salvation of God was available to the Gentiles. Apparently, Peter had been struggling with this truth due to his own prejudices. This vision was a spectacular version of the Holy Spirit’s ministry of proclaiming and revealing.
2. **Dreams/Night Visions (Acts 16:9)**: Paul’s Macedonian night vision (aka dream) was the Lord directing Paul and his company into Macedonia. The Holy Spirit had forbidden Paul from going into Asia and Bithynia, and divine direction finally came



via the Macedonian vision. This is another example of the Holy Spirit proclaiming or revealing the will of Jesus. For more on dreams see **Job 33:14-18**.

As a testimony to their rarity, only two visions (**Acts 10:19, 18:9**), one trance (**Acts 22:17**), and one dream (**Acts 16:9**) are recorded in the entire book of Acts. Each of these was critical to helping the Apostles advance the Gospel.

THE 7 LEADINGS OF GOD

Lesson 6

How To Be Led by Ministers

As we have previously stated, most submitted, church-attending Christians will hear more from their pastor than they will ever hear directly from the Holy Spirit. This is because most pastors preach two to four times a week, amounting to several hours of Bible-based exhortation, teaching, correction, and preaching. But because a minister is a finite person, incapable of “**being with you always**,” our list exalts the leadings of the Holy Spirit above the leadership of a fivefold minister. However, God *has* set “leaders” over the Body of Christ for a reason—to LEAD! Leaders lead, and by definition everyone else “follows.” Therefore, one of the ways God leads us is by His appointed leaders.

THE FEAR OF *FOLLOW-SHIP*

This topic becomes touchy because of a common paranoia and fear of cult-leaders and controlling personalities. These fears can easily be assuaged by, of all things, obeying the Bible. Paul said, “**Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ**” (1 Corinthians 11:1). Following ungodly leadership is easy to avoid. If they aren’t Christ-like or God-honoring, you probably shouldn’t follow their lead. Also, don’t forget many Christians have no problem blindly following their boss’s lead (probably because they know it has the promise of a paycheck).

GOD’S LEADERS

God has chosen to lead His people through men and women whom He equips through His anointing and wisdom.

- **Therefore, now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee . . .** Exodus 32:34a

God’s leaders know where God wants His sheep. The sheep must trust their shepherd and follow him into the plan of God for the flock.

- **And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, ¹⁶Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, ¹⁷Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.** Numbers 27:15-17

God’s leaders are set over the congregation to lead them. This means going out before them (and the congregation follows) and coming in before them (and the congregation follows). Without the leader leading, the congregation would be sheep without a shepherd, scattered and vulnerable.

- ... Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; **believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.** 2 Chronicles 20:20b

It's not enough to believe God; we must also believe His leaders. Believing God establishes us, but believing His leaders prospers us. It is clear from the total message of the Bible that God expects His people to obey and listen to His messengers when they speak for Him—especially when they are speaking from the Bible. God advances His people through God-ordained leadership.

- He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; ⁷¹from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. ⁷²And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; **with skillful hands he led them.** Psalm 78:70-72 NIV

David learned how to lead God's people by first caring for his father's sheep. The Bible describes David as Israel's shepherd and skillful leader, and Israel was blessed under David's leadership.

MINISTERS AS A LEADING EXAMPLE

Leaders also lead by example. Their lifestyle becomes an epistle that is visually read and imitated. Several verses speak to this spiritual principle, each using the Greek word ***typos***:

- *A figure formed by a blow or impression (hence typewriter)*
- *In the technical sense, the pattern of conformity to which a thing must be made (a blueprint)*
- *An example to be imitated*
- Brethren, be **followers** together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an **ensample**. Philippians 3:17
- Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an **ensample** unto you to **follow** us. 2 Thessalonians 3:9
- Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an **example** of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12
- Shepherding God's flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you; not out of greed for money but eagerly; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being **examples** to the flock. 1 Peter 5:2-3 CSB

THE COMMAND TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE

There will always be Christians who scoff at the notion of following, trusting, or even obeying a godly leader. The Bible is clear: we don't follow wicked leadership, nor are we to follow after even carnal leadership. We follow God's leaders as they follow the Lord.

- **Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. 1 Corinthians 4:16**
- **Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1**

Please remember you are always following someone or something. No one is entirely independent of influence or leadership.

MINISTERS AS A SOURCE OF CORRECTION AND DOCTRINE

If you recall, the primary way we are to be led by God is through the truths of His Word. What is the No. 1 thing ministers do? They minister the Word of God. Ministers are anointed to teach and preach the Bible. That is their greatest gifting! You must sit at their feet and hear their sermons in order to receive the needed direction. The fivefold ministers equip saints with the Word of God so that they may be established and matured.

- **Be henceforth nor more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Ephesians 4:14**
- **I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ²Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 2 Timothy 4:1-2**

MINISTERS AS A SOURCE OF WISDOM AND COUNSEL

Because of the office, gifting, and life experience of God-ordained ministers, they are a superior source of wisdom and counsel. The bigger your decision, the more input you would require. A minister's wisdom can see through our haze, smoke, fire, and forest. They can see what we can't because their emotions are not entangled in our decision-making.

- **Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety. Proverbs 11:14**
- **The way of the fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. Proverbs 12:15**
- **Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established. Proverbs 15:22**



- **Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.**
Proverbs 20:18
- **For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counselors there is safety.**
Proverbs 24:6

Scriptures: **Proverbs 1:5, 13:10, 19:20**

MINISTERS AS A SOURCE OF PEACE

Following the example of the ordained leader in your life contains a promise of peace. We can't expect our lives to go well if we purposely rebel against their godly standard.

- **Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.** **Philippians 4:9**

MINISTERS AS AN AVENUE OF THE SPIRIT

Most fivefold ministers actively flow and operate in the Gifts of the Spirit and preach under divine inspiration. Therefore, being around them gives God ample opportunities to speak to you either through the Gifts or the preaching.

- **He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.**
Acts 14:9-10 NIV

Thank God the lame man at Lystra was in that meeting with Paul and listened to the sermon and the command to be healed.

- **After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"**
Acts 21:10-11 NIV

Even Paul was subject to a fellow preacher ministering a warning to him by the Spirit of God. Praise God for the leading of the fivefold minister!!

THE 7 LEADINGS OF GOD
Lesson 7
The Word Of The Lord
And
The Supreme Voice Of The Father

We have come to the final two leadings of God Almighty. These complete our pyramid diagram. Remember, according to the diagram, the higher we go up the pyramid, the less frequent the leading will be. Accordingly, the most common leading God has given us is His Word, the Bible, and the least common is what we are calling *The Supreme Voice of the Father* (speaking from heaven).



Ultimately, these are all the work of the same God, whether it be:

- **His Word**—which is the Son of God, but God-breathed;
- **Wisdom**—as revealed by the Spirit of wisdom;
- **Peace**—as given by the Prince of Peace, yet the third fruit of the Spirit;
- **The Holy Spirit**—the third person Himself;
- **Ministers**—given by Jesus but anointed by the Holy Spirit;
- **The Word of the Lord** or,
- **The Supreme Voice of the Father.**

These are seven distinct ways in which God has chosen to lead us because He loves us and desires to see us live victorious and finish our race.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The “**Word of the Lord**” is spoken of over 225 times in the Old Testament. It is usually in reference to the Lord (Jehovah) speaking to His servants the prophets. It is a much more authoritative word or leading than the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. It should also be noted that the Word of the Lord would often be prominent in the ministry of God’s leaders in order to help the flock of God.

- The Word of the Lord can come in a vision:
 - **Genesis 15:1**—The Word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision.
 - **1 Samuel 3:1**—The Word of the Lord is associated with visions.
 - **2 Samuel 7:17**—Nathan’s word about the Temple was given in a vision.
 - **1 Kings 22:19**—Micaiah calls his vision of heaven and a lying spirit “the Word of the Lord.”
- The Word of the Lord must be learned/revealed:
 - **1 Samuel 3:7**—Samuel had to learn to recognize who was speaking to him.
- The Word of the Lord is a way by which the Lord reveals Himself:
 - **1 Samuel 3:21**—The Lord revealed Himself unto Samuel in this manner.
- The Word of the Lord is often involved in judgment:
 - **2 Samuel 24:11-13**—David was judged by Gad for numbering the people.
 - **1 Kings 16:7**—Jehu prophesied against Baasha by the Word of the Lord.
 - **2 Kings 9:36**—Elisha’s judgment against Ahab and Jezebel was by the Word of the Lord.
 - **2 Kings 20:1-10**—Isaiah’s judgment, restoration, and healing of King Hezekiah was via the Word of the Lord.
 - **Jeremiah**—The book of Jeremiah is a collection of judgments delivered against Israel through the Word of the Lord.
 - **Ezekiel**—The book of Ezekiel is a collection of judgments delivered against Israel through the Word of the Lord.
- The Word of the Lord is a way in which the Lord gives very accurate directions:
 - **2 Samuel 7:4-16**—Nathan gave very detailed direction to David about not building the Temple and about a son that would be born and complete that task.
 - **1 Kings 13:1-17**—Many detailed directions were given to an unnamed man of God in order to move against wicked King Jeroboam.
 - **1 Kings 17:2-4**—Elijah was directed to go and hide by the brook Cherinth.
 - **2 Chronicles 11:2-4**—The Word of the Lord through Shemaiah to Rehoboam prevented an unnecessary civil war.
- The Word of the Lord is used to work miracles:
 - **1 Kings 17:8-24**—The widow’s miracle of debt relief via an endless cruse of oil was because Elijah spoke the Word of the Lord.
 - **2 Kings 20:1-10**—Hezekiah’s healing and the sun going backwards 10 degrees was according to the Word of the Lord.

Generally speaking, the Word of the Lord:

- Made the heavens (**Psalm 33:6**)
- Tries mankind (**Psalm 105:19**)
- Requires actions—do this, do that, precepts, and rules (**Isaiah 28:13 NIV**)
- Often asks questions (**Jeremiah 1:11, 13; Acts 9**)
- Cannot be controlled (**Jeremiah 17:15**)
- Can produce a burden for the bearer (**Malachi 1:1**)

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Though the Holy Spirit does speak to us on behalf of the Lord Jesus (**John 16:13**), there are times when He does things from His own authority:

- Paul’s encounter on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:3-6**) is a theophany (a divine appearance that, interestingly enough, left Paul blind). This Word of the Lord asked Paul a question: “Why are you persecuting me?” and it also gave Paul very specific instructions as to what must be done next.
- Ananias’ vision concerning Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 9:10-17**) is a Word of the Lord in the form of a vision providing both direction and very accurate instruction.
- In Scripture, Paul’s commandment toward the married believers in **1 Corinthians 7:10** and the revelation of the Resurrection of the Dead as in **1 Thessalonians 4:15** are both self-described as “the Word of the Lord.”

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

As a Christian and a minister, I have had numerous experiences with the Word of the Lord.

- Six months into pastoring, I had a burden one evening to pray. My wife and I left our living room and went to a bedroom to pray. After about 10 minutes of praying in tongues, the Word of the Lord came very clearly to me saying, “Resign (the zinc mine) in September and go to Africa.”
- When our church passed through divine judgment in 2010, I heard the Word of the Lord clearly say, “I am done with this church for the abundance of sin and perversion.” I cried out to God for mercy. He gave us a one-month extension. After a month of judgment and severe repentance, the Word of the Lord came unto me again saying, “The church shall stand, for these people were kept back from coming to me.”
- The night we ordained the Scudder family for missionary work in Africa, I unexpectedly but clearly heard the Word of the Lord say, “Separate unto Me (Jesus Christ) Brett and Bobbie for the work I have called them to.” We laid hands on them that night though they did not move to Africa for another year.

THE SUPREME VOICE OF GOD (THE FATHER)

The scriptures reveal that the utterances and declarations of God the Father are different in nature and occurrence than the Lord’s or the Holy Spirit’s. Granted, they are the Trinity—

one God, but three persons—but each member of the Trinity has a different role and operation concerning mankind. God the Father has always been speaking through His persons and by His human servants. While on the earth, Jesus spoke the words He heard His Father speak (**John 12:50**).

- **God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds:
Hebrews 1:1-2**

There are not many examples of the Supreme Voice of the Father in Scripture. Most of the divine voices recorded in the Bible are that of the Lord Jesus (even in the Old Testament). The most prominent example of the Supreme Voice of the Father is at the Lord's baptism.

- **And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**
Matthew 3:17

The Father also spoke to Jesus from heaven on occasion during His earthly ministry.

- **Father, glorify thy name, Then came there a voice, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.**
John 12:28

Peter, James, and John heard the Supreme Voice of the Father while on the Mount of Transfiguration.

- **While he [Peter] yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. ⁶And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. ⁷And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.**
Matthew 17:5-7

The Supreme Voice of the Father is extremely rare. It would be possible to live a dozen lifetimes and never hear it. The Father speaks from heaven as He sees fit. Furthermore, even though Peter heard the Supreme Voice of the Father, saw Christ transfigured, and the spirits of Moses and Elijah, he still said, "**We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts**" (2 Peter 1:19).

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

I am, perhaps, unusual in that I have heard the Supreme Voice of the Father twice in my life. Both instances occurred while I was in college. The first was while I was backslidden; the other was after I had rededicated my life back to Christ. It wasn't until years later that I realized the nature or uniqueness of these leadings.



- In February 1995, after a judo/ju-jitsu lesson, I was returning to my dorm room daydreaming about exacting vengeance upon the church deacon who had molested me when I was 14. I heard a voice from heaven say very authoritatively, "If it had not been for the blood of my Son Jesus Christ, you would be a homosexual today."
- In August of 1996, four others and myself were involved in a very devastating car accident that should have killed all of us. We all walked away that day. Upon exiting the car, I heard the same voice I had heard the previous year (I recognized the voice instantly) say, "My hand is upon you mightily."

Having a relationship with the Creator of all things means that you can expect to be led by Him. Be prepared for an improved life as a Christian as you learn to be led by your God!! Your life will only improve.