

## Holy Spirit Series – Lesson 6

November 16, 2014

### I. Review:

Week 1 - Holy Spirit as an indescribably powerful force and Holy Spirit as a person (with a mind, will, and emotions)

Week 2 - Holy Spirit convicts the world and saves Christians from their sin as the initiator and originator of salvation

Week 3 - Holy Spirit indwells us, assures us of our salvation and helps us

Week 4 - Holy Spirit teaches and leads us as believers

Week 5 – How to walk in the Holy Spirit through pursuing His glory, knowing Him better, and living in obedience

Today we will be spending our time discussing *how the Holy Spirit leads us and by what means does He communicate so that we can walk with Him.*

### II. Introduction:

We can agree that where ever the Spirit leads us, is where we should go. An integral part of our discussion, must focus on how He leads and the means He uses to communicate or guide His children.

*How exactly does the Holy Spirit lead us? And by what means does the Holy Spirit communicate to us in order for us to walk in Him?*

### III. Discussion and Application: *Walking in the Spirit Part 2*

#### **Three Major Ways that the Holy Spirit Guides His People to Walk with Him.**

Keep in mind, too, that these are NOT the only means the Holy Spirit uses. Rather, Scripture clearly shows us that the Holy Spirit oftentimes guides His people via these three means as well as others.

#### **A. The Holy Spirit's Voice**

##### **1 Kings 19:9-15**

*9 There he went into a cave and spent the night. The Lord Appears to Elijah And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." 11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." 15 The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazeal king over Aram.*

This story is about Elijah – a prophet of God who was given the task of warning the Israelites against worshipping false gods. The context of this passage is that Jezebel – the wife of King Ahab – has threatened Elijah's life, and because of this Elijah is on the run. After traveling for 40 days and nights, Elijah had arrived at Horeb, the mount of God. Elijah is holed up in a cave on Horeb, and in verse 9 we read that God asks Elijah what he is doing. Elijah's response is that he has been obedient to pursue the people of Israel and yet his life is in danger because of it. In verse 11, God tells Elijah to go and stand and wait for Him on the mount. And as Elijah is waiting for the Lord, a mighty wind, an earthquake, and a fire all come, but God was not in them. And yet this passage tells us that God called out to Elijah through a low whisper.

#### **B. The Holy Spirit's Words**

Another way that the Holy Spirit guides us is through His Words to us found in Scripture.

##### **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

*14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

##### **2 Peter 1:19-21**

19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

A key part of these passages is that “all Scripture is breathed out by God” and “no prophesy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

The two extremes with Scripture is that either we do not believe they are God's perfect word to us and thus believe none of it, or we begin to worship Scripture and thus it becomes an idol that takes the place of God in our lives.

### **C. The Holy Spirit's Sovereignty**

Lastly, as Christians we believe that the Holy Spirit does guide us through speaking to us and prompting us through His voice and within our minds, but that He also uses His word to give us the direction and guidance we need.

But another way the Holy Spirit leads us into walking in Him is through the people and circumstances of our lives. In short, if we believe God is sovereign, we must then believe that He will use those in our lives and the situations we find ourselves in to guide and direct us as we yearn to walk in Him.

#### **Acts 16:25-34**

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" 29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household

We first have to realize the context: This is a story from early in Paul's ministry as he and Silas were in Philippi. There they were arrested, beaten, and thrown into prison after a run-in with a fortuneteller who was angry with them for casting a spirit out of his slave. God clearly orchestrated this entire situation as an opportunity for Paul and Silas and the jailer to follow the Holy Spirit's leading and walk with Him so that the jailer – and ultimately His family – would hear the truth of gospel.

**Our prayer is that this series has been used by God to teach you about the Holy Spirit, to grow your intimacy with Him, and to understand better how to walk in Him.**

#### **IV. Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1. *Why might have Elijah thought God was within the wind, earthquake, and fire? Why would that have been easy for him to assume that God was in those events?*
2. *What can we learn about Elijah in the fact that he heard as God called to him with a whisper?*
3. *How do we practice hearing this still, small voice of the Holy Spirit so that we may better recognize Him?*
4. *How would you describe the Holy Spirit's role in the writing and communicating of Scripture?*
5. *What is the danger to our faith and our ability to walk in the Spirit if we fail to believe that the Word of God is just that – God's Word to humanity through the working of the Holy Spirit through the lives of men?*
6. *How does the Holy Spirit consistently use Scripture as you seek God's guidance and direction?*
7. *How can scripture be used to confirm or test what we sense the Holy Spirit is communicating?*
8. *How does the Holy Spirit use specific circumstances to work sovereignly in a person's life?*