

Spirit-Led Living

“The task of every generation is to discover in which direction the Sovereign Redeemer is moving, then move in that direction.”

Jonathan Edwards

What does it mean to be Spirit-Led?

It is important to know that Spirit-led living is possible because the God of the universe has taken up residence inside of us through the outpouring and infilling Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, the presence of God was relegated to a place, namely the Tabernacle and the Holy of Holies. In the New Testament, God’s presence no longer resides in a geographical place or building, but in his people. We are the temple of the living God!

To be Spirit-Led is to be illuminated, directed, enabled, and empowered to walk in union with Christ in such a way that pleases God. It is partnership with God. It involves responding to what God is saying to us through faith and obedience. It also denotes inner and outward moral transformation in conformity to God’s Word. It is the ongoing process of the manifest presence of God filling and empowering us to walk in his ways and accomplish his will. As this happens, we reflect who God is and manifest his character towards all people.

The Holy Spirit

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither see him or nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. -John 14:16-17

The Holy Spirit is referred to as the “Helper.” The word “Helper” means he who comes alongside another. During Jesus’ 3 ½ year ministry, he was continually alongside the Disciples encouraging, strengthening, interceding, and helping them as they followed him. Jesus promised that as he ascended to the Father that he would send another “Helper” and that this Helper would live within us and be with us forever.

The Holy Spirit’s role is to continually point us to Jesus, guide us in all truth, intercede for us in accordance with the will of God and empower us to live for him. Without his abiding and transforming presence and power in our lives, we would not have the ability to walk by the Spirit.

Some aspects of the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives:

1. To indwell
2. To transform
3. To empower

God’s Grace

“For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” -John 1:16-17

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” -Ephesians 2:8-10

Grace involves more than just the means by which we are saved. Grace is the ongoing dispensation of God’s favor, provision, and love that allows us to receive that favor and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. As we have received grace through faith to accept Jesus as Lord, we must remember that we have received a never-ending supply of God’s grace to be led by the Spirit, walk in relationship with him, and be conformed to the image of Jesus. God’s grace enables us to represent him to whomever and wherever he sends us.

Spirit-led living involves hearing and obeying God's voice.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."-John 10:27

"Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked me." - Hebrews 4:7

We can't be led by the Spirit if we don't position ourselves to hear, recognize, and respond in obedience to what he's saying. We learn to recognize his voice by cultivating a loving relationship with our heavenly father. This can take place through reading his Word, communing with him through prayer and serving people out of love and obedience. Disobedience keeps us from recognizing the voice of Jesus and following the direction of the Holy Spirit. When we obey God's voice and leading, we grow in God and in our ability to recognize his voice from the other voices that are out in the world.

Flesh vs the Spirit

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."-Galatians 5:16-18

Not every Christian who has the Holy Spirit lives by the Spirit. "The flesh" means to be controlled by the old sin nature and not live in step with God's will for our lives. It means living in bondage to sin and legalism that comes from living under the law. Spirit-led living means to be set free from the sin nature and the law of sin and death. It is living in the present reality of our true status before God under the law of Christ. We are either being led by the flesh (old sin nature) or by the Holy Spirit.

To be Spirit-led, involves embracing a surrendered life.

"And he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." -2 Corinthians 5:15

"Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." -Luke 24:33

Spirit-led living encompasses living a totally surrendered life to God. It is putting God and his interests continually before our own because we love him, and he is worthy of everything. It is not about us! To grow in our knowledge of God and walk in his ways, we must daily seek to put his interests above our own and take our own fleshly (selfish) interests out of the equation when God is leading us to respond to him.

Spirit-led living is for us to live an empowered life.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” -Acts 1:8

God’s purpose for you and I is to live an empowered life through Jesus Christ. The empowered life that comes from being led by the Spirit is to walk in the very same power that Jesus walked in while he was on the earth. God has called us not to only to witness but to be his witnesses through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spirit-led living empowers us as Believers to:

1. Grow in our relationship with God and our understanding of his Word and ways.
2. Be a witness for Jesus Christ wherever we go.
3. Partner with God to accomplish his purpose in and through our lives.
4. Walk in the spiritual giftings that he has given us.
5. Bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives and be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ through the sanctification process.

Spirit-led living is to walk in resurrection life and victory.

“But thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” -1 Corinthians 15:57

“With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.” -Psalm 60:12

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” -John 10:10

God's purpose for us in being Spirit-led is to walk in resurrection life in every area of our lives and be overcomers. Resurrection life is available for us because Jesus has overcome the world and promises us that we can walk in this same victory. The Spirit-led life is to have the abundant life. He has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3). Walking in the Spirit is to walk in resurrection life and gain victory over Satan, sin, and the world.

The purpose of being led by the Spirit is to bring glory to God and the name of Jesus Christ.

*"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1
Corinthians 1:31*

The purpose of God is to fill the earth with his glory as the waters cover the sea (Hab 2:14). As his children, God has called us to live for him and glorify his name. When we are Spirit-led, we reflect God's glory (splendor, beauty, and worth) and love wherever we go.

Some marks of being Spirit-Led.

1. Walking in humility.
2. Walking in obedience and submission to God
3. Hunger for the Word of God
4. Desire to walk in holiness and please God.
5. Walking in resurrection power.
6. Openness to obeying prompts from the Holy Spirit to pray.
7. Walking in love towards all people and a desire to fellowship with Believers.
8. Desire to see the lost come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Spirit-led living is God's desire for his people. As followers of Jesus, let us position ourselves to continually receive the daily filling of the Holy Spirit. As we do, we will reflect the love goodness, and glory of God to the world.