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HOW TO BE LED BY GOD

Regardless of what you do for a living or what you consider as your career, there is one skill that will set you above your competitors. It will protect you from harm and loss. It will open doors of opportunity that others don’t even see. I’m talking about the ability to be led by the Spirit of God.

John 16:13

Jesus told us, Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

The Holy Spirit knows when you should buy and when you should sell. He knows when you should build and when you should maintain. He knows when you should go and when you should stay. **The Holy Spirit is always speaking; the issue is not that He is withholding information, but most people don’t know how to hear His**

voice. Partner, you can be led by the Spirit of God. But first, you need to understand how He leads.

The first and most common way the Holy Spirit leads God’s people is through the inward witness. Paul described it this way: *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16).*

The inward witness is supernatural, but it isn’t spectacular. It doesn’t seem as remarkable as dreams, trances, and visions. People who live day in and day out following the inward witness don’t often boast about it. They simply know how to hear from the Holy Spirit within their spirits, and they follow His direction. They are safe, provided for, and content regardless of the situations surrounding them. **Partner, don’t overlook the supernatural because you insist on it being spectacular!**

The Holy Ghost is a light within your spirit. *Psalms 18:28* says, *“For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.”*

Partner, the Holy Ghost inside your spirit is a candle; He is not a high-beam searchlight. In other words, He guides us step-by-step as He enlightens our spirit to God's Word and His ways. That is why Paul wrote that we should pray that we would be aware of His light in our spirits.

witness. **The inward witness leads by peace.** My spiritual father, **Reverend Kenneth E. Hagin** used to call it that velvety-like feeling in your spirit. *Colossians 3:15* says that we should *"let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."*

"Choose to listen to your conscience, and you will protect your faith! Paul told Timothy that some had shipwrecked their faith because they chose not to follow their conscience."

Ephesians 1:16-19

Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.

Notice the words Paul used when he was led by the inward witness in the *27th chapter of Acts*: *"Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives"* (Acts 27:9-10).

Paul didn't say, I had a vision. He didn't say that he heard the voice of God. **He said I perceive. Learn to listen to your spirit, not merely your mind or your feelings. The inward witness often begins as a perception.** When you sense from within your spirit to do or not do something, that is the Holy Ghost leading you through the inward

Partner, when you need to make a decision, choose the option that, when you consider it, it elicits peace within your spirit—even if it doesn't make sense to your mind! I can't tell you how many times following the peace of God saved my neck! I also can't number the times that I didn't follow the peace of God—and I have the lumps to prove it.

The second way in which God leads us is by the inward voice. Just as your outward man has a voice, so does your inner man. We refer to the inward voice as the conscience. Paul wrote about being led by his conscience in *Romans 9:1*: *"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost."*

Partner, if you are born-again, you can trust your conscience to be a safe guide. Paul testified that after he was saved, he *"lived in all good conscience before God"* (Acts 23:1). Paul's ability to hear and follow the Holy Ghost kept him alive. I've walked the paths that Paul walked in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Greece. The terrain is rough. Robbers, thieves, and murderers lined the narrow roads. I'm sure that Paul checked with and listened to the inward witness and the inward voice that told him which roads to take and which ones to avoid on any given day.

The devil hasn't changed his tactics. He is still walking about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. (See *1 Peter 5:8*.)

Partner, please take heed! Check with the Holy Ghost before you go somewhere! I visited recently with a world-renown preacher. She has had favor with Muslim leaders and has been able to minister the love of Jesus in many Islamic nations. She told me that she wanted to go to a particular country, but the Lord told her, *“I didn’t tell you to go there, and if you do, you have taken yourself out from under my protection.”* You can’t simply claim the protection of the *91st Psalm* if you are outside of the secret place—God’s perfect will!

Choose to listen to your conscience, and you will protect your faith! Paul told Timothy that some had shipwrecked their faith because they chose not to follow their conscience. *“Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck...”* (1 Timothy 1:19).

“Learn to listen to your spirit, not merely your mind or your feelings. The inward witness often begins as a perception. When you sense from within your spirit to do or not do something, that is the Holy Ghost leading you through the inward witness.”

The third way that God leads us is through the voice of the Holy Spirit. The voice of the Holy Spirit is more authoritative than the voice of the inward witness or the voice of our spirits. Peter heard the voice of the Holy Ghost in the *tenth chapter of Acts*: *“While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee”* (Acts 10:19).

Peter needed to hear an authoritative voice; otherwise, he never would have departed from his long-held religious position that Gentiles were unclean! The voice of the Holy Ghost seems audible, but you hear it on the inside, not with your physical ears.

When God needs to get your attention about a major situation or life decision, He may speak to you through the voice of the Holy Spirit. That’s what He did when he called me into the ministry!

I was 15 years old, and I was driving to see my mother who was in the hospital at the time. (Yes, I know I shouldn’t have been driving before I had my license, but I was determined to visit my mother.) As I turned into the parking lot, I heard the voice of the Holy Ghost say *“I have called you into the ministry.”* The voice was so loud that I thought someone was sitting in the backseat! I turned around to see who it was, but no one was there. It was the voice of the Holy Ghost! My response wasn’t positive. *“No; I’m not going to do that.”*

However, the Lord was patient with me and continued to lead and direct me. *Later, I invested hours praying in the Spirit seeking His specific plans for my ministry. After several weeks of praying in tongues, the Holy Spirit spoke.* He told me where to go to Bible school and what kind of ministry I was to have. Here I am—over 50 years later—serving Him in the ministry!

The fourth way God leads is through dreams and visions. Dreams and visions are part of the last days’ outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:16-17

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Partner, don’t be shocked if God speaks to you through dreams or visions; He said it would happen! However,

don't seek them! Nowhere in the New Testament did God's born-again people ask for a dream or vision. They sought God, and God chose how He would communicate with them.

Partner, God is well able to get His message through to you! If you have a dream or vision, don't run to this prophet or that pastor and ask them for the interpretation. If the dream or vision is from God, He will give you its meaning. Keep in mind that a vision or dream from God will not contradict His Word.

God spoke to Cornelius in a vision in the *tenth chapter of Acts*, and although he wasn't even born-again yet, God also gave him the meaning.

Acts 10:1-6

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

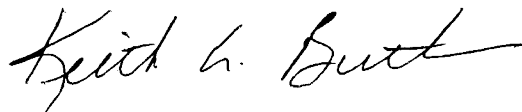
He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

Partner, God loves you. He has a hope and a future for you. Learn to listen to the Holy Spirit; He will lead you into God's best for you! Don't depend on signs in the natural; some people call them open doors or closed doors. **Satan can open and close doors, but he cannot get into your spirit and speak as the Holy Ghost can! Take the time to listen from the inside. Follow the Holy Spirit. He will lead you into your best possible life!**

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of Keith Butler Ministries as we take this kind of life-changing message throughout Europe and beyond! Pastor Deborah and I truly consider it an honor to be able to labor with you in this assignment the Lord has given us. We love you and are looking forward to great things for you in the New Year!

With His Love and in His Service,



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