

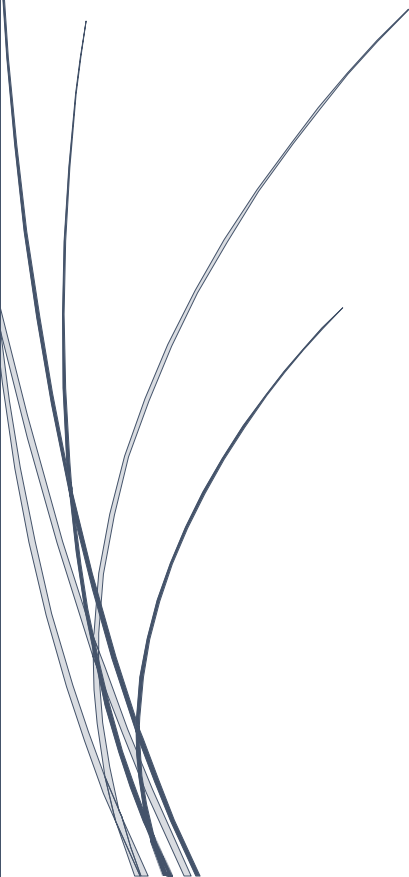


THE WAY

LEARNING TO FOLLOW THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.



A guide to help you discover the abundant treasure in
Following God's spirit



OLUGBENGA ELTON ADEBANJO.

PREFACE:

I woke up early one morning when the Holy Spirit spoke deeply into my heart with a strong assurance, to work on a book that centers on following the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, this book came out of a burden to share with you the way to follow the Lord in the journey of life.

Many have been so confused on the way to hear from the Lord and it has led to so many issues that have crippled certain lives from making notable progress.

Further revision brought in richer perspective of what I have learnt in several years of walking with the Lord, you will find in this material express instructions from the word of God.

Do well to pay attention and open your heart to what the Lord will minister to your heart, **you will need to read this book over and over again as a manual to increase in understanding on walking with the Holy Spirit.**

This book is like a course of study rather than what you do as a single reading.

My prayer is that you will receive enlightenment as you study this material.

Following the leadings of the Holy Spirit our teacher is a life time learning so get ready.

God bless you.

Olubenga Elton Adebajo.

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit of whom I have received grace upon grace to be a minister of the gospel.

To my wife for laboring on this material and for her incessant encouragement and silent pushes. And to Brother Shola Onafeso the first man to disciple me when I was little, though we never knew about discipleship but the relationship we had together raised me to some certain understanding that has helped me today, thank you for your labor sir, and to uncle John lawal a model to me in ministry.

And to the team of brothers in The seedsowers ministry kingdom Network who transcribed this work, Ifeoluwa Ajayi, Tobi Soyinka, and Joseph Akhetuame, they labored very rigorously to bring about this work, may the intention of the Father be fulfilled in your lives and to all ministers of the gospel who have been faithful in rightfully dividing the word of truth.

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CHAPTER ONE

THE FOUNDATION.

There is a powerful statement in scripture in the king James rendition precisely found in the book of Psalms 11:3 which says, ***if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*** Laying correct Foundation is very important when it comes to any endeavor in life. When a foundation is not properly laid catastrophe is inevitable. The challenge many face in learning how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit is because many got it wrong at the foundational level of their Christian Faith.

The foundation of a child starts from the womb and when anything is wrong with that fetus or that baby in the womb, life can never be balanced when that child is born. The growth process will have problem, thinking, reasoning and life perception of that child will be problematic just because there was a problem at the foundation level.

Therefore, in learning about how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we need to go back to the foundational matters. In John chapter 3 Jesus Christ made a profound statement that is very foundational. John 3:3-7

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

(4) Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

(5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

(6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Jesus according to John 3:6 laid a strong foundation for us that 'being born again is being born of the spirit'. Water been mentioned there in the scripture above is the symbolic representation of **the word** referenced in Ephesians 5:26. You are born again by the word of the gospel that you heard and by the Spirit.

It is when the Spirit of God brings the word of the gospel of Christ' death and remission of your sins alive in your heart that leads you to repentance and confession of the Lordship of Christ over your life, thereby you became born again. And to be born again implies that you were born before i.e. born in the flesh but now born of the spirit, by the Spirit of God.

Christ said, if you are born again you are born of the Spirit he continued by saying **that which is born of the spirit is spirit.** This is very crucial to your understanding because following the leadings of the Holy Spirit is only possible when your spirit man is regenerated.

That which is born of the spirit is spirit; this is a spiritual operation, therefore receive it as a fact by faith. The implication to this spiritual operation is because the Holy Spirit can only listens and communicates to a Spirit being who carries the nature of God. That which is born of the flesh and remains in the flesh cannot listen to the Holy Spirit nor can he discern the things of the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned".

It is when you are truly born of the spirit that you can listen to the Spirit of God and can be able to discern what is of God and what is not of him.

"Jesus answered very truly I tell you no one can enter the kingdom of God except you're born of the water and the spirit, flesh give birth to flesh, spirit give birth to spirit. (NIV)

if you're born again, you are not born of the flesh you are not born with human power or of human making. ***When you are born again, you're no more of the flesh. You are no more a man or woman under the bondage of the dictates of the flesh or the natural human rational thinking, you're essentially in the nature of God who is spirit. And that understanding is the foundation that must become a strong conviction in your heart.***

Until this scripture becomes a conviction in your heart, you have no foundation in learning to follow the leadings of the Spirit.

What does it mean to be born again, it means to believe the gospel that Jesus Christ died for your sins and he died so that you can be ***forgiven, justified, sanctified and delivered from the power of sin***, take note of the word delivered. You were not saved to be forgiven, justified or sanctified alone. You were saved to be delivered from the power of sin because the word salvation connotes Deliverance.

Your faith in Christ must agree with your experience in an ever-growing manner according to Romans chapter 6 vs 1-2 which says

".... shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid!"

If you have received the grace of God through your faith in the gospel, then you will know that you shouldn't continue in sin, in fact, you should experience a genuine hatred for sin, because sin and Grace can never be together. This is a strong foundation. He who has tasted of the grace of God by faith, can never continue in sin, can never love to commit sin. This is so important because if you are still struggling with any sinful habit or lifestyle, it is a clear indication that you did not understand the gospel properly and you have not experienced the power of the gospel.

Understanding the gospel is very important before making a decision. There are too many quick and rash decisions today when people hear the gospel message. They say yes to

Jesus religiously without understanding.

In Acts 8:30 When Philip met the eunuch of Ethiopia, reading the book of Isaiah, Philip asked him, do you understand what you are reading. And then the eunuch said, how can I understand except a man explains them to me?

The scripture said Philip began at the same scripture and explained. Later on, as brother Philip was explaining the gospel message, it was the eunuch in vs 36 of the book of Acts 8 that saw water and said I would like to be baptized, that was understanding in action.

So proper and correct understanding of the gospel leads you into action and a change of attitude, it is not that you are the one that is trying to change your attitude, No. *Your understanding produces a change because it has formed a conviction in you personally.*

I will like to refer you to our book on the settled matter of sin. In case you are having issues about being delivered from any sinful habit. [Download it from the website www.seedsowersmedia.com](http://www.seedsowersmedia.com).

Note: Do not continue reading if you know that the understanding of deliverance from sin is not yet an experience in your life.

Look at 2nd Timothy 2:19:

Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his. And, [let everyone that nameth the name of Christ departs from iniquity.](#)

This is very crucial to your understanding on how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. If you have understood the foundation, the foundation has a seal and the seal is that God knows you and once you claim you are born of the Spirit you cannot continue to enjoy the lifestyle of sinfulness nor the works of the flesh. Do not allow any false teacher to tell you that you are born of the spirit and so even if you should keep on committing sin, your

spirit is regenerated and there is no problem.

That is a doctrine from the pit of hell. It is not correct. When you are born of the spirit your spirit gains control over your flesh, and you will hate the life of sinfulness, what follows will now be growth in the new life in Christ.

This is the foundation. So, I put it to you, **have you been delivered from sinfulness?**

May the Lord grant you understanding and increase your understanding in the name of Jesus Christ (AMEN).

The other matter to look into, at the foundational level is"

THE YOKE OF DISCIPLESHIP".

In **Luke chapter 9 verse 23,**

"Jesus said to them all, if any man will come after me, *let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me*".

Jesus clearly stated that in order to be his disciple, you must deny yourself, forget yourself, disown yourself, refuse yourself, live no more for yourself, and follow him.

Until you deny yourself and decide in your heart that come what may, I will follow Jesus, come rain, come sun, in hardship, in abundance, and whatever the case maybe, Christ is my focus because **verse 24** says

Whosoever will save his life (that is will keep his life or will count his life for value above Christ) will lose it. But whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

This scripture above is one of the scriptures that made me accept the call into Christian

missions. The foundational understanding of you been ready to be a follower of Jesus Christ to death if need be, is also important in learning how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

There are many who just wants to be church goers, but who don't want to follow Jesus Christ as his committed disciple, a disciple of Jesus Christ will follow Jesus Christ to wherever he leads. You cannot decide to love yourself, love the world, and the things of the world above Christ and claim you will successfully learn how to listen or follow the leading of the Spirit.

God demands a total surrender of your desires, your wants, and interest. All the apostles that followed Christ faced persecution and were killed except one who was preserved from death for a purpose his name was **John the beloved**.

That was the price of the cross they carried following Jesus. We also, must be willing to deny ourselves and follow him, and **verse 26** says,

"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels".

Look at II Corinthians chapter 5 verse 14 (you can check from other translations)

"For the love of Christ constrained us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all (i.e. Christ), then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

According to the word of God, when Christ died for you and you received the gospel, your own living ended, you must now allow Christ to live his life in you by faith. Therefore, you don't have any right anymore to your life, but it is his (Christ) right that

will now prevail over your right. When Christ died, you died, your old nature died.

FOLLOWING A DISCIPLER.

Until the foundation of discipleship is laid whereby you are willing to follow Jesus Christ to death if need be and you're willing to submit under leaders and elders who will guide you aright, you cannot learn to follow the Holy Spirit.

One of the principles of discipleship is for you to have a mature Christian whom you will be accountable to, who will be your discipler. It is a male to male or female to female relationship.

*Anyone who wants to follow the Holy Spirit but don't want to follow mature leaders and elders who follow Christ is not yet ready because one of the key qualifications for God to teach you his ways is **Humility**.*

If Jesus could be humble enough to be baptized under John the Baptist respecting the authority of that day, then who are you not to humble yourself to be guided under mature leaders and elders who are following the Lord who proven and tested character.

Take note that, when the Lord encountered Paul the Apostle on the way to Damascus, Jesus could not tell him directly what he wanted him to do, the Lord had to make him to submit under the hand of believers like Ananias so that he can be instructed on what to do. (Acts 9:6) You cannot fully know how to receive instruction from the Holy Spirit if you don't learn how to receive instruction from men and women who are following the Lord faithfully.

Scriptures confirms that if you don't love the men you can see, how can you love God that you cannot see. So also, if you don't follow instructions under a certain authority that you can see, how can you follow instructions from the Holy Spirit that you cannot

see? Therefore, have you made up your mind to be a disciple of Christ? Are you willing to follow Jesus Christ to death if need be? This is the strong foundation upon which the church is laid. And this must be strong in your heart

When this foundation is properly laid in you, then knowing how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit will be effortless. May the Lord Grant you understanding.

Remember, foundation is the most important part of any building though hidden. Pay attention to what we have shared in this chapter, if not, you're not ready to learn how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

WILL YOU PRAY AND MAKE A FRESH COMMITMENT?

CHAPTER TWO

WHO CAN GOD SPEAK TO?

God speaks to us today through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit represents Jesus Christ and God the Father. Whatever God says or wants to say to you is what the Holy Spirit will do, or say to you.

The Holy Spirit does not work outside the will of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Word, but it is crucial for us to trace a profound understanding which many have ignored thereby leading to confusion. Open your spirit as we take another clarification on this crucial point, who can God speak to?

OLD TESTAMENT ORDER.

We'll take our bearing from the Old Testament. The Old Testament times is an era of God's dealing with mankind through the nation of Israel which was established upon the law that God gave to Moses, sealed with the blood of animals.

Take note that the old testament books of the bible reveals to us God's dealing with Abraham and his descendants, the old covenant law was given through Moses and God's dealing with Israel through prophets. Though God's dealings with mankind started with Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis before we have the enactment of the covenant which we refer to as the old covenant in the book of Exodus.

In all of scriptures it is noted profoundly that God loves to speak, He has been speaking, He is still speaking, and He will yet speak, though he is not a talkative. He is the living God not a dead God, that's why Genesis chapter number one brought a very profound understanding to us which is, in the beginning when God saw the problem of the Earth in **Genesis chapter 1:1- 3**.

God began to solve the problem of the earth by speaking. He said let there be light, and there was light. This connotes the fact that God provided the solution to the problem of the earth through speaking. In **Genesis 1 verse 1** he created, in **verse 2** there was a challenge not from him but it is a mystery hidden that will be revealed to us in the ages to come.

But in verse three, **He said let there be Light** "and since God said let there be light, He has never stopped speaking. This is important to your understanding that God longs to speak to his creation. Now He went on with his creation work and when He came to the creation of Man, God spoke again and said, let us create man in our image... all creation came to be by his word.

The whole of creation was a combination of him creating and him speaking. In the creation of the Earth, the restructuring of the earth, the realigning of the restoration of the Earth, we find God speaking and God kept speaking in the whole of chapter 1.

God said, **let us** make man in our image after our likeness. The word '**let us**' refers to the Godhead which includes the Father, the Word (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, Man is a product of communication and association, therefore, mankind can only thrive by communication and association. Such that even after the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God was still communicating with mankind. We saw his communication with Cain and Abel, Noah and Abraham and Moses in the book of genesis.

But take note of the fact that when Adam and eve sinned, they lost a higher level of communication and relationship with God, and by this mankind lost his authority and rulership. Rather than become the one who dominates, man became the one dominated by the Devil. Since then, whenever God wants to communicate, **He does it**

selectively by choosing whom he had to speak to.

We saw in particular that in every generation He chooses to be intimate with a particular man, men like Enoch, Noah, Abraham... and then he went on in his selective choice by speaking to Moses but it was through Moses that God gave a new template, a new order of communication with man because God longs to restore his relationship, and communication with man as it was in the garden of Eden before mankind sinned, but He needed to go through a process.

He chose Moses to be his mouthpiece, and Moses was now speaking to the people whatever God wants to say to them. So, from that order, we find the **establishment of the prophetic office.**

THE PROPHETS AND PRIESTS.

Before Moses, we never really had the ministry of a prophet. God was only selecting people to speak to, He never really called them his prophets. Although in a way, some of the people God communicated to in the Old Testament writings operated in a dimension of the office of a prophet.

But through Moses God began to demonstrate the office of the priest and the prophet as an integral part of the establishment of the Old covenant. Moses was a prophet sent to the people of Israel for their deliverance. The prophetic office enables a man to stand on behalf of people to hear from God and to speak back to the people on behalf of God.

God established the prophetic and the priesthood office from the family of the Levites, anyone born into the tribe of Levi, knows they are a tribe for priesthood. Now take note that all through the Old Testament, God operated through prophets, Kings, and priests.

The priests are those who stand in the place of atonement, and offering of sacrifices communicating with God on behalf of the people, reason is because the people have no capacity to go to God directly, except there is an intermediary called the priest.

Prophets receive from God and they tell the people. We have numerous prophets in the Bible sent by God to the people. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and a host of them. When God began to establish the prophetic, with the priesthood office, it became the only legitimate means in the Old Testament by which God speaks, prophets were also sent to Kings for them to carry out the mind and will of God.

Anytime God wants to do or say anything on the Earth, He must pass through the prophet, and the priest to the Kings. This became the order by which people communicates with God.

The last prophet in the Old Testament order before the coming in of the Son of God was **John the Baptist**. The gospel writings (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) detailed the transition of the old covenant into the new.

God used John the Baptist to begin to turn the heart of the people into the new order of the kingdom of God. **Take note that it was the testimony of the prophetic (John the Baptist) that made us to see the revelation of the Son of God.**

THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW ORDER.

The son of God was revealed through the prophet John. The transition to the new order took place, Immediately John introduced Christ, the voice came from heaven. Take note that not everybody heard it. It was only John who was standing in the prophetic office that heard the voice said, *'this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased'*.

After that, **the focus shifted from the prophetic office to Christ**, the Son. Take note that John the Baptist, pointed to Christ the son, not as another prophet, because pointing to Christ as another prophet means that God will still have to be selective in the matter of how he relates with people.

But pointing to Christ as the Son, shows that God is beginning to change the style of his relationship. For God to send a prophet, is alright. But for him to send His Own Son, means God is ready to communicate the depths of his heart that he has kept as a secret for a long time, for prophets cannot reveal the heart of God in fullness, only the son of God can.

The book of Hebrew 1:1 says "God who at sundry times... **had spoken by the prophet, and in the last days, spoken to us by His Son by whom he made all things.** So, Christ Jesus who carries the same nature with the father (God) is the express image of God to us. Out of the names that people call Christ, he was practically called Rabboni or Rabbi (Teacher)

A teacher is a communicator. A teacher is someone that guides and explains till you are able to come to the level of understanding that propels proper action. But take note that though others called Jesus teacher, only his disciples continued in the revelation of his son ship having the privilege to be called, raised, and built to see deeply into his life and the depth of his person.

So, Christ began his work on earth by relating with men, setting people free, touching lives, impacting people.

THE NEW ERA.

After the completion and the fulfillment of the things the prophet has said about

Christ's death and suffering, then the new era began, which is the era of those who have received Christ as the Lord and savior who are called **the church**.

In lieu of this, after Christ rose from the dead, we who have received him became born of the spirit and born of the Word, because by the word of the truth he had begotten us to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3) and this is by the working of the spirit, when we were born again, we ourselves became priest who can minister to the Lord and can be ministered to by the Lord, all hindrances to relate with God has been broken by Christ, we as priests now have access to the father by faith. Consider Eph 2:18

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Check up the following scriptures, Heb 9:24, Eph 3:12, Romans 5:2.

Looking Into 1 Peter 2:9:

But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

The word PRIESTHOOD IS THE EMPHASIS, meaning in the New Testament era God is no more selective in speaking and communicating with certain people. Anyone now found in Christ qualifies to hear the Holy Spirit's leading, and guidance because God is no more leading just a particular nation, He is looking for all people to be in relationship with him from all tribes, in all lands, and with that, there can't be a single prophet that would be called world prophet.

Israel is no more the only nation God prefers, through Christ all the families of the earth became blessed because the promise God gave to Abraham '**the blessing**'

states that in you shall all the family of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 28:14)

The fulfillment is that **'All' people** that is found by faith in **'Christ'** enters into the real blessing given to Abraham. That is why when Christ died, the cloth that leads to the holies of holy in the temple was torn into two matt 27:51. It was Christ's death that accomplish that, when he said it is finished, it was an opening of a new day. ***You cannot separate the death of Jesus Christ from His resurrection. It was his death that created the access to the father, it was the resurrection that authorized us to move in into the created access.***

The death of the Lord Jesus Christ broke the barrier between us and God the father; the resurrection of Jesus Christ ushered us in. By you believing the gospel, which is Believing that Christ died for your sin and that he broke the power of sin in your life and believing he rose from the dead, you have unrestricted access to God.

Hearing the Holy Spirit henceforth, is no more just a privilege but it's also a right created in Christ Jesus. You must stop thinking that as a genuine believer been able to hear from God is because he had pity on you, No! God chooses to speak to us because;

1. He loves us. And
2. Because the access has been created by his son Jesus Christ.

Take note: Christ has finished the work and given us the privilege to relate with the father, this is an act of grace and mercy. Therefore, hearing from the Lord and been directed by his spirit is no more a matter of begging as beggars, we only need to receive it as inheritors in Christ Jesus. This of course makes our heart humble and to glorify him.

Ministry Gifts: Guidance and training for Maturity.

You can hear the Lord if you are born again and you understand what it means to be born of the spirit. Yet, God knows that the church must be guided because everyone that is born again is a new creation, and there is a growth process for every individual, that will require a guide. And for the purpose of been guided, he gave us ministry gift in the body of Christ.

But ministry gifts in the body of Christ do not override your personal right in Christ Jesus in communicating with the Holy Spirit, No. The ministry gifts which are Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Evangelists and teachers, are all given by Christ to the church to nurture and to guide us to realize what we already have in Christ Jesus. They don't override our rights in Christ, They show us who we are, what we are, and how to grow into them. **Look at Eph 4:11-13**

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:12 Amplified.

His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church),

Ministry gifts was given for the purpose of perfecting and equipping of the saints, do not take ministry gifts as the legitimate authoritative means by which God leads you. The Holy Spirit who abides in every believer whom we received after Jesus Christ

rose from the dead, is the authoritative means by which God leads and deals with every believer. ***Every ministry gift is a guide not an imposition.***

As touching ministry gifts, God uses the evangelist to guide into the truth of salvation, He uses the pastor to care for you in real life situations, and to stand with you. God uses the teacher to expose you to deep things in the word of God, he is used by God to open your understanding to realities in Christ and your purpose in the body of Christ so that you can be relevant.

God uses the apostles to open new frontier where the kingdom of God and the gospel has not reached, God uses the Apostles to launch new spiritual movement and planting of church communities in different tribes and locations where the gospel does not exist or has little relevance. God uses the prophet in different local assembly to edify and to receive from the Lord certain things that has to do with the body of Christ in that locality and beyond. Prophets in the New Testament are no more relevant to be sent as the final authority to any believer. When God sends a prophet to an individual, it is because God wanted the individual who is a babe and immature to take an action quickly, or as a witness and one who confirms what the Lord has been saying. When a prophet speaks to us now as New Testament believers, those who are mature spiritually are to judge whatever he says by the standard of the word of God.

The way prophets were received in the Old Testament is not the way prophets are to be received in the New Testament. The New Testament prophet speaks, and when they speak, we judge, we confirm through our own spirit if the things which are said are true. Prophets in the New Testament will bring the mind of God for a time, for an age, for an era, for the body of Christ, for a local setting, for a group of people, but when they speak, we don't just accept. Why? Because this is the New Testament.

In the Old Testament, when the prophet speaks, you move. In the new testament, when the prophet speaks you check before you move. This is because everyone

carries what enable us to hear from God and that is spirit of Christ Jesus. You know after Christ bodily ascended to heaven, Christ still dwells in us now by the Holy Spirit.

The fivefold ministry (apostles, prophets, pastors etc....) is meant to raise and train each member of the body of Christ to be useful and to advance the course of Christ.

The prophetic have been abused in the present day. People prophesy bank accounts and other irrelevant things that has no bearing on kingdom matters and has no eternal significance. I dare to say that money has become the focus of several who call themselves prophets.

But does God still send prophets today to nations? Yes, He does. But every prophet function within the body of Christ. He/she does not speak in isolation for or against any member of the body of Christ. Prophets must allow their words to be tested by pastors, teachers, and by members in the body of Christ. It has to be checked and

Observed. God does not send a prophet to speak to you secrets about your life. No! Except you are beginner, just growing in the faith, a Prophet can be sent to confirm the things that the Lord have spoken to you. But the truth is that you have capacity to be led by the spirit of God and there is no other qualification that makes you hear from the Lord than being born again, the spirit of Christ dwells in you, this is the qualification.

CHAPTER THREE

THE MAN.

Understanding man is so crucial when it comes to following the leading of the spirit. In order to go deep into this, we need to look at man at creation and man at recreation. Understanding the composition of man is important in your general knowledge of how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Looking at the book of Genesis chapter 1, you saw God Himself, saying let us make man in our image. The word 'our' there connotes that he was not just talking to Himself (the Father); he was talking to the son, and Holy Spirit. So essentially, man's spirit was created in the image of God and it has the resemblance of God.

By creation man is a spirit, he has a soul and he lives in a container called the body. You will note that, God who is a spirit began to fellowship with this man. The fellowship of Adam with God was possible because of his spirit, because his inner man was practically dominating his soul and body.

Now, let us break down the three components of man:

- **The spirit: is the realm of conscience, intuition and inner witness.**
- **The soul: is the realm of intellect, will, mind and emotion.**
- **The body: is where you have the blood, water, flesh and the bones the physical; the material world is the body.**

The spirit of man contacts God, with the soul man contacts reasoning, intellect and emotion which is the affectionate part of the soul and with the body man contacts the physical world. This is man, this is you. Before the fall, man could talk directly with God. God and man were speaking the same language. There was no such thing as God

dwelling in him, for what he had in him was perfectly in the image of God. God comes in the cool of the day and the knowledge of the holy one was in him.

Adam was functioning in a very different class on the earth because the nature of God was in him. These three components of man **(spirit, soul and body) have voices**; there is the voice of your spirit, which is where the Holy Spirit dwells if you are born again. There is the voice of your soul, and there is the voice of your body. You must learn to differentiate them to avoid confusions.

SPIRITUAL VS CARNAL

The Bible teaches about two types of Christians, ***The spiritual and the carnal Christian***, when your spirit dominates your soul **you are spiritual, but when your soul dominates you, you are carnal and you are subject to the deception of the flesh and the devil. 1 cor 3:1-3.**

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Whatever your spirit receives from God, it is released to your soul for understanding. Until understanding is born in the soul, the body cannot do anything. This is the trinity of man.

Carnal Christians cannot discern the voice of the Holy Spirit because their souls dominates their spirit. And at times, the most terrible part is when the body now begins to dominate the soul; that is the base realm. It is the realm where by, the soul now also is subject to the body that is the realm where you now have addictions and

some other things dominating the soul. When this happens demonic possession and influence might be inevitable.

YOU CAN HEAR THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

It is when you receive Christ you become a sheep of his. **Every sheep from day one has capacity to hear the Lord, you must believe this by faith. There is no such thing as I don't know how to hear the Lord, NO! Christ said emphatically that my sheep hears my voice.**

So, the real problem here is your ignorance, not your inability to hear. ***Your challenge is lack of knowledge not incapacitation.*** The first thing is aligning yourself to hear. If you are truly saved there is capacity in you to hear the Lord, it must be settled. Until that conviction is established there will be no progress in your walk with God.

Let me help you with this illustration; take for example two different people at different location listening to the same radio station, let say 95.7 f.m, but one person seems to hear clearly with no interruption but the other person at the other location seems to have problem connecting to the same frequency, can we say the problem is from the radio station? No, it is definitely a network connection so is it with you, you must align yourself to hear from the Lord.

*And the way to align yourself is for you to begin with a strong conviction by saying to yourself; **I can hear the Lord; I am a sheep.** You must be repeating that to yourself*

Constantly, ***I can hear the Lord because am his sheep and because am his sheep, I Don't hear the voice of strangers, I have capacity to hear the Lord.***

Ignorance is a terrible problem, it's a foundational problem, and it's a problem that once it's not solved it will always show up at every crucial junction of your life.

WHERE THE SPIRIT SPEAKS FROM

Since the Holy Spirit dwells in your spirit, he wants to speak to you from your inner man, which is your spirit. When your spirit receives any information from the Holy Spirit, until it comes to the realm of your mind, you cannot understand it, because understanding, volition, will, and choice is in the realm of your soul. Therefore, that which is in your spirit, does not profit you in practical decisions in the journey of your life until that which is in your spirit is brought into your soul for understanding, conviction, and for processing, so that action can be taken.

This is important when it comes to listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit talks on your inside; your inner man now speaks to your soul for understanding. When this becomes clear to you, you will stop using this popular phrase; by saying ***something told me...*** You are not something, so something cannot be talking to you, you are a person, you're a spirit being, and so as a spirit being, you can only be spoken to by a Spirit which is the Holy Spirit that is in you. He is real, you need to learn to listen.

THE CRUCIFIED LIFE

You can't progress in listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit until you understand the crucified life, that when Jesus died, the ruler ship of the devil, sin and darkness ended! As a result man became delivered and free. That's why the scripture affirms;

who the son shall set free is free indeed. (John 8:36)

And it is this understanding that makes you genuinely free. Paul said in Galatians 6:14,

I am crucified to the world and the world is crucified to me. Another translation says; as far as the world is concerned, I am dead and as far as am concerned the world is dead.

Until you are totally free from worldliness and the flesh by the revelation and understanding you have gained on the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, you cannot truly learn how to follow the direction of the Lord. You will mix things up.

Therefore, I ask again are you delivered from sin, are you a man that has experienced the cross, can you boldly say there is no attachment between you and this world. Do you want the leading of the spirit because of pleasure or prominence or you truly want to please the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, you are in the world, but scripture says essentially that by nature having received Christ you are not of the world. This is important as a foundation to you in following the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER FOUR

UNDERSTANDING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now, there is a concept that must be well understood. It is the concept of **THE GODHEAD**; *the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*. The three make up the Godhead.

Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colosians 2:9.

And God said; **‘let us’** make man in our image. That ‘let us’ signifies more than one person. From the beginning of creation, the three were involved. That’s why John 1:2 says; without the word (Christ) was not anything made, this will corroborate the Hebrew translation of Genesis 1:1, in the beginning, Elohim which is plural to connote the Godhead Father, son and the holy spirit were fully involved in the creation of the heavens and the earth and in your creation as human being.

THE HOLY SPIRIT is the spirit of God and the spirit of Christ and he has the same eternal nature as God the father and Jesus the word, he is so important to you and you cannot look down or side line his work or ministry.

Jesus been “the Word”. Does not mean Jesus is in the mouth of God, Word means Intention and you can’t separate a man’s word from his intention. So, Jesus is the word which means the representation and intention of God. So also, there is nothing that God and the word will do with man or on the earth, without the involvement of the Holy Spirit.

It is the Holy Spirit that enacts and seals up what the Father and the Son does. The Holy Spirit moved upon the surface of the waters from the beginning, he is the secret behind all prophets who spoke in the Old Testament because a mortal man cannot speak the things of God unless the spirit of God comes on him.

The Holy Spirit is the merger of the heavenly [spiritual] and the earthly [physical not carnal], he is the one that makes transaction possible in the two realms.

For example, all that a computer understands is 0 and 1. Whatsoever you send into the computer goes into the computer as a machine language which is 0's and 1's because that's all that a computer is programmed to understand and when the computer is sending feedbacks, it also sends it in 0's and 1's but it would be converted by an agency into letters so that you can understand.

This in a way explains what the Holy Spirit does. He brings heavenly things and makes it real on the earth and also takes earthly things and send it back to the spirit realm, it is through him that spiritual transactions are made possible. That's why at the beginning of God's restructuring order of the earth, you find him operational *...and the spirit moves upon the surface of the waters...* he has to be involved, because nothing can be done on the earth without the agency of the spirit.

Actually, when an angel appeared unto Mary saying; *...and the glory of the Lord shall overshadow you....* the agency that forms the glory is the Holy Spirit. He is the one that makes heavenly things become a reality on earth. That's why Jesus said I can of my own self do nothing, Jesus constantly depends on the Holy Spirit in him to do what the father has commanded him to do.

The Holy Spirit inside Jesus Christ is the direct representative of the Father. This is not heresy. Actually, the father he was referring to is the Holy spirit (by representation). It's not as if the father came and left heaven and when Jesus said my father is in me and I am in my father, what he was saying was possible because of the holy spirit dwelling in him, remember the scripture says;

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (Mat 4:1)

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

(Act 10:38)

The spirit of God was in Christ. It means Jesus could not do anything except he was anointed with the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ minus the Holy Spirit, will be an empty ordinary man. That's why in John 17, he had to pray to the father to glorify him with the glory he had with him from the beginning.

While on earth Christ lived like a normal man, a natural man. He didn't come with the Shekinah glory that's why Satan could not recognize him. Satan saw Jesus as a natural person and didn't know the mystery behind that flesh.

Looking at the lives of the prophets, when the spirit of the Lord comes upon them, they would say things that are not natural. For instance, Prophet Isaiah prophesied saying: a virgin shall give birth to a child and his name will be called Emmanuel, he saw hundreds of years ahead, how was he able to do that? By the help of the Holy Spirit. He [the Holy Spirit] is the one that brings revelation, he makes the Bible carry life. Bible would be an ordinary history book to anyone who does not have the Holy Spirit helping them to understand it.

The operation of the Holy Spirit in the old testament is that the spirit will come upon them in order to empower them to do something, and then he leaves [nobody in the old testament had the Holy spirit remaining on him], but in the new testament we saw John the Baptist declaring:

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, ***upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on***

him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. (Joh 1:33) *The desire of the Lord is that he wanted the Holy Spirit to dwell in men and abide forever, and that was the pattern Christ came to lay down for us.*

Another Comforter

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared unto his disciples for 40 days, however, before his ascension to heaven, Jesus gave the believers a very special and wonderful promise. Now look at this, in John 14:16-18

*Verse 15-16: If ye love me, keep my commandments. **I will pray the father and he shall give you another comforter that** he may abide with you forever.*

...and I will ask the father and he will give you another comforter, counselor, Helper, intercessor, advocate, strengthener, and standby... (Amplified)

Now, let's take note of what the bible says, by saying ANOTHER COMFORTER the root word for "comforter" is **parakletos** [i.e. counselor, helper, intercessor, advocate, strengthener, and standby]. The word **another** would mean that the initial [Jesus] was leaving. Although, Jesus said he will send the Holy Spirit to us but his first statement was that he will pray to the father. Jesus cannot just send the Holy Spirit on his own accord; he must report to the head-quarters [NB. There is no argument about this neither is there any confusion about it].

*Verse 17: Even the spirit of truth, **whom the world cannot receive** [welcome, take to its heart], because it does not see him or know and recognize him. But you know and recognize him, for he lives with you [constantly]*

Take note of these words **"But you know and recognize him"**. How is it possible to know and recognize someone that has not come? But Jesus said; you know and recognize him. Note that since Jesus has said; I will pray the father, he ought to have

said like 'you will know him', 'he will live with you', and so on, but he said 'you know him', 'he lives with you' and so on.

Verse 17: *Even the spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: **but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you**.* [KJV]

Look at that; when Jesus said; you know him, for he dwelleth with you. he was referring to himself [that's Jesus], since he (the holy spirit) is another person like me, you already know him, since you know me, the same way I told you that he who has seen me has seen the father so also he who has known Christ has known the holy spirit, therefore, understand that the day you received Christ, it was the holy spirit that came into you. And he cannot come into you and stay quiet he is a person, a spiritual being therefore, he can speak.

HE SHALL BE IN YOU

Jesus said: ye know him, He dwelleth with you, but the dimension of ***shall be in you*** has not yet happened, because at that time Jesus has not risen from the dead.

The main ministry of the Holy Spirit is **to be in you** not around you, because what makes you essentially of Christ is the abiding presence of the Godhead.

Jesus said in Verse 18: *I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you***

Note that Jesus said; I will pray the father, he will give you another comforter..., ...I will come to you. Now, who is the 'I will come to you'? Another comforter, who is Jesus in another form, the Holy Spirit. This can also be said to be the Holy Spirit appearing to people as Jesus because that's the person we know. Everyone who claims to see Jesus, saw the Holy Spirit. NOTE THIS: if you say the Holy Spirit is Jesus you are correct, if you say the Father is Jesus you are correct, if you say Jesus is the

father you are correct, if you say the Holy Spirit is the father you are correct.

But note that, **this is not one personality acting as three but three persons united as one, and agreeing as one. For they are one. i.e they agree and are united.** Jesus didn't say I and my father is one, but he said; I and my father are one, (John 10:30) this shows two persons united as one.

So, it is important for you to know that, Jesus Christ is in union with the father and in union with the Holy Spirit. Jesus didn't say: I will come at the last day, but he said: I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you. His ever abiding presence is made possible by the Holy Spirit.

Verse 19 *yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.*

Verse 5-6 *but now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, whither goest thou? But because **I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.***

Just like my wife, whenever am traveling, she doesn't like it, even you have spent 2 years with her without going anywhere, my wife always wants me around her. That's because of the union between us. So also, if my wife goes somewhere, and she isn't back in time, I would be so concerned, I would be checking time and also asking her where about, that shows union. When the Lord said; he was going the disciples felt sad. Messiah is going, our master is going, they remembered his love, provision, protection, miracles and so on... they were sad.

Verse 7 nevertheless ***I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away:*** for if I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. [KJV]

But I tell you the truth: ***it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away,*** the counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I said it is ***profitable [good, expedient, advantageous] for you that I go away.*** Because if I do not go away, the comforter [counselor, helper, advocate, intercessor, strengthener, standby] will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send him to you [to be in close fellowship with you]. ***Amplified***

But I tell you, am going to do what is best for you, this is why I am going away; the Holy Spirit cannot come to help you till I leave. But after I am gone, I would send the spirit to you. The spirit will come and ***show the people of this world the truth about sin and God's justice...*** (CEV)

The unity of the Godhead

Look at orderliness in the Godhead, they don't compete. The two cannot be in the same place struggling for space and recognition. That's orderliness, God the father gave the law, Jesus the son fulfilled the law, purged and redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit abides in us and empowers us to obey the law of God. ***God the Father the initiator, Jesus the son the administrator, Holy Spirit the executor.*** It's such a beautiful togetherness. ***If every marriage should understand this, no marriage will crash.*** It's a shame for a Christian home to break. If the church can be taught the unity of the Godhead and they catch it by revelation...it would be so wonderful, that's why

Paul said I tell you a mystery, because that which is happening within the Godhead is what ought to happen between Christ and the church and should also be in any godly marriage.

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A BELIEVER.

So, if Jesus did not ascend to the father, the world would have remained in their darkness, they won't know what is right, they won't know that Christ is the truth, they won't know the mind of God. Because the believer wouldn't have been able to prove that except by the Holy Spirit. In John 16:12-13

...I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth.....(KJV)

There are things that you cannot bear now Jesus said to his disciples. Why can't they bear it please? *Because the Holy Spirit was not yet in them* Jesus said; there are things I want to tell you, but if I start saying it, you won't get it, you will not understand it.

That means a Christian cannot understand things about God and his word except by the Holy Spirit

...but when he, the spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth

John 16:13 (NIV)

Jesus was simply saying to his disciples that the things I could have said now; I will still say it but I will say it through the Holy Spirit, he will guide you into all truth. Those were the things he later said through the apostles [their writings, letters, and epistles].

Look at the way we have now abused and reduced the ministry of the Holy Spirit to him leading you just when you need to marry, or choose a career or travelling

If Jesus had died and he remained on the cross, the Holy Spirit would not have come. If he was buried and he never arose, Holy Spirit will not come [it is not yet profitable, it is not yet advantageous]. But when Jesus rose and he ascended, then everything he ever did became meaningful and impactful. We will not understand the cross and our union with it except the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the believer.

When we teach you the cross of Christ, it would be meaningless. It is the Holy Spirit that helps you understand the cross. Do you know why you can repent of your sins?

The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the counselor, helper; [i.e. there can be situations of helplessness in your life beyond natural counselling. There are situations that warrants divine help even after counselling because you have lost hope]. The Holy Spirit is the helper.

He is our intercessor: Who is our intercessor? Jesus! He constantly intercedes for us; who is our intercessor now on the earth? The Holy Spirit! Rom 8:26. Do you know that the Holy Spirit, constantly prays through the believer in order to remain in the perfect will of God.

Even when you have weakness and it is a genuine weakness not a deliberate one, he [holy spirit] will be praying for you, he will say I am here to help you until you stand back on your feet).

ADVOCATE! This is an humbling truth, when a genuine disciple of Christ is weak as written in 1 John 2 [described as a baby], rather than God allowing him/her to be lost to sinfulness and the devil, Jesus and the holy spirit advocates till he/she can be strong on his or her feet. Do you know some people have used condemnation to kill themselves after they fell into sin, when they ought to rise back and cooperate with the advocate?

That's what holy spirit does to you he trains you and raises men to train and disciple you

while you are small in spiritual strength, he builds you till you reach a point where your feet is so strong and your spiritual voice is so clear.

But someone who chooses to remain a baby for years can't be advocated for because Jesus and the Holy Spirit don't advocate for intentional sin [it's never in the bible] because immediately 1 John 2:1 says: *if any man sin, we have an advocate...*

1 John 3:9 now says

Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin...

You see, it a progression of thought, let me ask you do you advocate for a notable armed robber in the environment, stealing and killing and enjoys doing it?

There is no sensible lawyer who advocates for intentional wrong ... You know it's a perversion that makes a lawyer to defend you when you are deliberately wrong. You know if you are a Christian lawyer and you ask your client did you kill and he says; yes! You can only plead as an advocate for the reduction of his or her punishment, that's a real advocate. Jesus Christ Advocated for us by taking upon himself **the judgment and punishment of sin that was supposed to be upon us.**

When you are really wobbling and struggling as you walk with God, the holy spirit helps you to stand, and when the devil wants to accuse you into condemnation using your mind so he could strike you, he cannot strike, because there is an advocate for you interceding and defending as well as training you until your feet are strong. The Holy Spirit will encourage and equip you until you are bold again to say, heavenly daddy, thank you because you can receive me again, thank you because I can come back again.

The holy spirit will now help you to grow in your love for the father much more and hatred and empowerment against sin will also grow, THIS IS THE WORK OF HOLY SPIRIT OUR ADVOCATE [Note: am not talking about someone who claims to follow Christ,

knows what it means to follow Christ and yet enjoys sinfulness and worldly music

Such people are not in these categories of people whom the Holy Spirit will advocate for. The Holy Spirit does not advocate for sinners he convicts them to repent, if such refuses he/she is damning his own soul.

STRENGTHENER AND STAND BY! The Holy Spirit is also called Strengtheners which means you would be weak and so you need strength he is the Strengtheners! If Prophet Elijah, yielded to the power of the Holy Spirit he would not have ran away from Jezebel, he would have been strengthened. Have you read foxes books of martyrs, that book talked about people who died boldly for the name of Christ. Imagine how people face persecution and are set on fire for the sake of Christ and the gospel and they are singing [whenever I read stories like that, I know that of a truth, JESUS CHRIST is not a liar].

How can Christians be burning in fire and they are singing, that shows to you that there is a strengthener, there is a stand by. Do you know what **stand by** means? Do you know what is called a stand by generator? It starts once electricity goes off [hmm... this is a very crucial part of the holy spirit which I love so much], A stand by generator or inverter starts working once electricity goes off, nobody goes there to on it.

I have experienced the Holy Spirit standing by me on so many occasions but this experience am about to share stood out:

I struggled for many years on the issue of having sex in the dream. This experience almost destroyed me; it destroyed my confidence. How can you have pollution in the dream and you wake up in the middle of the night and begin to pray seriously , casting, binding and destroying all powers of darkness and when i go back to sleep, the polluted dreams of sexual immorality continues [there is nothing as terrible as that]. The night I don't pray will be a very terrible night. It was a real pollution. I remember praying for in the night crying for the fire of the Holy Ghost I prayed for years and it still continued. At

a time, I got tired because I have really prayed and fasted, called the name of Jesus and nothing changed. I will never forget that faithful day, I was to do my quiet time in the morning, my bible was on the table while I was standing and I got tired of life [am a man passionate for holiness], imagine: a preacher leading others to Christ, but yet I was in bondage it was really terrible for me.

I stood that morning, looked at my bible [I was speaking in tongues but it looked like even my tongues were now empty and I was losing my faith]. I told myself, how is it that I am not in lust towards any lady but every night am messed up, I would be full of Condemnation! For what I didn't do. God what's going on? Have called you and you aren't answering me.

Then that morning, I looked at my bible and I was about to say this bible, and speaking in tongues is RUBBISH!!! And that there is nothing there, I was about to say that. I will never forget that day, it was like my spiritual light was about to go off, I was about to backslide, I have struggled for many years. And I know that if I backslide at that time, you can't preach to me again [what is it that you want to preach that I have not preached before]

Then suddenly, a voice rose from my inside, the Holy Spirit said; I will not stand aloof and watch you decay. Those were His exact words. I suffered all these years because I was not depending on him, I was going about with my own personal effort.

Immediately after that voice, I cannot explain how fresh life is from the Holy Spirit, life came back to me, my fire was refreshed, fresh tongues rose from my inside, I was bubbling in tongues and that was the end of that sexual immorality torment in my dreams. I was delivered.

That was the stand by. Sincerely I was tired and down but He [the Holy Spirit] was there. Do you know after he strengthened me, that was when the message of the cross

started making more sense. Initially, it was looking like everything was falling down. it was really a joyful day because the stand-by stood by me [the bible began to make sense, the cross of Calvary also began to make sense, death of the old man began to make sense] and I began to walk again, I began to scream at the devil: 'you are a liar' 'you have been condemned'.

*Thank God for the Holy Spirit, he is the comforter, strengthener and standby.
Hallelujah!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

COMFORTER: In the situation of persecution facing Christians all over the world, how can they kill all your family members remaining only you and you can still go to church gathering, that is the case of some Christians in Asia, Nigeria, North Africa and some other nations that is the work of the Holy Spirit. There is a comfort of the holy spirit you cannot explain no matter how hard you try to explain it; it is not just explainable! You would be shocked when you see those comforted by him, He [Holy Spirit] is the one responsible for peace that passes all understanding, and there is a peace that schools and academic professors cannot analyze. If the church has been introducing us to the Holy Spirit, are we going to be crying unnecessarily or people committing suicide because they lost their husband/wife? NO! Immediately a man has experienced any problem, who should he call? He should say Holy Spirit I need your comfort. Will the Holy Spirit answer? He will. Christian children who lost their father, if they have been introduced to the holy spirit when things begins to crumble, no help coming from anywhere, who should they speak to? The Holy Spirit. They may be in pain and in sorrow but since they have the comforter, what will they notice? He can't fail in his assignment; he will comfort them.

Two men travelled who were Christians and they were missing no one knew their whereabouts, these were lovely men, all efforts to look for them was abortive, while

several brethren were sad and we prayed, what shocked me was that one of our elders told us, they were going to meet their wives to comfort them, but when they got there, it was their wives comforting those who came, the peace in them cannot be explained, the Holy spirit truly comforts. **It would be absolutely wrong for us to reduce him [the Holy Spirit] to just language. Holy Spirit is not just a gifting i.e. his definition is not in the gifts but rather in his person. He is comforter.**

He Glorifies Christ and reveals his Word;

Jesus said ...he will glorify me... ...he will not speak on his own, he will speak Only what he hears and he will tell you what is yet to come... (NIV)

The spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth. The spirit doesn't speak on its own, he will tell you what he has heard from me and he will let you know what is going to happen. The spirit will bring glory to me... John 16:13 (CEV)

For he will not speak his own message on his own authority but he will tell whatsoever he hears from the father, he will give the message that has been given to him and he will declare to you the things that are to come that will happen... (AMP)

So, the Holy Spirit is not doing something by himself, it's what he receives from the father. And do you think that when Jesus Christ was here, did he break his own fellowship with the father? No. do you think the Holy Spirit will break fellowship with the son? No, they are one. The Holy Spirit says to you what Jesus wants to tell you. The things that are revealed in the word is what the Holy Spirit talks to you about.

What the apostles were receiving as epistles in the New Testament was what Jesus was telling the Holy Spirit to tell them. As he [Jesus] was telling the spirit, the spirit

was telling them and they wrote it down, and because they are foundational apostles, it became the template for the church worldwide.

*No one can write us another bible; you can only go deeper in the scriptures already given to the body of Christ. The HOLY SPIRIT gave human authorities to the church and the authorities are the 12 apostles of Christ. ...**you are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets... Eph 2:20** to be built upon this foundation means; everything you do is from their bearing. Everything that happens must be from the bearing of what the apostles told us through the spirit as revealed in the Holy Bible.*

You can't claim to get something from the spirit that is outside the Bible. If there were no foundational apostles, anybody can say anything he likes, but thank God for apostles don't joke with what God said through the apostles and prophets of Old.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, any dimension of the spirit that is not glorifying Christ is not the spirit of God. When ministers begin to deal with quotes and symbols in the Spirit realm, without placing it on scriptures in light of the New Testament, and the finished work of Christ on the cross. This is dangerous.

If anybody claims he saw Jesus now, it is the Holy Spirit he saw...**for He shall reveal all things to you...** and whatsoever Holy Spirit reveals to you, it is He (Jesus) that is revealing it to you.

Whatever the Holy Spirit is doing is what the Father is doing in Christ , even if the lame man walks, if this is not for the glory of the father in Christ by the spirit that miracle is nothing,

Some people have now lifted up Angelic ministry above Christ and his person been revealed. Angels cannot dwell in us. Angels are called to be ministering spirit and you don't have to see them.

Don't let someone make it look big because he saw an angel because the focus of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ and make you grow in him, throughout your life, you may or may not see an angel but it does not deny that they are with us. The church goes into error when she gets away from focusing on Christ.

The center focus is Christ the son of God because that's the word that became flesh and became like us. So Holy Spirit points us back to the son **because he is the standard.** The Holy Spirit did not become flesh; he only came to dwell in our flesh so that we also can be like the son who came in the flesh and had the spirit dwelling in him.

The Holy Spirit is so concerned about the glory of Christ, therefore, *in learning to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, you must understand, that whatever you desire to do, if it is not for Christ's glorification, and the expansion of his kingdom, then it is nothing.*

If you see someone talking more about angels without pointing to the person of Jesus, such a person is gradually moving towards heresy **[NB. When you talk so much and so passionate about angels and their manifestation, you have officially sidelined the authority of the Godhead]**. Whichever angel is appearing to you that is making you talk more of them and you are leaving out Christ, is not a genuine experience [check all the epistles which apostle spoke at length about an angel as to sideline Christ. All through the scriptures, there is no deep meditation and explanation about angels all you see is just mentioning, for example: "an angel appeared". But when people begin to lay more emphasis about angels **[for an illustration: someone say when you are in the fourth level that's when you are dealing with angels, when you are in the sixth level that's when you are dealing with some high level ranking angels ...]**

This kind of statement is not biblically balance, you may be honest or have some experience, but making such emphasis is sincerely wrong. ***The early church stayed on the word [JESUS***

CHRIST], no wonder they shocked their world. Even Paul the Apostle said [by the help of the holy spirit]; *“I will not say anything, that the message of the cross is not belittled because if truly am speaking by his spirit, I must constantly point to Christ and him crucified and that the gospel is the message of salvation that brings everyone into righteousness from faith to faith. God forbid that I boast in anything lest in the cross of Christ’ (Galatians 6:14)’.*

All the father wants to communicate to you how he will do it? **Through the son by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said:**

Verse 15

...all that belongs to the father is mine that is why I said the spirit will take from What is mine and make it know to you... John 16:15 (NIV)

And how will the father make it known to you? I have set apostles in the church as foundational leaders. That is why the bible says the church continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and teaching (Acts 2:42). And what did the apostles teach? Christ.

Brother Paul who taught spiritual depths what was his focus? Christ. Christ is the end of all the message. If the lame is walking right now, who must be at the center of it? Christ. Once it is the man of God and his anointing, the Holy Spirit is no more there. There are some miracles that has led the body of Christ astray. Brother Peter once said; *...why are you looking on us as if by our own holiness we have made this lame man to walk (Acts 3:12)* ... lest the attention of people is diverted from Christ to anointing. The anointing must draw men’s attention to Christ.

BEHIND THE SCENE.

Everything in the Acts of the Apostles was through him [the Holy Spirit], when Apostle Peter rose up, in **ACTS 2** who was talking in him? The Holy Spirit, but did the bible say:

and the Spirit said? No. The Bible said ...and Peter said. You find a characteristic of **behind the scene** with the Holy Spirit. Do you know that the Bible clearly stated that God has a throne in heaven and Jesus is sitting at his right hand? Where is the seat of the Holy Spirit? He is always behind the scene glorifying the father and son. Each time the bible mentions the Holy Spirit, It's either he appears as a dove, or like fire, or like wind.

There is something called **emblem of the Holy Spirit** as revealed in the Bible, emblem means symbols associated with, so the emblem of the holy spirit includes *oil, *dove, *wind, *fire, *rain/water, *wine. Why is it that whenever we want to talk about the Holy Spirit, we have to make use of emblem [i.e. signs], can't he just show up. Emblems/symbols are used to describe what the Holy Spirit is like.

In the Old Testament, when the oil comes on a king, the Holy Spirit comes upon him most times when the Holy Spirit is being described, the phrase ***'like a'*** is usually included. Just like in the case of Jesus, John saw the spirit descending on him ***like a*** dove [NB. The bible didn't say a dove came on him].

And because of this description, people like Jehovah witnesses say he is not a person, they say he is a force. Due to this, **if we are not careful, we will be relating more with the power dimension of the Holy Spirit than the personality dimension.** Some Ministries believe that since you can't find his seat in heaven, since we can't know How he [the Holy Spirit] looks like then he is not a person. This is wrong.

When Jesus was describing him when he comes, Jesus said; he will not speak of himself, he will glorify me. It was Jesus that told us that he is a person.

You as a believer and a disciple must know that when you claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit you are not to be filled with something, the Holy Spirit is not something. Even Jesus did not tell his disciples to expect to speak in tongues in the book of **ACTS**,

he only asked them to wait for the promise of the father. ***So, the apostles were not looking for gifts, they were tarrying for a person [i.e. a personality]***. Error entered the church when we were not looking for the Holy Spirit as a person but we were looking for a force, a gift, an anointing. When you are no more concentrating on the person, you will lose the essence of His ministry.

One of the reasons why the Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood personality in the Godhead is because of his obscurity and **what is this obscurity?**

It means behind the scene.

At the wake of the early church, the holy spirit was active yet obscure, such that in **Acts 2:14** Peter the apostle began to quote copiously the book of Joel [someone who is an illiterate fisherman, how was he now able to quote scriptures copiously and yet he was not a Rabbi]. It would be understandable if it was Paul due to the fact that he was a lawyer, Looking also at Stephen before he died, in Acts 8 did you see how he went into a serious theological study and he brought out the word of God with power, so, who was bringing scriptures to their remembrance? **The Holy Spirit.**

...and Stephen opened his mouth. who gave Stephen utterance? **The Holy Spirit.**

Actually, the Holy Spirit does not like to be seen, less you miss the person of Christ because Christ came in flesh and blood, so the one people must relate with is the one who came in flesh and blood. Since Christ has ascended, who is now the flesh and blood? YOU and I! If he [Holy Spirit] comes to the fore front, the crucifixion will not be clear again, we will not value that Christ came in the flesh and dwelt among us, we will not be able to see the glory of the only begotten of the father.

The [Holy Spirit] must stay behind the scene for the son of God to be constantly seen, revealed and glorified, because until the word became flesh and dwelt among us, we

could not behold the glory of God full of grace and truth. The glory that is touchable, has to be made flesh (man). The glory that is relatable must be a glory that is in the human form, if the glory remains in the heavens, we wouldn't be able to touch it, in fact it won't be meaningful, and we won't understand it. No matter how God tries to tell us.

*Take a serious note of this powerful word: it was not recorded that the Holy Spirit has a throne yet he is active, busy, working, serving, representing, comforting, interceding, standby **BUT** he prefers your heart as the throne.*

GRIEVE NOT THE HOLYSPIRIT.

Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (KJV)

Do not make God's own completely good spirit sad, he is like a mark to show certainly that you belong to God, he shows God will make you completely free one day] (Easy English translation)

[do you see that this does not proof that once you are saved you are forever saved and you can live carelessly, because you see the word " God will make you completely free one day " in the easy English translation, is talking about rapture of the saints].

The Holy Spirit is the one that will keep you to that "one day" that is coming.

WHAT IS A SEAL? The Holy Spirit is our seal. A seal is what preserves from decay. The seal on any product gives you the assurance that the product is authentic. The bible says: ...he is the seal *unto* [i.e. the word unto means it has not come] the day of redemption. It is not just the death of Christ and resurrection of Christ that keeps a believer unto the day of redemption.

Resurrection of Christ signifies he's going to represent us, if he did not rise, he can't

represent you and I before God. In John 20:17, Even when Mary wanted to touch him after resurrection, he refused because he hasn't represented us yet but he told her to go to his brethren saying to them that he [Christ] goes to his father and their father. I am going there to show the proof of victory above sin and death, after the father sees this, there is no delay again to sending the Holy Spirit who is a representative and a part of the Godhead to abide in you.

The body of Christ have not yet touched the real essence of the Holy Spirit because we have simply reduced him to tongues. The essence of the spirit is first in his **being** abiding in you.

As **the Holy Spirit indwells believers by faith**, we move from mere human beings to spiritual beings in mortal flesh just like Christ. It is until the church comes to the knowledge and unity of this before God will close the age [despite the fact that several heroes and martyrs have been killed] yet God has not closed the age, because there is something God still wants to see on the earth.

Ephesians 3:7-10

Whereof I was made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power, unto me who am less than the least of all saint is this grace given that I should preach among the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ; to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church...

Another translation;

Verse 10: ***Then God will use the church to show the powers and authorities in the spiritual world that he has many different kinds of wisdom...***

Verse 9-10: And of making all people see how God's sacred plan is to be put into effect, God who is the creator of all things kept his secret hidden through all the past ages; in other that at the present time by means of the church, the angelic rulers and powers in the heavenly world may learn of his wisdom...***learn of his wisdom in all his different form, God did this according to his eternal purpose which he achieved through Jesus Christ.***

Imagine that principalities and powers would learn through believers the many-sided dimension of the wisdom of God. Why? Because the extension of the God-head has returned to the church. You can't learn God from mortal people, you can only learn God from God, and you cannot learn divine things from carnal people. So, when the Holy Spirit came, believers became injected with the DNA of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

HALLELUYAH!!!!!!

This purpose was achieved through Jesus bringing the Holy Spirit into the church [i.e. into you a believer], so that from us, the devil and all angelic rulers will be learning, the wisdom of God.

In Yoruba language ***aditu olorun ninu ta lo kosi?*** In believers. (The English interpretation is that, God kept his secrets in believers) *You, a believer is supposed to show the devil the way he ought to think because if he had thought that way, he would not lose his estate and you are to demonstrate to angels the power of the cross.*

Imagine, that you are the one that is now been manipulated by negative spirits. This

grieves the Holy Spirit.

Going back to Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. KJV.

The instruction is that: the person that has sealed you unto the day of redemption. Don't make him sad [i.e. don't break your seal]. The bible says that: *grieve not...* you can't grieve a force? You can only grieve a person, Holy Spirit also has emotion because Jesus has emotion and the father has emotion (but never are they ruled by their emotions),

So, it's not wrong for you to have emotion but don't misdirect your emotion. Your emotion is a gift from God, you need emotion to pray, you need emotion to heal the sick because emotion when it flows to heal the sick is called compassion and compassion and faith is a requirement for the healing virtue to flow out of you, our master Jesus always had compassion on the sick.

Grieve not the Holy Spirit, this is important in learning to be led by the spirit, you must be committed to pleasing him, another version says don't make the Holy Spirit sad. If the bible had stopped at grieve not the Holy Spirit probably it wouldn't have been much of an issue but *...that he is the seal (MARK OF OWNERSHIP)...* was attached to that scripture, that makes it a serious issue.

Take for instance: if you are asked not to go over there because there is a pit there, What will make "don't go there" a serious issue to you? The pit! Right? If it is just "don't go there", you can still ask why, but when it is said that there is a pit there, that pit make the instruction "don't go there" a serious matter.

When you don't know you are dealing with your seal, you can joke with 'grieve not' the Holy Spirit. You weren't asked to pray for the Holy Spirit to be your seal, he is already your seal for the final day but don't grieve him. The Holy Spirit in you is what qualifies you for rapture. If he lives in you, you are already qualified for rapture BUT DON'T GRIEVE HIM.

Don't forget that we are not dealing with when you are making mistakes because you are just growing up in the faith, your seal is called helper, He will help you, IF YOU RELY ON HIM. He is your seal and he will want to ensure that you get to heaven. The instruction here is don't grieve the Holy Spirit. There is a difference between you needing help [and that's why he is your helper] and making him; THE HOLY SPIRIT sad. What are the things that makes him sad should be your question? The bible says: he that is joined with a harlot is one body, he that is joined with the Lord is one spirit (**I Corinthians 6:16**) ... It is the Holy Spirit that makes you joined with the Lord.

What makes marriage between the Christ and the bride (you) possible? The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the seal that preserves the bride making her ready when the bridegroom comes in rapture to take the saints home.

*...don't make God's spirit sorrowful **because he is the mark of ownership.***

Ephesians 4:29-30

To understand verse 30 we must consider the preceding verse which is verse 29 and it's surprising to see what was said that grieves the Holy Spirit]. Look at it:

Let no corrupt [dirty, filthy talks, evil, unawesome, worthless, polluting]
communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use
of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (AMP)

The whole of verse 29 centered upon speech [i.e. your talking] although the word 'communication' is deeper than talking because one can communicate beyond words. Yet it was limited to the mouth because the scripture says: *...let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth.*

The Holy Spirit is grieved when a corrupt thing proceeds out of your mouth, When what you are saying is polluting, worthless, dirty, corrupt, filthy, evil, unwholesome, it grieves him, because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34). The Holy Spirit is inside you and you are saying something bad, evil and unwholesome, then it means, *you are misrepresenting him because your words reveal your spirit, and your words reveal what is inside you.*

Even in Joshua 1:8, God said to Joshua something related to the use of the mouth.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth....
(Joshua 1:8 KJV)

Speaking is important to God. I've found myself say some words and the spirit of the Lord says to me: *'I don't like that word'.*

When the spirit of God is grieved and he points your attention to it, you must quickly repent. *...let no corrupt word come out of your mouth... **because your speaking shows the kind of spirit you submit to.***

God wants you to speak because he also speaks? There is something about our words, even the bible says; a man shall give account of every idle word matt 12:36.

Satan intentionally is making the church to begin to corrupt the bible through comedy. The bible is sacred; God's word is sacred but it has become the tooth pick of comedians and they are invited to church gatherings, this is error. It's a strategy of

satan to grieve the Holy Spirit. Therefore, avoid speaking what's corrupt? Worthless, filthy, unwholesome, dirty, what does not edify [i.e. what does not build the church], does comedy build the church? No. you can make people laugh but avoid using words that does not edify, scripture says we should not make jest which are not convenient.

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

(Eph 5:4 KJV)

Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. Eph 5:4 NIV

You can laugh but there are jesting's that grieves the Holy Spirit, most times when a man talks too much there is a feeling of emptiness within, because **your words is a means by which virtue flows out of you**. The bible says the words of life are found in the tongue of the wise/the righteous ...*life and death is in the tongue (Proverbs 18:21)* ... *This means you can be killing yourself by your talking, you can release death into your own life by what you say because life and death is the power of the tongue but it depends on the side you choose to use.*

Therefore, **you must always consciously say things that agree with the word of God, when you begin to say things that don't agree with the word of God, you are grieving the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit waits always on what you say. Even demons too are waiting for you to say unedifying words so they could carry them out.

In Eph 4 Verse 31-32

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put

away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (kjb)

How did God forgive you? For Christ sake. I was forgiven because of what Christ did, so I must focus on Christ and not myself.

Stop been bitter [i.e. been angry with people easily, been mad at people] ...

Don't you see that when there is also lack of love in your heart, it grieves the Holy Spirit. Summarizing what grieves the Holy Spirit is;

1) What proceed out of your mouth [this deal with you personally]

Do not allow corrupt words, or unbelief, lies or exaggeration to proceed out of your mouth.

2) ***Do not become angry with people easily. Do not become so angry that you cannot be kind to them. Do not quarrel or fight. Do not shout at anyone or say bad things about them. Stop thinking bad things about anyone.***

An unbeliever cannot grieve the Holy Spirit because it's a believer that has the capacity to grieve [you can't grieve who you don't have]. ***Anyone who says bad things about ministers of God or leaders is grieving the Holy Spirit. It is better to do more of prayer than speaking ill of them.***

Whenever you grieve the Holy Spirit, He alerts you, when he alerts you, don't Postpone your repentance because that's your seal. No matter the amount of times you HAVE TO ADJUST YOUR SPEAKING, repent. When you grieve him, he corrects you, when he corrects you, repent immediately. If you don't repent, you are hardening your heart and you are not showing the sign that you have the Spirit of Christ in you which is the spirit of meekness, truth, and life.

You must constantly **yield to the Holy Spirit, the more you yield the more beautiful and wholesome your walk with the Holy Spirit will be.**

May the Lord grant you wisdom, because all of this is very important in your understanding as you choose to walk in the school of wisdom in learning to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE HEART AND MIND.

Your heart and your mind are the two most important places that determines the progress or mastery of your following the leading of the Holy Spirit. The heart and the mind are quite interwoven but they can be separated in understanding, and a proper understanding of the heart and the mind gives you a strong advantage in following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Now, let's look at it individually: looking at the following scriptures will help you understand the heart. The heart is the real you, your inner man, your spirit man. When God created man, he created him as a spirit. And that spirit is your heart and this is where the Holy Spirit wants to dwell. ***Simply put: Your heart is the spirit part of you that connects with God.***

When Adam was created, his spirit was inhabiting his body; don't forget that your soul is the realm of intellect, the realm of the mind, the realm of your emotion, and volition, it is the realm of your thinking but your spirit is your heart.

Look at the following scriptures to see how the bible refer to the heart and mind:

Gen 24:45, Deut 6:5, Matt 5:8, 28, Neh 4:6, Isaiah 26:3, Ezek 11:5, Matt 22:37, Mark 14:72, Acts 17:11.

The bible uses the heart and the mind interchangeably because until whatever the heart has processed enters the mind, understanding cannot be said to be fruitful. There is a strong cord and connection between the heart and the mind.

You find the scripture mentioning heart when in actual fact, it is referring to the mind

and you will also find scripture referring to the mind when it is actually referring to the heart. At the same time, there are instances where it is separated. When you meditate deeply on the scriptures written above, you will see the cruciality of the heart and you may also take note of the interconnectivity of the heart and the mind. As you study the scriptures, the scriptures are replete with the importance of your heart but looking deeply at 1 peter 3:4, you will take note that the word used is the hidden man of the heart and Ephesian 3:16 used the word, the inner man.

THE HEART means: The inner man, the hidden man, your spirit. Everyone born into this world is born with a corrupted heart, a corrupted inner man, depraved and un-regenerated and such a heart cannot hear God nor follow his Spirit.

If you don't have a definite experience of being born again you will have problem in the school of learning how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

When a man is born again, he will find out that as the scripture says: he will have a new heart.

Ezekiel 36:26, the LORD says:

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you..."

This scripture is fulfilled in us who received Christ and this is what enabled the Holy Spirit to dwell in all genuine believers. Now your heart or your inner man has the following component; which is what makes up your heart, this was clearly stated by

Watchman nee. ***Your heart comprises of the following:***

- ***Your conscience***
- ***Your intuition and***
- ***Inner witness.***

This is what your heart (your spirit) contains. Pay serious attention to this;

THE CONSCIENCE:

Everyone is born with a conscience. Before you received Christ Jesus as Lord you had a conscience. Your conscience is like the police man that judges, pointing you to what is right or wrong. It is a strong and deep feeling of rightness or wrongness. The conscience, whether man is born again or not, is God's way of pointing mankind to what is wrong or right.

Now let's consider the following scriptures, so that you can know the importance of conscience.

And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

(Joh 8:9)

And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

(Act 23:1)

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

(Act 24:16)

You cannot claim to be born again, and think your conscience is useless although this has to do with knowledge because a conscience can either be;

- strong,
- weak and
- seared.

People with strong conscience are those who as a result of their proper understanding in the word of God have ability to judge what is right and what is wrong, while those with weak conscience are those who as a result of improper understanding of the word of God have their conscience calling what is right, wrong and calling what is wrong, right. Those with seared conscience are those who have embolden themselves to do wrong and evil, their heart is hardened. Your conscience is so powerful in the issue of the leading of the spirit because it forms the first component of your inner man.

INTUITION:

Intuition is that part of your inner man that deals with sensing or sensitivity. It is the part that possesses a knowing without an information coming from external source. The intuition is the sensitivity part. The knowledge that comes through intuition is called **intuitive knowledge**. In the book of Acts chapter 27, Paul was on a voyage to Rome and they had a challenge that distorted and made their journey difficult.

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.

(Act 27:10)

Paul used the word; **I perceive**; this is a knowing that something will take place, or will happen or sometimes that something has happened, this knowing is without an information from external source. **This kind of knowledge is called intuitive knowledge**. It's a knowledge from your inner man where the Holy Spirit dwells. This is

what makes you to agree with the word of God when you listen to it. You just know that what you are hearing is the truth. You need this understanding when it comes to following the leading of the Holy Spirit, all of this will be explained deeper later. Now, for the fact that we are separating conscience, intuition, inner witness does not say they work in isolation, they actually work in agreement. Whatever knowledge you get through intuition, your conscience will judge whether it is right or wrong and your inner witness will give you the strong assurance to go for it.

INNER WITNESS.

When it comes to the inner witness, the word 'witness' is to testify in order to ascertain a fact. When people are in the court of law and they want to establish a fact as the truth, they need a witness. If something takes a person to court, whatever case it is, the judge will not treat it as a truth; until there are witnesses, The witnessing legislates or legalizes or brings authority on a fact, so that it can be accepted as a reality.

Now the inner witness is the part of your spirit that testifies and brings to bear an assurance on a matter, this assurance settles and makes a strong impression with conviction in your heart about a matter. For example, in Romans 8:16 the bible says;

The spirit bearth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

The Holy Spirit testifies, agrees, brings to bear an assurance **WITH**, take note of the word '**with**' not just in our spirit BUT WITH OUR SPIRIT, this means this witness is the agreement between the holy spirit and your own spirit that you are a child of God. That assurance is what is called witness, and it's inner. You can't explain it in physical terms; it's an inner conviction, it's an inner boldness, an inner assurance of the reality of things in the spirit. This is what makes up your heart, your spirit.

We will go deeply now into how the Holy Spirit uses these three components to lead you, because that is practically what he is going to be using, 99 percent of the time, it is these three components that the Holy Spirit uses to communicate anything to you. They are interwoven but the final end point of all the activities of your inner man must end by the approval of the inner witness, the inner assurance; when it has gone through the passage way of conscience, intuition [knowledge], it must now receive the stamp and the approval of your inner witness. Now, let's go to the mind.

THE MIND

This is so crucial and very important because if whatever is in your spirit will find proper expression in the physical it has to pass through the gateway of your mind. The goal and the importance of following the leading of the Holy Spirit is not about you receiving things in your spirit and they stay in your spirit. The goal of this book is to teach you by the help of God so that everything that is found in your spirit must receive practical expression in the physical.

The agency to translate that which is in your spirit into that which is physical is your soul and your mind is in your soul. The soul of man is the realm of *emotion, affection and decision*. Your mind is the place of understanding, whatever is received in your spirit as knowledge {Intuition} must come to your mind as understanding for action to follow; You don't have capacity to carry out the knowledge you do not understand. ***That's why until the mind is constantly renewed; you cannot follow the leading Holy Spirit.***

Some persons who claim to have spent 5 years or more as a Christian yet uses statement like; I am confused and I don't know what to do, this is because ***until you learn the dynamics of the mind you will have problem in following the leading of the***

Holy spirit. Take note that there is something called mindset, and according to Scripture you must always set your mind on the word of God because the mind is a thinking place.

Biblical terms at times may not be expressed the same as with biological terms. For example, in biology you use your brain to think but biblically man does not just use the brain to think; actually, man uses the mind. The brain can help to store what you are thinking; it's not the brain that is thinking. The brain is the store room; its stores whatever has been concluded in the mind as understanding and it's from there remembrance is activated.

It is whatever has been processed into understanding that can be expressed as action.

For anyone to think your mind is not important in listening to the Lord, such person has missed a pivotal point.

Let's look at Romans 12:2

"...but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

According to this scripture, if you don't renew your mind to the point that it is well positioned, in a way that it readily opens up to what the spirit is bringing, there will be confusion because there will be no understanding and the only way to properly position your mind in order for it to receive information from your spirit is to constantly renew it with the word of God.

To constantly renew your mind with the word of God is an intentional and deliberate decision; that's why the greatest effort of the devil is against your mind. Carnality is measured by the state of your mind, as well as spirituality, according to scriptures:

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and

peace.

(Rom 8:5-6)

Your mindset is too important when it comes to walking with the Lord, ***the mind of man is what the devil targets, that's why satan uses entertainment to focus on your mind so that your mind does not focus on the spirit. You will continually find it hard to hear the Lord in your spirit once you are a lover of entertainment.***

You can fast from now till eternity, once your mind loves entertainment you cannot successfully position your mind to hear from the Lord because the mind is a place of pictures; what you see and what you hear is important to your soul as well as your spirit;

Your mind is a place you must jealously guide and guard; your mind is like a farm land; if you do nothing on a farm land, if you don't cultivate it and intentionally choose what to plant on that farm land; that farm land has capacity to grow something by itself and that thing your mind grows is called weeds [unwanted plants]

If you leave your mind for 2 minutes, it will practically pick something by itself to think on, without you influencing it, there would be thoughts that will just start up. Satan labors on the media industry, so as to constantly engage your mind with negative things.

Take note of what satellite cable networks are doing. 24/7 your mind is engaged; there was no 24hours 7 days' satellite Tv broadcast before and this has enabled people to sleep in the night but now you can wake up any particular time of the day, and there would be something on the screen waiting to engage your mind. This is one of the most successful strategy of the devil to make people become less spiritual and more confused in the journey of life; and until you make a deliberate

decision on what you do with your mind then forget a successful journey in following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Your mind is like a ground that both God and the devil are contending for; ***every notable invention today in Science, Philosophy, and Art is a function of the mind.***

The mind is like a goldmine that God and the devil wants to take charge of

You must pay attention to Romans 12:1-2, your mind is practically renewed when you choose to think on the word of God

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

(Phillipians 4:8)

Until you make a major decision on getting rid of distracting images and sounds; then get ready for a continual life of struggling when it comes to discovering the will of God, Your mind can also be likened to a satellite dish; there is an angle of positioning to get a particular satellite station when you have a satellite dish, once the dish shifts away from correct angle, you cannot receive correct signal; that is the way the mind is; until you position your mind properly by the word of God to the frequency of the spirit, you cannot learn to follow the leading of the Holy spirit and this will lead you to making mistakes or errors.

Some of the mistakes and errors made as a result of not following the leading of the Holy Spirit are costly and regrettable.

Therefore, your heart and mind is important in following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Please Lay this to heart.

CHAPTER SIX

THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

As we come to this point, it is important that we revisit and have an overview of the pre-requisite that makes a person to grow in his understanding and assurance of the leading of the Holy Spirit. The most critical and the most important among these, is the resolve of the heart to live a life that totally pleases God.

A person who wants to live for self and who does not have Galatians 2:20, as a principle of life which says **‘it is no longer I that live but Christ that lives in me’** if living is not for the glorification of Christ and the purpose of God, then asking for divine direction is useless.

God does not lead rebels, the meek will the Lord show his way. God is not interested in leading a person who will not bring glory to his name. For example, people are seeking for divine direction about who to marry, the date of their wedding, a job, and many other things that deals with their own self-interest. People spend days in fasting and praying just because they want to choose who to marry.

Let us settle this fact and settle it again that the day you became born again, the word of God says;

‘You are bought with a price therefore glorify Christ (I Corinthians 6:20).

Your life must be totally yielded to God with a resolve that nothing else will be done with your life that does not glorify God. When the Holy Spirit takes note of this commitment, you will enjoy divine direction effortlessly.

It is not the joy of the heart of our heavenly father to see you as his child struggling with what to do, or how to go about your affairs in life. I tell you the truth that

following divine direction is the only antidote to end all forms of frustration. There are too many people who struggle, because lack of divine direction. [A singer once said; *how can you walk when you don't know the ways of the spirit...*]

I tell you that you cannot know the ways of the spirit except you have first totally yielded your life for the glory and kingdom of God and for the will of your heavenly father to prevail totally.

Jesus said: ***Our father in heaven.... your will be done on earth as it is heaven***

He based his prayer on the platform of relationship, 'Our father who hath in heaven' (Matthew 6:9).

A growing understanding of the fatherhood of God is also important in your enjoying the leading of the spirit. That brings us afresh to the point that, you must come to a knowledge and understanding that God is not just God but your father.

The way an earthly father is willing to help, instruct, guide, guard and protect his children, God is much more. The way an earthly father cares, provides, shelters his own children, God is much more willing to do that. This must become your assurance. God's commitment to you as a father is so much weightier, and that should rule and guide your experiences. Each time you face any challenging situation and you seem to be confused not knowing what to do, remember the Holy Spirit who is the father in you is much more willing to help you, therefore, in any challenging situation learn to say words like this:

I cannot be confused, the father is in me, Christ is me, in the person of the Holy Spirit, I receive light and direction to this situation and I receive grace to follow divine direction in Jesus name. Amen

God's commitment to you far supersedes your commitment to him. When you take a

step towards him, he takes several thousand steps towards you. That is why you must be committed to obeying him in order to enjoy the magnificence of his commitment to you as a father. Therefore, throw away fear, and uncertainty; commit your heart afresh, plug in into this reality that God is your father. Hallelujah you are not fatherless, you are not alone.

I KNOW MY SHEEP

When I began to learn to walk with the Lord it started on a street in Lagos close to a football field, it was amazing for me to discover that the Holy Spirit speaks, at that time I was so young in the faith, it thrilled me.

One of the scriptures that helped me in learning to hear the Holy Spirit in my spirit is;

In John chapter 10:2-15 Jesus said:

Please take note of all underlined words

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers....

.... I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

(Joh 10:2-15)

Look at verse 4 and 5 from the NIV translation

When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

But they will never follow a stranger, in fact, they will run away from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

When Jesus Christ the truth speaks, all you should do is believe and obey and you will enjoy the result. But when you try to question God or try to use your natural reasoning to reason out God, you will miss the power of the word of God.

The first thing training I received in learning to obey the Lord and following divine leadings, was that I must first accept what the word of God says all the time.

Jesus clearly said my sheep knows my voice. When the word of God says since am his sheep, I know His voice, I don't doubt by saying but I don't know how to hear the voice of the Lord, I refuse to say that again.

This was the foundation that have helped me in following divine leadings, if you keep saying I don't know how to hear the Lord, that confession of yours will soon become an experience because you shall see what you say and believe.

My sheep knows my voice and He said the voice of the stranger will they not follow. Another thing I saw is, as a sheep to Jesus He has put in me the capacity to recognize the voice of the stranger in order not to follow, mine is to believe that what He said is true and the truth.

The moment you begin to say is it my mind, is it my heart, hope it is not the devil speaking to me? All these are languages of confusion. Decide to believe what God says *The voice of the stranger will they not follow.* Do you know why they will not follow it? They are his sheep. Until you are a sheep and you know for sure that you are a sheep, then you cannot enjoy divine leading, *to be His sheep is to be His*

disciple, you know a sheep is essentially a follower of the shepherd. You are not just a sheep by name; you must follow the shepherd.

Difference between Sheep and Goats.

Goats roam about on their own, without a shepherd. I have usually found goats moving on their own; they look for food on their own and return home but most of the time I find always, a shepherd leading the sheep.

In application, the goat attitude is a feeling and an understanding that you are capable of leading yourself, you are capable of working things out, you are capable of planning things; your energy can carry you, your certificate can place you while your connections can locate you, you would have placed calls to men before you call on God, all these are goatly attitude.

A sheep follows a shepherd, that why the bible talks so much about Jesus being a shepherd, because shepherd knows the language of the sheep, the need of the sheep, where to direct the sheep. That's why you hear some people using the statement "I follow sheepishly". Sheepishly is to follow the shepherd with a total unreserved commitment; a total submission that only the shepherd knows the way,

Psalms 23 is a very powerful scripture that explains this point, study it for your understanding.

A sheep that follows the shepherd does not lack, a sheep that follows the shepherd will always lie down in green pasture, and he enjoys the leading of the shepherd. Totally resolve this in your heart that are you a sheep willing to follow anywhere? When you choose to follow, you will always find yourself at the center of God's will consciously and unconsciously because of your total resolve to follow Him.

THE DIFFERENT WAYS BY WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS

Understanding the way, the spirit leads is important for your consistent enjoyment of the benefits that are allotted to a man or woman that follows the Lord. Take note that the Spirit of God is a teacher and He is a comforter, it is His duty to lead; you don't need to beg the Holy Spirit to lead you, He is always willing to lead. It is one of the privileges of redemption. So, your assurance that He is always willing and ever ready to lead you must also be strong, you must not have the feeling that the Holy Spirit is reluctant to lead you until you beg.

Take note that when you come before the Lord for divine direction, it is a show of your humility; it is a show of your dependency! It not a work as to convince a reluctant father. With this I found out that before I ask God of what to do, The Holy Spirit has already spoken to me, and I make bold to say that I've been walking with the Lord for more than two decades and I have found joy and rest in His leading, too numerous to count.

There are two ways by which the Lord leads His children, the first is an external way, it is not a regular way, or pattern, it is a very scarce pattern, except for instances where he needed to do it to conquer the unwillingness and the reluctance of His children to further prove a point that appeals to their natural senses. It involve the followings;

- **Audible voice.**
- **Angelic appearances.**
- **The show of signs and symbols.**

This is what appeals to the natural senses, and because it appeals to the natural senses, men love it. Though these external means can also be manipulated by the

devil. Before the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit was not dwelling in anybody so God speaks through these external means almost regularly in the Old Testament.

All these were legitimate only before the cross happened. After Jesus died and rose and the Holy Spirit was given to believers, these external means became more scarce, not that it didn't occur at all but it became more scarce

AUDIBLE VOICE, ANGELIC APPEARANCES, SIGNS AND SYMBOLS.

Audible voice is when you hear a voice like you hear with your natural ear, it's been the way God sometimes speaks to doubters and hardened hearts, it's a means by which some unbelievers in other religion has come to the saving knowledge of Christ.

Talking of Angelic appearance, like in the case of Cornelius Acts 10:1-7. God sends angels to men to pass special messages, angels have specific roles to play on earth and in the lives of believers, they are called Ministering spirits (Heb 1:13-14), we may see or not see them but they work with us.

But a point of caution: The bible confirms that the devil himself can pretend as an angel of light and can come to show you a revelation.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
(2Co 11:14)

Many people go for long fasting and prayers, and as they do this their focus is on

Audible voices and angels as well as asking God for a sign or symbol to proof if God is the one leading them all these are external leadings and can be easily manipulated by the devil.

Take note that when we look for the spectacular, we may miss the supernatural.

Don't get me wrong, God can still speak audibly, angels still appear to people, these external leadings still happens in lands and nations where the gospel have no wider coverage, where Christianity and the word of God are not deeply rooted; in strange Islamic lands and all other idolatry lands the Lord still do these things and they are legitimate and biblical but they are quit a soft ground for the enemy also.

A child of God must not look for these external means. God in His sovereignty can choose to guide you in any of the spectacular ways. But when you look for these spectacular signs and means, you may end up being manipulated by the devil and that's why it is a very soft ground. **You must not fast and pray to hear audible voice, or to see an angel. Angelic appearance is not the goal of the New Testament, the goal of the New Testament is to WALK BY FAITH HEB 11:6, be conformed into the image of Christ Jesus and to be the point of expression of the purpose of God on the earth.**

Angels will assist us because that is their duty; we may and may not see them. We find angels appearing in the New Testament but in very few instances though their ministry is very effective, but we find much more that it was the Holy Spirit that took over in speaking with the apostles and in directing them.

When you see a sign and you know it is not natural like the case of the handwriting on the wall in the bible that Daniel interpreted, like in the case of the sun standing for Joshua in the bible and some other cases. **Signs and symbols are the ways which God**

works or proves Himself to someone who has not learned to hear God from his inside. Actually, these means are for children in the faith (babes in the faith), so for those just growing these are means which God speaks to them. Others might have thought that hearing audible voices is a great sign of spirituality, NO! The reason why Jesus appeared to Paul on the way to Damascus is because Paul had no capacity to hear Him from the inside so He had to appear, it is not a great thing to say Jesus appeared to you... *for Jesus to say to Thomas,*

“Because you see me you believe, I tell you, they are more blessed who do not see but believe.” (John 20:29)

To Christ, when you believe because you see, it is still a level of a babe in this journey of faith, but when you have capacity to believe without seeing like father Abraham you are really blessed and more appreciable to the Lord. So, when people appeal to experiences as a point to validate their conviction, it is still a method or a platform for babes, it can help people to believe just because they have not learned the ways of the spirit, so it is correct and legitimate because it is for growing ones and it is always a means to bring us to the point where we walk as those who see the invisible.

The second means by which God leads His children is the ***internal means***, that is, from within. When Christ died and rose from the dead, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within. Therefore, where the legitimate and authentic leading of the spirit comes from, is from WITHIN YOU.

God wants to speak to you from your inner man. **The Holy Spirit wants to engage you from your inside and not your outside, for His goal is, *I will dwell in them.*** He wants to dwell in us, it is His joy to dwell in us, and so where He leads us from is from within us which is the legitimate and authentic way by which God leads His children in the New Testament. He said ***I will write my laws in their hearts (Heb 10:16)***, so

God wants to speak, engage you, direct you and lead you from your within. When this understanding is in you, it is a sign of spiritual growth. Even in this we need to understand how the Lord does it.

A. HE LEADS BY HIS WORD.

The most important and the first place to start is this: The Lord leads by His word (bible). The word of God which is the bible is not just an ordinary book. The bible is more than a geography book, historical book, and psychological book. The bible is the heart of God to mankind, and **until your value for the scriptures increases, you can never enjoy the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

To look for another foundational way by which the Holy Spirit leads apart from the word of God is to be chasing the wind. Time has come for you to put a very serious value on the bible and that will affect your attitude in reading, studying, and meditating on the word of God.

The word of God is the surest way to every other leading, whatever leading you claim to have received that is not judged base on the word of God is not reliable. For the word of God has been tried and has been found to be authentic, strong, dependable and reliable.

All scripture is given by the inspiration of the God and is suitable for instruction...
(2Timothy 3vs16),

If you want to be instructed, on all matters, you must be addicted to scriptures because that is where the Holy Spirit broods on. The scripture is the product of God's inspiration. **When you are studying the bible you are coming face to face with the inspiration of God, there is no better way to be led than to have strong conviction on the word of God** because when you have a growing readiness to always obey the

word of God, you are sharpening and fine-tuning your capacity to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Delayed obedience is a very serious obstruction to growing in following divine direction. Sluggishness and slackness in obeying the word of God at face value is a very serious hindrance to following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

How do you then study God's word?

Daily reading and meditation of the word of God through early morning quiet time. Learning to follow the leading of Holy Spirit is a journey, the first level is as you read and study the word of God.

If you neglect your daily quiet time, you have many years of frustration and confusion waiting ahead. So, as you spend time in your quiet time to regularly study, you will find out that growth is inevitable, because the Holy Spirit dwells in you at salvation when you receive Christ; He is within you to guide, to teach and to instruct. One of the first things you notice is that as you study the word of God, the Holy Spirit begins to make certain impressions of scriptures upon your heart, therefore, don't ignore scriptural impression in your heart. A scriptural impression is a scripture that stays on your mind or keeps coming back to your heart and mind. That is why you must read the bible patiently, slowly and with focus, as you do this believe for that scripture that will be impressed on your heart and mind.

THOUGHTS IN YOUR MIND.

This is a very important aspect of following divine leading. One thing you should know is that God speaks to you through your thought and many people have ignored their thoughts. Look at this scripture the Lord said;

...the thought I think towards you is of peace and not of evil to give you an expected end. (Jeremiah 29:11).

God thinks, God has thoughts and he communicates his own thoughts into our thought; the same way the devil also wants to release his own thoughts into our thoughts which are thoughts of evil; [that's what the bible says], if there are thoughts of evil there are also good and peaceful thoughts [i.e. God's thoughts].

God wants to bring into your mind his thoughts, his intentions. They come to you like a thought, the same way you think on other things, certain thoughts just come like that into your mind and you say what kind of thought is this. The same way if you practice daily and exercise yourself in daily quiet time of worship, praises, scriptural reading and meditation, that's how Godly, spiritual, spirit led thoughts will arise from your heart.

This has been my practice for over several years now and I found out that God is willing to regularly impress scriptural thoughts into your mind, when these impressions are made you will find a particular verse of scripture that is strong in your heart, it keeps occurring and reoccurring in your mind **[that is the Holy spirit]**, pause and listen to your thought (Especially when you worship and praise the Lord and when you pray in tongues). As this impression is made, seek for guidance from leaders, elders and disciplers or those who have walked with the Lord in experience more than you are; you have begun your experience in the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Do not ignore scriptural impressions that do not leave your mind

Take for instance if, you are seeking the will of God concerning two jobs; or admission into two schools. You know naturally there is the school you like to go or there is what you love to do, but as a sheep you must learn to drop everything you love and like, surrender to the Lord, be willing to submit your interest so as to enjoy God's

leading. Am not saying you will remove the reality that you like something but you must be willing to submit it, for that is the platform to enjoy divine leading because if you don't submit your interest and what you like, you are likely to follow what you want.

In practical terms to know which direction to turn to, if you are praying to God between going to the University of Ibadan or Obafemi Awolowo University, you know already that Obafemi Awolowo University is not in the bible neither is UI, how do you know which one to go? You must spend more time to *pray by worshipping, singing, and ministering to the Lord in praises and psalms*, then the impression of God's thoughts becomes stronger in your thought and it does not quickly leave your mind and heart, sometimes, it's a verse of scripture. Don't forget that the Holy Spirit is willing to lead you aright DO NOT BE AFRAID.

HOW GOD DEALT WITH MY FEAR.

As I grew in the faith, I had a quiet fear that what if I miss the leading of the Lord especially in the decision of who to marry, I was afraid because I heard stories of those who missed divine direction and how they suffered, fear was always around my mind, later I discovered that what I fear will surely come upon me, as fear is a weapon in the hands of the devil to get me confused on divine direction. Then a light broke out in my heart from the following scriptures:

The book of psalms 37: 5 says;

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
(Psa 37:5)

This is a powerful scripture that will never grow old; God's word cannot lie, if you commit your way unto the Lord, he will direct it. If You are not able to know exactly what to do like in the case of choosing between two universities for admission, commit both before the Lord, be honest, be willing to go anywhere he leads, the more you commit it watch out the impression that comes strongly upon your heart. That's why you need quietness to hear the Lord from your inside to fine tune accuracy.

A man who is not quiet cannot hear the spirit of God, he/she cannot hear the impressions of the spirit; being quiet is important and that's why Jesus will always seek for quiet places, lonely place to pray because he knew the importance of quietness; practice quietness, practice retreat, practice going away from noise so that you can hear him.

I remember during my college days I will leave the campus on different weekends at a time to go to a quiet place to pray, worship, study the bible and spiritual books, a desire was burning in me I wanted to learn to hear from God. I tell you that was how I learnt strong impressions on the heart, the understanding of my mind was enlightened by the Holy Spirit through the word.

If you do not discipline yourself in isolating yourself to a place to worship, prayer, study the word of God and to fast you cannot be acquainted in hearing from the spirit of the Lord.

As times goes on with your walk with God, you will be able to hear him even in the midst of noises because you would have learnt to be quiet in your inside despite external noises.

This was how God dealt with my fear, let me share another one that blessed me and gave me assurance.

In the book of proverbs 3:5-6, the bible says;

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

(Pro 3:5-6)

... Trust in the lord with all your heart... ...and lean not on your own understanding...

*[Don't rely only on your plans]....in all your ways acknowledge him and **he shall direct...***

when you trust in him with all your heart and you don't lean on your wisdom [claiming this is better than that] and you throw it open before him, the Bible says; he [it is the Lord's responsibility and he does not fail in it] will direct your part;

I have enjoyed this in all my years. He leads, he guides, he plans, he orchestrates Hallelujah, am humbled by how the Lord has led me over the years, and nothing has failed.

Where I have not seen answers to my prayer I just commit myself to the divine plan of God.

This issue of committing your ways unto the lord for him to direct your part is very powerful and I've witnessed that almost all my life.

There was a time when I was to move from where I was staying in the missionary house and I needed a larger space because at that time my wife was pregnant with our first child and we needed a place to stay [an accommodation]. I prayed to God with no money in my hand, I told God this place cannot be suitable for us anymore, Lord we need a place. Having commit, myself into the hands of the Lord, with no dime in my pocket I stepped out by faith looking for accommodation and I was willing to tell the landlord of whatever house I was going to see that the landlord will have to wait till I can get the money to pay. [I was ready to do that] because I was not looking for accommodation for self but for the glory of God.

*It was amazing, as I pass in front of a house, it was **strongly impressed** upon my heart, it came almost unconsciously as a thought to go to that house and there was no sign in front of the house for a vacant apartment.*

*In this area, several other houses had the vacancy but it was impressed strongly upon my heart not audible voice, not inner voice; it was just a strong thought [impression] to go to the house where there was no vacancy sign. I went to the house and a woman was there and I asked; is there any space here. You know on a normal day if there is space, they will put "TO LET" outside. But there was no symbol but this was by divine impression: **having committed my way into the hands of the Lord.***

It was amazing to see that in that house there was a vacant three-bedroom flat while I was looking for one room. When I asked; 'is there a space here'. The first response of the woman was there is no space, she later said but I think there is a space.

*She showed me the landlady of the house; the landlady took me to the place and when I entered this three-bedroom flat, it's a very old house [at that time it's been built for close to about 30 years] but a very good place [that was the first abode that God gave to me]. When I entered, this time I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit [which we will dealt with later]: **"this is the place"**. The first thing I told the Lord was that I cannot rent this place; I don't have the money but the Lord said clearly; **'this is the place'**. Take note, I got an impression first, before the voice of the spirit, because I committed my way unto the Lord, when I left that place, I went looking for houses everywhere until I came back there, why? The impression never left.*

The word of God is powerful; it is good to start your reading and study from the New Testament [from the book of Gospel of John] so that you can be much more familiar with the ministry of Christ by revelation, when you have done this, you can now begin to pick the old Testament and begin to study and each time you are studying call on the Holy Spirit because when you speak, he hears. Say something like this:

Holy Spirit as I am about to study my bible, I open my heart to you for your thoughts; communicate your intentions [the intentions of the father] for my life, to my heart, for my journey. I thank you because you are faithful to do this, in Jesus name. When you make that statement out of faith, he does it, he has never failed, you must believe.

Watch out for impressions of scriptures that are impressed on your mind through any scriptural verses; as you stay on that impressed scriptural verse, that is God speaking to you [write it down].

Write down impressions in your heart:

The word of God is so powerful that the Holy Spirit wants to constantly engage you on it and no matter how you have grown in your walk with God, the word of God remains the authentic means by which God leads his children; you must believe it, you must obey it, you must meditate on it, you must speak it, you must follow it with total commitment, you must write it down.

Writing down impression of the spirit in your heart of certain scriptural verses is an unquestionable way to remain fresh because what you write down and you revisit, you don't forget. When you now commit yourself to obeying it, it becomes life, *this is a sure way.*

B. INNER WITNESS OR INNER KNOWING.

The second part is what is called **inner witness or inner knowing**. The term 'inner Witness' is a language first used and that many people became familiar with from the book written by Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin, which is also a very powerful material for anyone to read; it will further help your understanding. The title of the book is '**HOW TO BE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD**'. I advise you get a copy.

Inner witness has to do with an inner knowing, a knowing deep down within your heart. It comes with an assurance; it comes with peace not a feeling but an inner rest. It's not a peace you feel; it's a rest within you, you don't necessarily have to feel it. It's agreed upon and it's corroborated with the scripture in Romans 8:16 that says; *...the spirit beareth witness our spirit that we are children of God.*

You cannot explain how you know you are a child of God except there is an inner assurance [a knowing]; you just know deep down in your heart that you know that you know what you know. It comes with an assurance, it comes with confidence, it comes with an internal assurance and that was also how I got my wife.

Even after the Lord leads you with an impression upon your heart deep down, most of the time he corroborates it with an inner witness, an inner assurance, a knowing [you just know]. Even when the Holy Spirit speaks to you, the assurance must be there, in fact this is the primary way according to Kenneth E. Hagin by which God leads his children because that's the way by which you are sure that you are a child of God, that's also the way by which God wants to do every other thing with you, you just know like Adam knew Eve and he said this is the bone of my bone, no explanation from anybody [it's just a knowing].

You can't explain how you know; this is where your intuition comes to play and your conscience agrees with it. Remember we discussed this in chapter five. You just know that you know, it does not come with arrogance, it comes with rest and peace. Such that you can relax, you can believe and walk into it effortlessly.

This inner witness is also developed you as you practice your quiet time, daily regular consistent quiet time, it's too important. The experience of Peter in the case of Ananias and Saphira; you will find out that nobody spoke to Peter and it was not recorded that the Holy spirit spoke to Peter by saying they're lying but it was a

knowing and that was why brother peter started with a question.

The way apostle Peter responded in the book of Acts chapter 5; if you read from verse 1; he spoke directly with the inner witness [a knowing], most of the time the voice of the holy spirit goes along with the inner witness [a knowing, an assurance] in your heart..

Discernment is a form of knowing that works with inner witness [you just know and you can't explain how you know], it's an internal knowledge, it's an information released into your spirit by the holy spirit; a knowledge, it just comes in; it comes with assurance, it comes with a peace and you know this is what the Lord wants you to do. This inner witness is what you grow in, you expand and increase in that capacity as you observe your daily quiet time and as you practice listening to your inner man because the spirit also bears witness, that's why the inner witness works with the holy Spirit, you need to exercise yourself unto spirituality, don't store Nollywood, or hollywood etc pollutions into your heart, it is practice that makes perfection and it is practice that creates mastery.

Sometimes, it's the issue of a house, a job, a business, admission, who to marry; when you have exercised yourself in studying the bible, praying, fasting, worshipping the Lord as a lifestyle and praying in tongues, you just know that you know that: this is the way.

As you practice obedience to the word of God, you are fine tuning your ability to know beyond all reasonable doubt, what the Lord wants you to do. There are no dates in the bible [i.e. dates to do things], there are no modern cities today in the bible [e.g. am I to go to Ibadan or am I to go to kano or south Africa to dwell there] there is no kano in the bible; this is where inner witness comes to play [you just know it's Ibadan or you just know it's kano].

You can't explain how you know; you just know and it comes by growth. This is a legitimate way because he dwells in you, the Holy Spirit will just give you an assurance and rest.

THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The other one is the **voice of the Spirit**, Kenneth E. Hagin called it inner voice or authoritative voice of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is in your spirit when you received Christ. You only need to grow to learn to identify that voice within you. The Holy Spirit speaks intelligible words to you just like you are reading this material. It's beyond a knowing, it's a voice, speaking. It's not audible, it looks like your heart talking, and your inner man talking for it has a voice. But this has to do with the Holy Spirit speaking and carrying a conversation with you from your inner man, this is so beautiful.

Sometimes the voice might look like the voice of someone you know, the voice of a minister of God you listen to as you grow, you will identify it much more.

I have found the Lord speaking to me from my inside with the inner voice on many issues of life.

*Let me sight an instance, on the issue of my admission into the university, I got admission into **Ekiti state university, Ekiti state, south west Nigeria**, through the inner voice. The Holy Spirit spoke to me in a Christian gathering while a sister was sharing her testimony [who is also a graduate of that university], she was sharing about her encounters and experiences in that university; while she was sharing, the Holy Spirit spoke to me through inner voice; **that is the next school you will go.***

My first admission into the college of education was through divine providence, I don't know much then, I just committed my way to the Lord and he directed my path but as

I finished studying in the college of education and I was to go on with direct entry into the university in order to further my studies; this now didn't come by unconscious guidance, it came by the voice of the spirit He said: that is the next school you will go to. I did not bother wasting my time, I applied for that school and by supernatural help of the spirit, I gained admission into that university, even though when the admission list was released my name was not there but because he has spoken, he brought it to pass without begging or lobbying or bribing anyone.

Now this comes through years of walking with the Lord. One or two times you may miss it and say: oh! Did I hear the Lord well, who spoke to me? Do not be afraid, rise up and further in your study of the word and in your meditation? I found out that, meditating on God's word is so powerful to help you grow strong in following the voice of the spirit; that was how God led me to my discipler, it was through the inner voice, the voice of the spirit; he told me follow this man and I have been following for over a decade now and am still following, I have not regretted one day that I followed that inner voice of the spirit. I can say many things that is amazing by which he has led me.

I remember I had the choice of choosing between university of Lagos and Ekiti state university [then it was named **university of ado-Ekiti**], I was in a place named Surulere in Lagos, taking private tutorial [I run private tutorials for students in those days] and while I was there the inner voice of the spirit came, while I was planning to choose university of Lagos because Schooling there was cheaper and since I had no body to sponsor my education , university of Lagos a federal university was my best option, I thought to myself that I would do some private tutorials for students pay my school fees and sponsor myself in school, but the inner voice of the holy spirit said: *if you go to any other school apart from this school, university of ado-Ekiti that*

am asking you to go to. Even if they pay 10 naira in other universities; if you apply for it, you will not be able to pay; those were his exact words and he said: if you go to this school that I said you should go to; I will supply all that you need. I obeyed and it was so as the Lord said it, I found supernatural supply. I learnt the way of faith for all my needs in Ekiti state university, which has formed the basis of my walk with God today as a missionary evangelist.

The more you walk with the Lord the more you learn to recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit in your spirit. When we fellowship with the word of God in prayers, in worship, in thanksgiving, these are the pathways in learning to identify the voice of the Spirit.

- **DREAMS AND TRANCE.**

Other sources by which the Holy Spirit leads includes these: dreams, revelation and trance. These are subtle as they appeal to the senses also. We know that God shows dreams but dreams are not an authentic way to follow divine direction, not all dreams are from God; dreams can be the product of wandering thoughts of the mind. You only follow a dream when you have a strong impression in your heart or the inner voice of the Holy Spirit or inner witness points your direction to it.

Satan can also manipulate dreams, he can even bring dreams to misguide and misdirect you but when you judge it by the word of God, and inner witness, you can know which dream or trance is from the Lord.

For example, if you have a dream that you died, that dream cannot be greater than the promises of God's word given to us. As long as you are not dipping your hand into iniquity, *...there is no enchantment against you that can stand... ...if God be for you, who can be against you...* when you have certain dreams that you ate in the dream,

wake up and rejoice over the dream because of the victory that Christ purchased on the cross; ...*God has translated you from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear son... col 1:13, No negative dream should bring you fear, don't celebrate negative dreams above the word of God. Speak God's word over negative dreams.* I have had different negative dreams that I refuse to acknowledge and none of them has come to pass in my life, and will not come to pass, don't let satan play with your mind, grow in the spirit. But that doesn't mean God cannot give you a dream. We find dreams more in the Old Testament than in the New Testament Church. We are not led by dreams we are led by the spirit of God. (Rom 8:14)

Whenever you have a dream, ask the Holy Spirit, if He impresses the dream the dream will be coming regularly back as a thought and when you worship, study and pray, the dream comes back to your mind. Don't wake every morning and be asking what was my dream, this is a slippery ground. When you don't understand the dream, seek out for the interpretation from a Christian leader or elder who can help you interpret, guide and pray with you. When there seem to be no interpretation to them, ignore it!

If the Holy Spirit is passing a message to you, you don't need to sweat because He Himself is more than willing to guide you to the interpretation of that dream if He is the one bringing it to you.

Revelation and Trance; some people call dreams revelation. Revelation can be a dream and may not be a dream. A dream is purely seeing something while you sleep, it might be filled with symbols, signs or parables. A revelation can occur while you sleep or when you are not sleeping, but if it occurs while you are not sleeping, the revelation is called a trance sometimes it is an open vision. What we call an open

vision is when your eyes are opened and you see a vision in the case of the book of revelation written by John the beloved; you see symbols, you see appearances of angels or you see the appearances of God or an audible voice, and at the same time you could also sleep and have a revelation.

Revelation comes with a purpose in the heart of God, He might have a reason why He is showing you. It could be more frequent with people with prophetic graces and gifts and it can also happen to any child of God but because all of these can also be manipulated. You must judge them with the word of God, you must judge it by what the scripture says, that you saw something in a trance is not a reason to follow it....

Hope you know that occultic people, demonic people can also have their eyes wide open and see into the spirit realm, with the spirit of divination. He who operates with spirit of divination has a demon. Demonic spirit can also see into the spirit realm! So, you must be careful of dreams, trances and revelations. But when they agree with the word of God, and with the doctrine of the Apostles and Jesus Christ, they are to be accepted.

- **PROPHECY**

Other sources are prophetic utterances, God is the one that placed prophets in the church and He uses them to give you certain words of prophesy, in order to edify members of the body of Christ, but I want you to know that any prophecy that comes from the mouth of any man or woman or any child of God to your life must first be validated by you; if God has not first communicated it to you, and the prophecy given to you is genuine it means you are still a babe or it means you are doubting what the Holy spirit has told you.

Most of the time, God will first have communicated to you and He will use a prophetic utterance as a further word to strengthen your conviction, but if you are a babe and

you are just growing He could lead certain people to give you a prophetic utterance but this is also very subtle for many have been misguided and misdirected by so call prophetic utterances.

Therefore, **test and judge every prophecy 1 John 4:1**, the first thing you do to every prophecy is to listen and check your inner man, don't be quick to say amen, and don't be carried away by the status of the man of God. Don't let anyone intimidate you by saying am a man or woman of God why are you checking my prophecy, simply say I will like to pray about it sir/ma. Every prophecy must be judged. I remember how revival died in a secondary school because one of our brothers coordinating that school fellowship listened to a prophecy and refused to stop the prophecy, he did not judge it. The prophecy came out and said one of the students in the fellowship is a witch, we lost that space till today, great things could have happened that will affect several lives positively, but a strange prophecy scattered us. I once met an older lady when I went to preach in a meeting, her life has been misguided by prophecy and she bitterly regretted it. **The word of God is the sure word of prophecy 2 Pet 1:19.**

As you follow these things, I pray the Holy Spirit will guide you and He will help you. You may need to visit this particular material over and over again for you to be well guided. The way to qualify for growth in the leading of the Spirit is for you to constantly obey what the Holy Spirit is saying.

As you study the word of God, when a strong impression is coming with it, or there is an inner witness or the voice of the spirit; yield immediately or seek clarification from elders in the faith. It is very wrong when you don't have a discipler, someone to guide you and cross check matters with you. Woe to him that is alone, this is very important. For when you constantly yield, you are qualified to know more and to experience more of divine leadings.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE POWER OF PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT.

There are many controversies around speaking and praying in tongues, but I speak to you as someone who also doubted this great right and privilege given to the New Testament believer. I struggled with the questions below

- Must everyone speak in tongues?
- How can I know if I am not speaking rubbish and it is not me cooking this up in my mind?
- Hope I am not offending the Holy Spirit.
- Then there were Christian's speaking in tongues whose life was not holy and humble, this was another confusion.

I started speaking in tongues almost as a confused fellow at The Apostolic church in Lagos. But a remarkable experience came up September 17th 2011 in Ekiti state. My heart was seeking the Lord, I was in a small Christian gathering in our campus fellowship when I noticed an utterance was rising inside my heart or belly. I yielded and the experience was glorious I lay on the floor no one touched me but I was speaking gloriously in tongues.

After this wonderful experience I was still doubting, satan really attacks speaking in tongues because of how powerful it is for the new testament church. Praying in tongues is very powerful in the secret. So I met a Christian elder and I told him about my struggles with tongues even after that September 17 glorious experience, the elder told me how he doubted his own experience for close to 30 years and it affected him, I left that place and I said to myself I will never doubt again. Once I received by

faith and accepted the word of God that if I asked for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the father will give me what is right (Luke 11:11-13). I began to enjoy the powerful benefits of praying in tongues.

For further details read the following materials:

- Tongues beyond the upper room; Kenneth E Hagin.
- The Walk of the spirit, the walk of power; Dave Roberson.
- Derek prince on Praying in tongues series. Derek prince Ministries (Youtube).
- Listen to our message Baptism in the Holy Spirit series;
www.seedsowersmedia.com.

If you are serious about understanding this gift of tongues, follow all the materials listed above it will answer all your questions. If you have been empowered by the Holy Spirit and you have received the gift of praying in tongues, engage it daily and regularly this is important and pray for long in tongues not for show to others, the power is in the secret.

Praying with the spirit (in tongues) by faith helps in the following:

-  It builds your inner man to have capacity to hear from the Lord.
-  It connects you directly to the Lord in communication.
-  It prepares you for revelation knowledge (Eph 1:17); revelation knowledge is the way the Holy Spirit reveals depths and meanings of scriptures beyond the surface.
-  It prepares you to function in Spiritual gifts.

✚ It enables you with boldness to witness for Christ effectively in Evangelism. If this is not there you have misunderstood the purpose of the gift.

If you have not yet been empowered by the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, engage ministering to the Lord but do not forbid to ask him to give you the ability to pray in tongues.

*God trades your natural plans and ideas for HIS through the supernatural medium of exchange, (praying in) tongues for personal edification—**Dave Roberson.***

*The day you decide to lock up yourself in your prayer closet to spend some quality times in prayer- that is the day you will enter heavens classroom on earth with the holy spirit as your teacher—**Dave Roberson.***

*When the devil ask you, you are the one cooking up the tongues with your mouth answer by saying yes I am doing the talking but the Holy Spirit is giving me the utterance. **Do the praying in tongues by faith—Derek prince.***

*I would have been more confused in life and over many matters if not that I discovered the privilege of praying in tongues and my way has been lighted ever since—**Olugbenga Elton Adebajo.***

*I will pray with the spirit (tongues) and I will pray with my understanding also. (1 Cor 14;15)—**Paul the Apostle.***

• **DANGEROUS PRACTISE TO AVOID.**

The dangerous practice that you must avoid in following divine leadings is to give God conditions, which is called **throwing flees**; like Gideon did in the Bible. Something that sounds like God if it is you let this fan roll; if it is you let this sister that is my wife wear

a black skirt today, you are giving Satan the opportunity to manipulate you.

These may be obtainable in the Old Testament era but not as New Testament believers, as New Testament believers we don't ask for signs, we don't say God give me signs for me to know You are the one rather you say let thy will be done and you are ready to do it. When you begin to look for signs, Satan can also manipulate signs for you.

This almost landed me in serious trouble at a time as I was seeking the Lord on whom to marry; I threw out certain signs and those signs actually happened. The Lord later delivered me because temptation arose one day with that same sister, I would have fallen into fornication, thank God I did not follow the signs despite that they all came to pass.

On another occasions, I was seeing some signs that was pointing my direction that another particular sister was supposed to be my wife, only for me to further pray. **Please learn to further pray and give time** and check over and over again the inner witness from your spirit. Because whatever the devil or flesh does or shows fades away with time. I have proven this for several years.

As I close, I commit you to God and the word of His grace, I commit you to Him who is able to help you, who is able to guide you.

Another error to avoid is that if you cannot practice daily quite time; but it is only when you need direction that you go into fasting, when this becomes your practice it is dangerous, you will hear your carnal selfish desires and you will tag it as divine direction because you are always fasting when problem arises.

You should practically develop an attitude that Fellowships with the Lord, seeking His face and direction on a daily basis through quiet time, personal retreats and with

a regular fasting schedule every week whether an issue arises or not.

Go through chapter six and seven again for understanding.

May the good Lord strengthen you and may you from today begin to enjoy divine direction that ends all forms of frustration. Amen. God bless you.

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