

FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT

Tonight I'm going to talk about something that is very crucial in these days. I talked about it back in March of this year; but I feel there is a need to revisit the subject again. The subject is being led by the Spirit. The reason I spoke about this back in March is because I heard a message from a "Bible teacher" you are all familiar with, in which he made the following statements: "*God only speaks to us through the Scripture*;" and "*we can only know Him through the Scripture*". I felt it was necessary to expose this whole idea for what it was—Fundamentalism. I said whenever you hear someone say this kind of thing, you need to realize you are listening to a Fundamentalist because that is the Fundamentalist position on hearing God and knowing God.

I then described the difference between the *Fundamentalist* approach to knowing and hearing God and the *Pentecostal* approach to knowing and hearing God. Fundamentalists are not really led by the Spirit; they are led by the Bible. They believe that you can only know God *through* the Bible and that God only speaks to us *through* the Bible. Pentecostals, on the other hand, genuinely seek to be led by the Spirit. They believe God can speak to us directly in *many* ways—the Bible being only one of them. They also believe that we come to know God directly, through personal union and communion with Him.

You see, *all* Christians—even Fundamentalists—pay lip service to the truth that we are supposed to be led by the Spirit. However, Fundamentalists deny this truth in real life. They don't come right out and say we're not supposed to be led by the Spirit, or we can't be led by that Spirit. Rather, what they do is, they *redefine* what it means to be led by the Spirit, so that in the end, we are really being led by the Bible. To them, being led by the Spirit *means* being led by the Bible. The problem with being led by the Bible is this: we can read the Bible in the Spirit, or we can read the Bible with the *natural* mind. Many people, including many believers, read the Bible with the natural mind. As a matter of fact, there are many Bible teachers out there who have a *natural* ability to read, study, and teach the Scripture.

The Pharisees and the Scribes in Old Testament Israel are a good example of this. They knew the "Bible"—that is, they knew the portion of the Scripture they had at that time, which was the Old Testament. They studied the Bible night and day. They poured over the scrolls of the Old Testament to the point where they could present an impressive expository sermon based upon what they had learned. But they were not reading those scrolls *in the spirit*.

The Scripture is like the ocean. It has a surface which *all* people can see and understand. But it also has a *depth* that only the Spirit of God can reveal to a person. This is why Paul said things like:

*Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you **the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*

Ephesians 1:15-18

The natural mind can read the Bible and grasp many of its truths. The idea that the natural mind *can't* understand anything the Bible says is an urban legend. There are many Bible teachers out there who know, and can explain, basic salvation from the Scripture—yet they are not even saved! Indeed, the churches are *full* of pew-sitters who read the Bible all the time, who know all the key verses of the Bible on any given subject, but who are yet unregenerate. These people cannot possibly be reading read the Bible in the Spirit because they *don't have* the Spirit to begin with. They read it with the natural mind—and they understand quite a bit of its teachings with the natural mind.

But in order to understand the deeper things of Scripture, and in order to “rightly divide” the Scripture, you must have “the eyes of your understanding opened”; you must receive the “spirit of wisdom and revelation”—which means, you must have the Spirit of God. But even then, just because we *have* the Spirit of God, that doesn't mean we will always read the Bible *in* the Spirit. A believer can read the Bible with the natural mind just as easily as an unbeliever can.

When I talk about reading the Bible with the natural mind, I'm talking about reading it with the mind *alone*. Of course we have to use our mind to read anything, including the Bible. The issue is, are we reading the Bible with the natural mind *alone*, or are we reading the Bible with a mind that is *under the influence* of the Holy Spirit? Are we reading it with a mind that's being *illuminated* by the Spirit?

We are fast approaching the end of this age—which means that we have very little time left to *mature* spiritually. The most important thing in our lives right now should be growing spiritually. The most important thing in our lives right now should be learning to live in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. I realize we don't have the power to make ourselves grow spiritually. However, we *do* have the power to hinder that growth or not hinder it by the choices we make and the way we walk every day.

*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For **as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.***

Matthew 24:36-39

One of the easiest ways to hinder your spiritual growth is to have your mind occupied with the affairs of *this* life—and that is precisely where most of today's Christians live. Then they read these words of Jesus and they apply them to the unsaved! Talk about being blind! The vast majority of today's “Christians” will be doing exactly what Jesus said in that passage. They will be eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, just like the unsaved, right up until the end.

Oh sure, they are watching the news reports and they see what's happening to the nation and the world. But that doesn't *stop them* from living the same old way they've always lived. That doesn't stop them from planning to send their kids to college or encouraging them to get married. It doesn't stop them from starting a new business or going into debt for 20 or 30 years to buy a home. It doesn't stop them from living as if this age is going to continue on just like it is indefinitely.

But there is a more subtle kind of danger to a person's spiritual growth, and it comes from a place you would least expect it—the Bible. That's right. One of the things that hinders people's spiritual growth is when they get into a habit of being led by the Bible instead of being led by the Spirit.

Now before I go any further, I want to make it very clear that I believe the Lord can and does speak to us through the Scripture. He speaks to *me* through the Scripture. But He *also* speaks to me in *other* ways; and He speaks to me in those other ways just as often as He does through the Scripture. I am not trying to say we should not allow God to speak to us through the Scripture, or that we shouldn't want Him to speak to us through the Scripture. What I'm saying is that when you claim that God *only* speaks to us through the Scripture, you are exalting the Bible *above* the Lord.

I said this before, but it bears repeating—when you read the story of the Early Church, you are reading the story of people who did *not* have a New Testament. The Gentile converts didn't even have the Old Testament. All they might have had in writing was a letter that might have been written to them by Paul or one of the other apostles. Except for the original teaching they got from the apostle who originally planted their church, they had nothing but the *indwelling* Spirit to guide them on a daily basis.

So when you read their story, and you see that they did this “by” the Spirit, or they did that “through” the Spirit, or the Spirit “spoke” to them and told them to do something or go somewhere, understand that you are reading about a people who were being led by the Spirit *directly*. They weren't being led by the Spirit *through* the Bible. They weren't being led by the Spirit *through* the apostles and the prophets, or *through* the elders and the deacons. They were being led *by* the Spirit...period. They were being led by the Spirit Himself. You see, that's part of the promise of the New Covenant. That's the “new and living” way the writer of Hebrews talks about.

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

Luke 4:1

When you read this verse, do you get a picture in your mind that Jesus was sitting somewhere reading the scroll of Isaiah or the scroll of Jeremiah, and suddenly the Father used some passage in those scrolls to let Him know He was supposed to go into the wilderness to be tested; or do you think maybe Jesus had the ability to hear His Father's voice and know His Father's will *directly*?

*Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden. And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: **who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.***

Acts 21:3-4

When you read how the brethren warned Paul “through the Spirit” not to go to Jerusalem, what kind of picture do you get in your mind? Do you envision them all sitting around the table, studying the scrolls of Jeremiah or Zachariah, and suddenly a passage about going up to Jerusalem jumps out to them and they

believe God is using *that passage* to let them know Paul shouldn't go up to Jerusalem? Was the Spirit speaking to them through the scrolls of the Book; or was He speaking to them *directly*?

And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul {began} talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. And there were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. And there was a certain young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor, and was picked up dead. But Paul went down and fell upon him and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." And when he had gone {back} up, and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. And they took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

Acts 20:7-12 NAS

When you read this account, do you envision a situation where after the boys falls, Paul grabs some Old Testament scrolls to find out how he should respond; or can you see that Paul's response came *directly* from the Spirit because Paul was walking *in* the Spirit? He was being *led* by the Spirit.

You see, if we are really walking *in* the Spirit, God can speak to us any time He wants to, in any way He wants to. You don't have to be reading your Bible to hear His voice. You don't have to be in a chat room, listening to Dan Mace teach, in order to hear His voice. You don't need to be reading an article some preacher wrote or listening to a CD message of some Bible teacher in order to hear His voice. God is alive, people! He speaks to us all the time. He is constantly speaking to our hearts and our minds. It's we who don't have the *capacity* to hear Him because we have been taught all manner of false doctrines in this regard by Fundamentalist preachers and ministers who might as well be Fundamentalists.

The apostles of the Early Church didn't walk around with a stack of Scrolls under their arms as they went from town to town, raising up local fellowships. They were moved upon by the Holy Spirit. They were *led* by the Spirit because they knew how to walk *in* the Spirit. They knew how to yield their tongue to the Spirit so they would be speaking by supernatural *unction* and not from a head full of Bible knowledge. They knew how to yield to the Spirit so He could speak through them and communicate exactly what the hearers needed to hear.

They were led *directly* by the Spirit in their ministry. God told them where to go and who to speak to when they got there. They had the ability to hear His voice in their hearts, or in their minds, or in their spirits. Also, they knew how to recognize the *inner* witness. They knew when the Holy Spirit inside them was bearing witness to something or someone, and when He wasn't. They knew what it was to get a *spiritual checking* when they were about to do something or go somewhere that wasn't God's will.

I'll tell you something else they knew. They knew how to identify (and yield to) the *spiritual feelings* that came from their "new man". Do you know how to identify the *feelings* that originate in your spirit? Do you

even realize your spirit man *has* feelings; or are you like the brainwashed masses who have been taught to “never trust their feelings” and never allow themselves to be “led by their feelings”? The fact is, if you are truly born again, then there are two sources of feelings in your life: *spiritual* feelings, which come from the Holy Spirit into your regenerated spirit; and *natural* feelings, which come from your Adamic nature. Both kinds of feelings are similar. So at first, they are hard to distinguish. But as we mature spiritually, we learn to know the difference between these two kinds of feelings.

Did you ever find yourself feeling furious when you realized a minister you were listening to was preaching gross error? If so, I’ll bet your first response to those kinds of feeling was to think it’s just your “flesh” getting upset. But it’s possible those feeling were coming from your spirit man. Don’t you think the Spirit of God ever gets furious with people who deceive multitudes in the name of Christ? Oh yes; your *spirit man* has feelings. He can feel peace and joy and sadness and frustration and grief and anger.

But of course, you’ll never know *which* feelings are coming from your spirit man and which ones are coming from your flesh because you’ve been taught to believe ALL your feelings come from the flesh. You’ve been taught to never *trust* your feelings or *follow* your feelings or *act upon* your feelings.

Would you like to take a guess as to *why* so many ministers tell God’s people to never trust or follow their feelings? It’s because they think feelings only come from the heart—you know, that thing that remains “desperately wicked” and “deceitful” (*Jer. 17:9*), years and years after we have been walking with the Lord? I mean, hey; if your heart is going to remain wicked the rest of your life, and if all your feelings come from that wicked heart, then it’s only logical to *assume* that you will never be able to trust your feelings—right? Of course, these blind guides don’t understand that when you tell people they should never listen to their feelings because their feelings will always be untrustworthy, they are cutting them off from a *major source* of communication by the Holy Spirit.

We have no idea how much we have been poisoned by Fundamentalist preachers and Bible teachers who might as well be Fundamentalists. Just to give you one example, I’m going show you the difference between how the vast majority of today’s Christians define a certain popular phrase, and how the Scripture itself defines that same phrase. The phrase is: “*the word of God*”.

When I say “the word of God”, what comes to your mind *first*? If you are like most Christians, the first thing you will think of when you hear the phrase, “the word of God” will be the Bible. Now, I don’t want you to misunderstand what I am about to say. I believe the Bible is the word of God. However, I want to show you that in the New Testament, the phrase “the word of God” does not mean the Scripture.

Consider the following examples: “*They spoke the word of God with boldness*” (*Acts 4:31*); “*They preached the word of God in the synagogues of Judaea*” (*Acts 13:5*); “*It was necessary for the word of God to be spoken to you first*” (*Acts 13:46*); “*...to speak the word of God fearlessly*” (*Phil 1:14*); “*the word of God is not bound*” (*II. Tim. 2:9*). In *Acts 17:11*, the term “word” and the term “scriptures” occur in the same verse: “*... they received the word with all eagerness, daily examining the scriptures whether these things were so*”. Here, the word and the scriptures are clearly distinguished.

The apostles spoke the “word” that God gave them to speak *at the moment* they were speaking it. That word was the gospel, of course. The “word” they shared was the truth about who Jesus was and what His

death and resurrection accomplished. But they weren't preaching the gospel *from* the Scripture. They weren't quoting John 3:16 to the people, or leading them down the Romans Road to salvation. They were speaking by the Spirit. They were speaking under the inspiration and by the unction of the Spirit. They were speaking the word which was *proceeding* (present tense) out of the mouth of the Lord.

*For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received **the word of God** which ye **heard of us**, ye received it not as the **word of men**, but as it is in truth, the **word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

I. Thessalonians 2:13

When you read the phrase “the word of God” in this passage, do you think of the Bible? Do you just assume the “word of God” which the Thessalonians received was a sermon from the scroll of Isaiah? Do you think Paul walked into that town with a bunch of Scrolls under his arm and started preaching the Old Testament to them? What was the “word of God” Paul gave these people? Again, he shared the gospel with them. But he wasn't sharing the gospel *from* the Scripture. He was speaking the word which was proceeding out of the mouth of the Lord at *that* moment. Do you realize that except for the Four Gospels, most of the New Testament is nothing more than the *words* of a man named Saul of Tarsus? Paul was an ordinary person, juke like you and me. He had problems, just like we do. He got upset and frustrated, just like you and I do. He fought against sin, and at times he failed, just like you and I do. What made him *special* was that he learned how to *walk in* the Spirit. He learned how to be *led by* the Spirit 24/7. Because of this, the things he said and the things he wrote were “the word of God”. Because of this, the things he said and the things he wrote became Scripture.

That's an awesome thought. Of course, the Canon of Scripture is closed; but that doesn't mean we shouldn't strive to speak “the word of God” just like Paul spoke it. The apostle Peter said if we speak, let us speak as the “*oracles*” of God:

*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God**; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

I. Peter 4:10-11

That term—“the oracles of God”—is a reference to the Old Testament. It's a reference to the Scriptures. In Romans 3:2, Paul said the “oracles of God” (*ie: the writings of the Old Testament*) were committed to the Jews. So what Peter is saying is very clear. He's saying, just as the words of the Old Testament are the “oracles” of God, that's how *our* words are to be! When we speak and minister to people, our words are to be just like the words of the prophets; just like the words of Moses; just like the words of Peter and Paul, and just like the words of Jesus! These people spoke *the word of God* to those around them.

To the Fundamentalist, this is almost blasphemy because they don't believe God speaks to people today like he spoke to Peter and Paul. They don't believe God speaks to people today like He did to Moses. They don't believe we can live in a place where when we speak, we are speaking "the word of God". To them, the "word of God" *has been* spoken and that word is the Bible. To them, God's word has been spoken and it will be spoken *no more*.

Yes, the Cannon of Scripture has been closed—I recognize this. I'm not looking to get *another* "Book of Daniel" added to the Scripture. But just because the Cannon of Scripture is closed, that doesn't mean we shouldn't strive to speak "the word of God" just like Peter and Paul spoke it. I know this is going to sound like heresy to most of you, but the fact is, when you are in the Spirit and you are speaking "the word of God"—the pure, unmixed word of God—that word has the *same* authority as the Scripture. How can it *not* have the same authority? It comes from the *same* Person. The only real difference is, nobody is required to *recognize* the authority of that word when it comes from you and me. When it comes to the Scripture, everyone is *required* to recognize its authority. But in both cases, it's the word of God.

*And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but **by every word of God.***

Luke 4:4

Here is another example. What comes to your mind when you read that passage? Do you just assume that "every word of God" means the Bible? If so, consider the parallel passage in Matthew:

*And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that **proceedeth out of the mouth of God***

Matthew 4:3-4

The word "proceedeth" is a *present tense* term. Jesus didn't say we are to live by every word that *proceeded* (past tense) out of the mouth of God. He didn't say we are to live by every word that *has been spoken* by God. If He would have said *proceeded* (past tense), this would be a direct reference to the Old Testament, for the Old Testament is the record of what God *has* said. This would then carry over to the New Testament, once *it* had been written down—and this is precisely what the majority of today's preachers are telling us we to do—live by every word that has been spoken by the mouth of God in the Old and the New Testaments.

But that's not what Jesus said. He said we are to live by every word that *proceeds* (present tense; daily) from the mouth of God. God's mouth has not only spoken in times past. God's mouth *also* speaks today, to each and every one of His children. As His people, we are to hear what He is speaking *today*. As His people, we are supposed to *feeding* upon what He is speaking today. That's why the writers of Hebrews said: "*Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness*" (Heb. 3:7-8).

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:14-16

When Paul said to the Colossians—“*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*”—do you think he was talking about the Bible? Do you think he was telling them to read their Bible every day and let *that word* dwell in them? He couldn't have been talking about the New Testament because there was no New Testament at that point. Was he was telling them to read the Old Testament every day? No! He was telling them to let the word that they had heard from Him and the other apostles dwell in them. He was also telling them to let the word that *proceeds* out of the mouth of the Lord *each day*, dwell in them.

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11

The above passage is often quoted by people totally out of it's context, and they apply it in a way that is not of God. First of all, when God says His “word” would not return to Him void, He was not talking about the Bible in general. He was talking about the specific prophecy he had just give through Isaiah about Messiah, and about the nation of Israel. People go through the Bible and pluck out all the promises—some of which will *never* apply to them—and then they quote the words in Isaiah 55:11 and say that based on that statement, God *has to* keep His word. Based on that statement, God *has to* fulfill all the promises listed in the Bible to them.

The “word of God” is going forth from the mouth of God every day. He wants to speak to each and every one of us every day. His word proceeds from His lips on a daily basis in order to lead us and guide us. The question is: are you hearing *that word* every day? Are you in a *hearing relationship* with your Lord? Are you living by *every word* that proceeds out of His mouth on a daily basis? Can He speak to you any time He chooses and in any way He chooses; or can He only speak to you when you read the Bible?

Again, I'm not trying to de-legitimize having God speak to us through the Bible. What I'm saying is that God wants to speak to us in *different* ways, not just through the Bible. There are many situations in this life where it's not practical, nor is it even possible, to go to the Bible for an answer.

Just one example is in the area of deliverance. When you are helping someone get delivered from some kind of spirit that has them bound, you must be in a *hearing relationship* with the Lord. You must be able to hear Him speak specific discernment and wisdom in that situation at any moment.

Another area where you need to be able to hear the Lord's voice very clearly is in relationships, and especially marriage relationships. I can tell you there is a big difference between the person who is being led by *the Bible* and the person who is being led by *the Spirit* in this whole area. The person who is being

led by the Bible will always give you the same answer or response to every situation regarding marriage and divorce because they have a certain view which is unmovable and unchangeable, based on certain passages of Scripture. Their position is that there is no grounds for a person to separate from, or divorce, their spouse except (*maybe*) if the spouse has actually committed adultery. The person who is being led by the Spirit is not so dogmatic and will give you *God's* answer and response to each situation.

It's always interesting to see what kind of reaction or argument people who follow the Bible come up with when you ask them to explain Jesus' words in Matthew chapter nineteen:

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Matthew 19:29

Jesus clearly says it's permissible to forsake a "wife" for His name's sake. I'm not going to go into a discussion about separation and divorce here. I'm just going to say that I know *by the Spirit* there are times when God would have a person (man or woman) forsake a marriage to obey and follow Him. People can "boo-hoo" me all they want; they can quote their key verses in Matthew, Corinthians and Romans all they want; and they can say I'm being disobedient to the Bible all they like. The fact is, they will never be able to *change* what Jesus Himself said. They can try to explain it away—but either Jesus was plainly *contradicting* everything He and the apostles taught elsewhere in this regard, or else people are reading their key verses with the *natural* mind, not with a mind that under the influence of the Spirit.

I'll give you another example of the difference between being led by the Bible and being led by the Spirit. I had a friend who I was close to for a while, and he had a 18 year old son who became a homosexual. My friend was a strong Christian, but this thing with his son really threw him. He tried many different ways to help the boy get out of that lifestyle but nothing worked. Finally, he put him out of the house. Six months later the boy was back and he was causing all kind of frustration and trouble in the home.

My friend finally asked me what he should do. I asked the Lord for an answer and He gave me one. I told my friend that homosexuality is a demon spirit. It's not an alternative lifestyle and it's not just a problem with the "flesh". It's a demonic stronghold and the only hope for the boy is if he gets to the place where he himself wants free from it. At that point, that spirit can be bound and he will be delivered. I said that until then, the only thing to do is *separate yourself* from him and pray that God somehow brings him to the place where he gets sick of that lifestyle.

Well, that suggestion didn't go over too well with my friend because he had already put him out of the home once; and apparently he couldn't bear to see him living on the street, so he took him back. There is no way he was going to put him out again. Finally, after a few months, the boy moved in with his partner. The spirits he had brought into that home left with him and there was peace again.

However, he was granted the freedom to come and go as he pleased in my friend's home. One time I was at his place and the boy came in to use the computer. When he walked in, you could feel the spirits in him and those spirits *took over* that whole house. The Lord revealed to me that my friend was living under this

boy's spirits. I didn't know exactly what to tell him to do about it because I didn't know exactly what was going on. I had no idea what my friend was doing that was bringing him under that boy's spirits. However, I did know by the Spirit that he was *compromising* somewhere, and I knew I had to tell him that he was walking under his son's demons, and that he had better do something *drastic* to get out from under them. Well, that was the beginning of the end of our relationship.

Something in my friend just couldn't be *ruthless* when it came to his son. He was willing to fight with him in the flesh over the issue. He was willing to lay down all kinds of rules and regulations that he would have to obey if he wanted to come and go as he pleased. But he wasn't willing to separate from him *completely*. The result is, he's still living under that boy's spirits.

All the things I said to him during that six month period came *directly* from the Spirit of God. I wasn't getting my discernment and my words from the Bible. The Holy Spirit put the words I was to say to him into my mind and heart. It was the Spirit that gave me the wisdom and the discernment I needed to understand what was going on in that home and try and help this brother get on top of the situation. This is what I'm talking about when I say we have to learn to be *led* by the Spirit. We can't be led by the Bible in these kinds of situations. That's not why God gave us the Bible—that's not its purpose.

Closely related to the above situation is the whole issue of **US** getting free and staying free from the spirits in other people—including other believers. I can't go into it at this point because most of God's people don't even believe such a situation is possible. I would have to lay some groundwork first, before people would even *listen* to me, let alone *accept* what I say as truth. But it's a *reality* you will all have to face sooner or later if you want to reach perfection—and the Bible won't help you. When it comes to this kind of thing, it's *strictly* a matter of spiritual discernment. The Spirit of God has to tell you when you are being affected or influenced by the spirits in another person.

All I'm trying to get across tonight is that there is a difference between being led by *the Spirit* and being led by *the Bible*. It's not an issue of right or wrong. It's an issue of good versus the *best*. It's a choice between *partial* preparation and *total* preparation for what lies ahead. It's a choice between simply *being* in the Kingdom of God and *ruling* in the Kingdom of God.

Listen my friends—when Jesus returns, the responsibility for setting this creation free and ruling over it in wisdom and justice will be placed on the shoulders of the Sons of God. If you haven't learned how to be led by the Spirit in *dealing with people*, if you haven't learned how to be led by the Spirit in *confronting nasty and unpleasant situations*, you will never be fit to rule and reign in the coming kingdom. There are going to be a lot of messes to clean up and a lot of situations to straighten out when the Lord returns. We must be learning how to deal with these kinds of things *now*.

The time to learn how to be led by the Spirit is *now*.

I don't know how to explain it any better than to simply say that if we don't get past being led by the Bible and learn how to *really* be led by the Spirit, we will never reach spiritual maturity. So I encourage you to ask God to make what I have said real to you, and to show you the difference—if it's not real to you at this time—between being led by the Bible and being led by the Spirit.