

LED BY THE SPIRIT

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Greetings! It is an awesome honor for me to minister to you. I am going to be speaking about what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit, according to **Romans 8:14**. I trust that this message is going to impact your life and help you a lot in just your everyday life and to live free from condemnation, living in the power of the Resurrection.

Our Web Church is all about bringing the Gospel of God's grace, the message of His love, His goodness and His kindness to people, so that they can be established in the grace of God sharing in the life of God.

Father, thank You so much that we can gather around the truth of Your gospel, the love that You have for us, the absolute outstretched hand of life that You have brought to us. Thank You so much for that!

I want to thank You that this service revolves around You, the power of Your resurrection and the love that You have for us, the no-condemnation that You have in mind for us and that You manifest through Your Spirit. Thank You that it revolves around the fellowship of the body of Christ as well.

We are thinking about the people in China, Lord. We know that You know about the situation but we still just come and communicate with You as pertaining to that. We declare that You are Lord! You are Lord over this earth. Thank You, Father, that we can say that Jesus Christ is King and that Jesus is not some spirit somewhere in the sweet by and by but that He is physical. He's raised from the dead. He is Lord. He is the King of this whole world and we are under His jurisdiction and power. With that in mind we can just come and declare that the people in China, our brothers, people that are persecuted going through difficult times, that they have eternal life. They are under the rule of Your life and that nothing shall harm them.

Thank You for that Lord. Thank You for encouraging them. Thank You, Lord, for making ways wherein we can preach the gospel to them and where they can also come together and fellowship around this truth that You have already raised up people in this truth right there in China. Thank You, God, for Your love and Your grace. Amen

TODAY'S MESSAGE

I am going to teach on **Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

In today's message, I am going to teach that being led by the Holy Spirit and what Paul tries to communicate, does not talk about trying to find an inner voice inside yourself to hear what must I do today. Must I turn left at the traffic light or must I turn right? Or, should I do a business deal or not? That is not what that passage talks about. Traditionally we have believed it to mean that. And then from there, we have made the conclusion that should we not listen to the inner voice on a daily basis and follow that, we cannot call ourselves the sons of God. Then the nature of a human that wants to preserve his own life automatically kicks in and then we want to make ourselves sons of God by trying to hear a voice and obey it.

That just brings so much confusion and hurt because we find people say, and I've done it in my life and I'm sure you've experienced it in your life, where you felt that God told you something. Then you followed it and did it and then found out that it wasn't God. Then, with that in mind and with that foundation, you start to wonder, "Is God speaking to me?" Then you listen again and hear again and then sometimes things work out and sometimes they don't. It's a kind of a 50/50 kind of a thing and you start to wonder if you are truly a son of God. Are you a son of God because are you led by the Spirit? How do you hear the voice of God? Some of us say that we don't even hear the voice of God. Some say they hear an audible voice. Others say that they get dreams and visions all the time. Then, like a lot of people, they would just say, "Well, I tried to hear God. I tried to say, 'Lord, what must I do?' Wait for an inner voice and then I don't know if it is my thoughts or God's thoughts. Then the whole thing of, "Am I a son of God?", hinges on this ability to hear a voice inside you. That just brings a lot of pain and confusion. So, we are going to look at that.

I would like to read the first paragraph in the notes. (For those of you who want the notes of the messages, please write to [info at dynamic ministries.com](mailto:info@dynamicministries.com) and we will send you the notes for the Sunday's message, prior to the Service.)

It says, "In this message I will explain that having God as Father implies the understanding that He is the source from where we have life as well as the fruit that pertains to His presence. I will address the leading of the Spirit as the power of God as Father, bringing forth all He has desired for us. He is the Father of our actions as well as the Father of our bodies."

Then you will see, just below the verse, **Romans 8:14**, that I just summarized the traditional view. Traditionally the text was understood as a step-by-step inner voice that we must listen to and obey. If we obey, then we are the sons of God. If we don't obey, then we the children of the devil.

I remember, when I was growing up, my sister and I would fight a lot. You know that children sometimes fight. Maybe your kids “never do that”, but my sister and I were fighting a lot. I couldn’t just go and beat her up when she did something that I felt wasn’t right because I would be in deep trouble. So, one of the worst things that I would say to her and she would say to me when we were really angry, was, “You’re a child of the devil!”

That is the thing that we live with many times. You know if we are not hearing the voice of God and we’re hearing other voices, then what are we? Subconsciously we live in fear.

If we look at that passage and it says that ***as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God***, it automatically implies that God is then your Father. If you are a son of God, it means God is your Father. Let’s just quickly look at what the Greek word for God means in the Hebrew word. It means the self- existing One. Now, to think for yourself, if you call God your Father, you are saying the self-existing One, the One without beginning, without end, the Creator of all things, the sovereign God, the only God, is, literally, your Father. That is what you are saying.

So, when Paul comes and he writes this passage and he looks at the concept of living in the flesh and living in the Spirit which is just prior to that, (Those of you who have not listened to our previous messages, we are in a series in Romans. We have dealt with Romans 7 and 8, where it talks about, ***There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*** This is written on the foundation of **Romans 7** and the beginning of chapter 8. It is basically trying to say that being led by the Spirit, what comes forth is of such a sort that you would say, “God is the Father of that.” Or, another way of saying that is, “I am a son of God.”

Now, who, by his own works, can become a son of God? Or, who, by listening to an inner guidance on a way to park your car to have a better parking, or how to do a business deal, can become a son of God by obeying those messages? No person! But, just looking at that way, we can already see who can become born of the self-existing One, by trying to hear God’s voice in business? Nobody! I mean, I’ve tried so many things in spreading the Gospel that I thought, “The Lord is leading me here!” or “The Lord is leading me there!” And then I see that it doesn’t work out and sometimes it works out. Then I would say, “Lord, I don’t know why it didn’t work out.” Then what would ease my conscience is the scripture that says, “I will send you to places and if they don’t accept you, just wipe the dust off your feet.” I would say, “Well, glory to God! At least there is a scripture like that.” But what do you do if you’re a business man? Or, if you have children you put in a school because you felt that God has told you to put them in that school and now it isn’t working out. Something’s going horribly wrong. Or, they get injured at that school. Or, you believe that they must go somewhere and then there was a car accident or something like that. How do you deal with that? How can we, and this is the question that I’m asking, how can we, by trying to hear the voice of God every day, as a voice in our head, become the sons of God in obeying that voice? That would mean that your obedience is actually becoming the source of what gives you life and not the Spirit of God.

I'll read the verse again: ***For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*** God as the self-existing One, the One without beginning or end, or the Creator of all things, or the All Sovereign One. That means being led by the Spirit will bring you to a place where you can say, "The self-existing One is my Father and I am showing attributes of that in me. I am starting to show attributes of eternal life. I'm starting to show attributes of no beginning and no end." That is what Paul is basically mentioning there in the context of Romans 7 and the first 13 verses of Romans 8. That is what he is trying to say.

The word, father, means the generator; metaphorically it means the author of families or societies of persons animated by the same spirit as himself

Father means the following:

I believe this is where Thayer would get the definition that he wrote down as the Greek definition. I believe that he got this from Romans 4. Let me give that a little bit of background. If you want to know what a Hebrew word means you can't go back and look at what the Hebrew dictionary said that Moses wrote because Moses didn't write the dictionary. There is no ancient dictionary. A lot of the Greek works the same way. There are no dictionaries. The way you determine what a word means was by how the word was used. You would look at a hundred places in the Scripture where the word was used and then, out of the context of the whole passage and in the setting that that word was used, it derives its meaning. So, in the very same way, I think you know that's why you will find ten meanings in the Greek because that was basically the ten major ways wherein that word was used.

One of the ways it was used, and I believe it derives from Romans here, is a father is one that infuses his own spirit into others, who actuates and governs their minds; one who infuses his Spirit into others who then governs or actuates their thoughts and their minds' one who is infused; the son would then be one who is infused with a spirit of God being animated by the very life that is in God Himself.

So, if we take that definition of God as one who has infused His Spirit into you, bringing forth your very thoughts and also the fruit of the Spirit that we would call it according to biblical language, those who are led by the Spirit, they will be called the sons of God. That makes me think of the scripture in **John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power*** (the authority or the right) ***to become the sons of God***

That is to those who have received Jesus. The point that I am trying to make here is that being led by the Spirit is something else than just trying to hear an inner voice. Being led by the Spirit, according to Paul, is something else than that. It entails in the context, being born of God and we know what was needed in order for us to be born of God. We needed the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

John 1: This talks about Jesus coming to the Jews.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

In **Romans 8:14**, it says that **those that are led by the Spirit, they shall be called the sons of God.**

But, in John it says something that sounds completely different although it is actually just the same thing.

It says, **as many as have received Him, to them gave He power** (authority) **to become the sons of God** (to become means to find your birth, to have your being come forth by God when you can say that I am born of God.)

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

He is saying that as many as have received Jesus, the Christ, (I will explain what that means), to them gave you the authority or the power to have their being come forth from God Himself. These are those who don't have their being come forth from blood or the will of a man or the will of the flesh but of God Himself. So, we see clearly that sons of God come forth by being led by the Spirit. When John mentioned, "lead by the Spirit", he simply said, "Those who received Him."

I want to submit to you today, that to be led by the Spirit, according to **Romans 8**, simply means to receive Jesus as Lord. That is all. (We will look at that in more detail.) This lifts this burden off your back where you are trying to be led by the Spirit every day, when you wonder, "God, what must I do? Should I do this? Should I do that?" But, where you can come to a point where you say, "I am led by the Spirit as being born of the Spirit where I am under the life sentence of life." That means that if we do wrong things now but we are under the sentence of life, in the end of the day, it's going to work out all fine.

In our previous sessions, we likened that to **Romans 7** where Paul said that when he was under the law, "The good that I want to do, I cannot do." So, it doesn't matter how many good things I try to do, at the end of the day, it works out bad for me because I am under the death sentence of the works of the law, where I find life from my mortal body. But when you are under the life sentence, it means that as you would have tried to do good things under the law and it didn't work, now that maybe you've "missed it" somewhere in your life, that is not the end of the world, my friend. You're under the life sentence. And as you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and you've accepted Him as your Lord, you are led by the Spirit. We are going to look at the context of this:

Romans 8:

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if you live after the flesh, you shall die: but if you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Just in the previous two verses it says that we should not live after the flesh. Traditionally that has also been such a bad thing. I've mentioned to you before: One day I was in Bible School and I struggled to sleep and I drank a sleeping pill. It worked so well. If you've never drunk a sleeping pill in your life, it works very well. The next day I was late for Bible School. It began at 8 o'clock and I came in at 9. The teacher said to me, "Why are you so late?" I said, "I am very sorry! I struggled to sleep and a doctor friend of mine gave me a sleeping pill. I thought, "Just let me have a good night of rest." And I slept too well. He started to tell me how bad that is and now I am going to be addicted to heroin, drugs and all those things, because I am going to get addicted to sleeping pills. Then I didn't know what to say, I quoted Romans 8:1 and said, "There is therefore now no condemnation for me." Then he quickly quoted the rest of the verse. He said, "Who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." And then my whole Good News scripture was gone because I obviously walked after the flesh because I drank a sleeping pill. The church is bombarded with the thought of being in the flesh or living after the flesh in should we do something that doesn't always fall within the parameters of our customs and our culture.

I just want to say this: Maybe you're saying, "Bertie, you are just saying to go and do whatever you want and live like the hooligan!" I'm not saying that. I do believe that there are scriptures in the Bible that are clear. I mean Our Father, the Lord's Prayer where we go to God and say, "You know, Lord, we declare God that You are our Father. Your will be done. Thank You for giving us our daily bread." It talks about being in communication with God about your things in this world, your stuff, how you deal with relationships, forgiveness, unforgiveness... all those kinds of things. Yes, we talk to God about that and God does give us guidance and God does give us advice. I am not against that. What I am saying is we cannot call ourselves sons of God on the foundation of how "accurately" we have heard "the voice of God" and then call that being led by the Spirit and refer to Romans 8:14. You might say, "Why are you talking about it this way?" Simple. We are going through Romans and we now at verse 14 and we are now dealing with this matter.

So, when we look at, "being led by the Spirit and the flesh", the context is not that you drank a sleeping pill or not. The context is not that you break the speed limit or not. That is not the context. The context is not that you put your kid in the right school or not and thereby you define flesh or not. The context of flesh here is Judaism wherein Romans 8 is still written to the Jews with a Gentile standing in the back door listening to what Paul is saying to the Jews. As he is correcting the Jews, he's going to turn on the Gentiles very quickly. He's going to say, "Everything I said to the Jews I am now saying to you as well because some of you Gentiles here in Rome are starting to think that you are saved because of your flesh... because you are non-Jews." He is just sharing the context of the letter to the Romans. We are seeing Paul talking to the Jews and what he is saying to them in, "You cannot identify with God through thinking that Abraham is your Father. You are a physical descendent of Abraham and that God then gave you the law which is a good guide way on how to get the kingdom of God to manifest in this earth through which life would come. That would be living in the flesh according to these passages.

So, living in the flesh has nothing to do with, “Oh, Lord, should I put my kid in that school or that school?” And now you didn’t hear the right one.” Or living in the flesh was something like, “I feel I shouldn’t eat ice cream. Now I did. Oh, I’m in the flesh.” Paul, never had ice cream, kids in school, or any of those things in mind when he wrote this. When he wrote this, he had in mind that there are some Gentiles starting to think that God is just going to destroy the Jews and that God has something against the Jews and they, as Gentiles, are actually okay because they are non-Jews. They started to believe that God is a God that is mindful of the flesh of man as pertaining to ethnic groups and through that He blesses you wherein your righteousness is in the flesh. Righteousness defined as the right you have unto the kingdom of God is defined in if you’re a Jew or not. That is the flesh or not... that’s what Paul talks about. In Romans chapter 7, he basically says, “I was alive without the law but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.” He realized that he was drawing upon mortal flesh and this whole Jewish system and from mortal flesh, he thought that mortality can lead him to eternal life and he realized that mortality only leads him to death. We can now start to see where I am going with this. Those who are led by the Spirit will live. So as what mortal flesh can only bring forth death, so the Spirit brings forth life.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

What is adoption? Those of you who follow me regularly know what adoption is. Adoption means that God will adopt us unto Himself in the resurrection in the last day. Now, the Spirit that will raise us from the dead, which is the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, is already now living in us. He says that this Spirit that we have received by the Spirit, we cry Abba Father. So, when we are led by the Spirit... another word for led is brought forth by the Spirit, we can then say that God is our Father. Context is everything. A lot of people quote a lot of text but there’s no context in it. I think Joseph Prince and many others have said that if we take the text out of context, we only have a con. That’s all.

17 And 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.

2 Corinthians 3:17 says that the Lord is the Spirit. The Lord, Jesus Christ Himself, is that Spirit. We are not preaching the literal text. We are preaching the Spirit. Then he says, “The Lord is that Spirit.” That means the Spirit or the driving force that gives us life. is the physical man raised from the dead. And as we believe upon Him, from Him we now have the power, by Him, to have God bringing us forth as His own... Him bringing forth fruit in our lives.

The word, led, in the Greek, means to bring or to drive; specifically, to pass; to induce; to bring forth or to carry. This word is used 32 times and 14 times it is used as to bring forth. Like for instance, they brought Jesus before Pilot. That is the word, led. They took Him and brought Him... to bring something. If I bring you my phone, this phone was led by me to you. So, those who live by the flesh are led, or brought forth, by the limited power of the flesh as mortals having death as their destination, led by the flesh.

But if you are led by the Spirit, or brought forth by the resurrection power of God, then you are the son of God. I hope that you can start to see that leading here does not mean to try to hear an inner voice. Let me put it this way: If you are brought forth before God, by the Spirit, in all holiness and in all righteousness, then, truly, the life that you were brought forth into was not of yourself. It was of God. That is what it means to be led by the Spirit.

Talking a little bit about being led by the Spirit. ***Galatians 3:***

1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

2 This only would I learn of you, Received you the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

3 Are you so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are you now made perfect by the flesh?

He is talking about how they received the Spirit. They received the Spirit by the hearing of faith. What was the hearing of faith? The hearing of faith was not, "Have faith that you're going to have a car. Have faith that it is going to go well with you today." That was not the hearing of faith. The hearing of faith was not the Word of Faith gospel like we know it today.

The hearing of faith that Paul had in mind is that Jesus was raised from the dead and that He is seated at the right hand of God Lord from where we can have the expectation of the very same as what He partook in in His resurrection. That is the hearing of faith. This hearing of faith, when we believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, and we received Him as our Lord, what did we receive? We received the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead.

Let us go back to ***John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...***

How are we born? We are born of the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. How did we receive the Spirit? We received the Spirit by the hearing of faith. What is the hearing of faith? It is the hearing of Jesus that He was raised. We who believed it, what happened to us? We received the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. For what purpose? For this purpose to also quicken our mortal bodies for the purpose of this Spirit bringing forth the fruit of life in us. It is called love and peace and joy and all those kinds of things. So that we can say as Paul said: The life that I live in the flesh, it is not I who live, but it is Christ living in me." And that Christ living in me, Christ or the rulership of the man Jesus bringing forth a holy life in Paul is what he calls, led, or brought forth, by the Holy Spirit.

So how do we position ourselves to be led, or brought forth, by the Spirit? According to John and according to Galatians, it simply means to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead and that whatsoever He is, is my end destination and that is what He will bring forth in me by His rulership.

Living with that in mind, having that faith as the substance of things hoped for, in other words, I am persuaded today that God can do what He promised He would do, that it gives substance to my life. It gives testimony to my life. As I'm persuaded of that, I am born of that faith. That is what it simply means.

Another example is if you are really looking at a political leader that is messing up and you look at everything he does, you will find that as you believe in him and you receive him as the one that brings tyranny and pain to our country, as you believe in him, you will find that you are born of him... that he brings forth your life. The spirit of whatever is around that person, which we would call the spirit of fear, that spirit brings forth fear in your life. How? Not by a magical spirit but by you believing the lie. As you believe what is going on there... Let's take the corona virus, for instance. I think that 3,000 people in the world have died of the virus. Remember that there are 8 billion people in the world. A very small percentage of the people in the world have died of this. But it is a threat to us. It is a threat to civilization in the sense of bringing death to people and yes, we need to do something about it. But to the measure that you believe upon it and believe that it will definitely affect you, to that measure, what was happening in China and it's happening in other places in the world now, will shape and form your life. In other words, and we can use this language to explain being born of the Spirit, the corona virus will bring you forth. Those who are brought forth by the corona virus will be fearful and this and that, and whatever. That is the language that Paul is using.

I want to end by going to **Galatians 6:**

6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teaches in all good things.

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

Many teachers were going around teaching. This passage means that Paul says, "Whoever comes to you people in Galatia and teaches you in the gospel, receive them. Take part in their teaching. Look at what they say." It also says, ***communicate unto him that teaches in all good things.*** It does not point to it but it does not exclude communicating with them financially or giving them a place to stay, give them some food and if you want to give them some money, you can do that. But the passage does not mean you must just put a lot of money to the preacher's hand. That is not what that passage means. The context here is something different. We are going to get into that right now.

Galatians 6:

6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teaches in all good things.

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption (He is saying, to the people in Galatia, that there are some people that are going to pass by here and they are going to teach. Listen to their teaching but please remember this: Don't let it be a mockery of what Christ has done. Please don't let it be a mockery! We're not going to mock the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **If you sow to your flesh**, in other words, if you go back and you put confidence in circumcision and the law and all those kinds of things, from the flesh you are going to reap corruption. Or, we can put it this way: Your mortal flesh will only bring forth death for you. Or, if you want to use **Romans 8:14** language, we can say that your flesh will lead you to corruption.)

but he that sows to the Spirit (or that gives his life to the Spirit... the Spirit, in Paul's understanding was the power that raised Jesus from the dead.)

We see that in **Romans 1:**

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared to be the Son of God (or led to be the Son of God or brought forth as a Son of God) **with power, according to the spirit of holiness** (or the Holy Spirit), **by the resurrection from the dead:**

Jesus was brought forth as a Son by the Holy Spirit, or the power of God is another word for it. So how was Jesus led to saying, "Abba Father" in His physical body in the resurrection? He believed in the Father and the Spirit, the life of God, brought Him forth as a Son, led Him to being a Son in His body by the Resurrection. So in the very same way, it says, "We who are sowing to the Spirit... we who say we give ourselves for the teaching of Jesus died and Jesus was raised from the dead. And His resurrection means that He is Lord over my life and He shall also lead me to a life, bodily, like His, where in the last enemy, physical death in my body, shall be conquered in the last day when Jesus comes back. We who believe that, we are now, from the day we believe that, being brought forth or led by the Spirit and seen as born of God. That is what that passage says.

Galatians 6:8: For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

And if God is the everlasting, without beginning and end, and the Spirit raises us up as without beginning and end, eternal as well, we can see we were led of the Spirit unto eternal life. Amen and amen

Next week, I would like to go over this again and read some passages that I have left out because I was running out of time. I will just recap. There is beautiful depths in this and I trust that this message will just bless you more next week.

I trust that this message just gives you just a breather as pertaining to, "Am I a son of God if I've heard the voice of God. The voice of God is this: Jesus was raised. He is Lord. Believe upon Him. Receive that truth as the truth about yourself from where He leads you by His Spirit to have the same in you.

If you believe in Jesus that He died and that He was raised, you are led of the Spirit, unto the fruit of the Spirit by the Spirit. Amen an amen

Father, thank You so much for Your love and Your goodness! Thank You for Your grace! Thank You that we can know that we don't have to sit every day and have all of our lives pivoted around, "Are we hearing You accurately every day?" That we can live in the safety of You as the One that has taken the authority and the responsibility upon You to bring us forth as Your sons. So, we are led to being sons by You as we rest in You. Amen and amen...