

Led by the Spirit

By the word not inward impulses

The Spirit's Word

- Not Inward Impressions

- **Rom. 8:14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
- Girl led into river & drowned at 18
- 23 yr. old sister prevented from saving her
- The word is the only test

The Spirit's Direct Guidance

- Is not a promise to Christians today
- **Jn. 16:12-13** "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
- Spoken to the apostles
- We benefit from the promise, but do not receive it

Context - Apostles at Last Supper

- **John 13-17**
- **Jn. 16:7** "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.
- **Jn. 13:2** And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him,
- **Matt. 26:20** Now when evening had come, He was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples.
- Would remind them of what Jesus taught them
 - **Jn. 14:26** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
 - We did not personally hear Jesus
 - We all have to study

Context John 13-17

- No one today was with Him from the beginning
Jn. 15:26, 27 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, and you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.
- Had to meet qualifications to receive the Spirit like the apostles **Acts 1:21-22, 26** "It is therefore necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us-- beginning with the baptism of John, until the day that He was taken up from us--one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection."
26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Context **John 13-17**

- They were to receive all truth during their lifetime

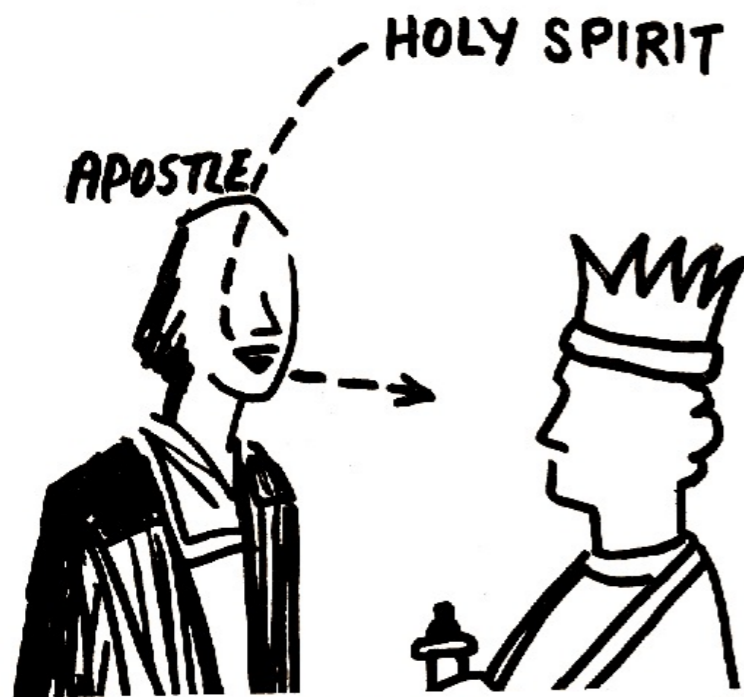
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- None today can reveal a new truth
- We can test prophets today with the word
- None today can reveal with certainty the things to come
Jn. 16:13

Led by the Spirit Does Not Mean Miraculous Guidance & Inspiration

- We are led by the “all truth” the Spirit revealed through the apostles in the first century

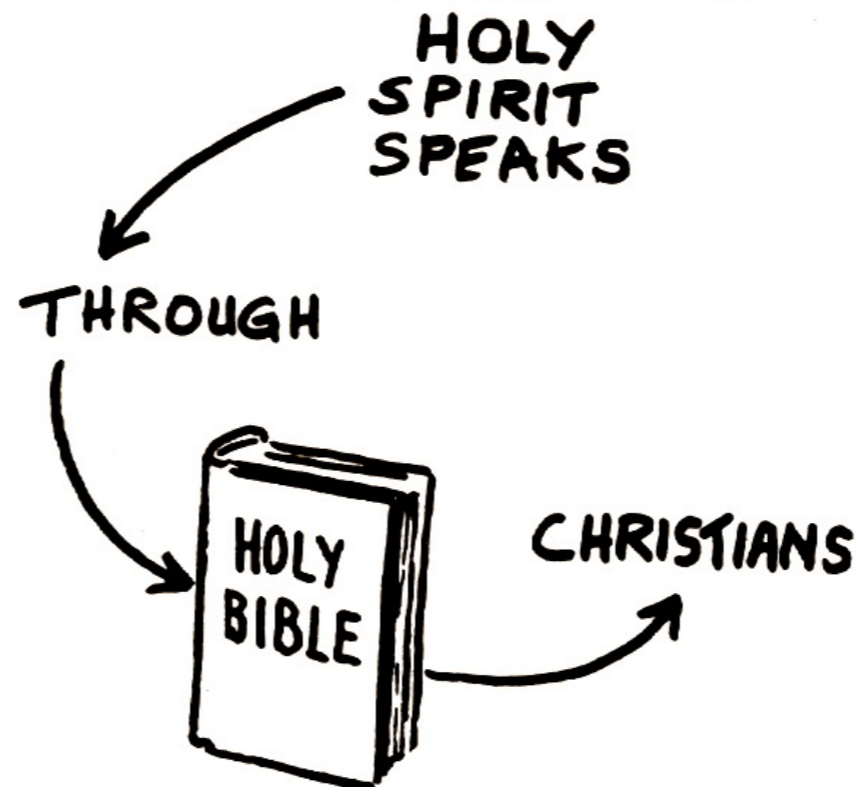


Matt. 10:19, 20

Guided into all the truth



Jn. 16:13

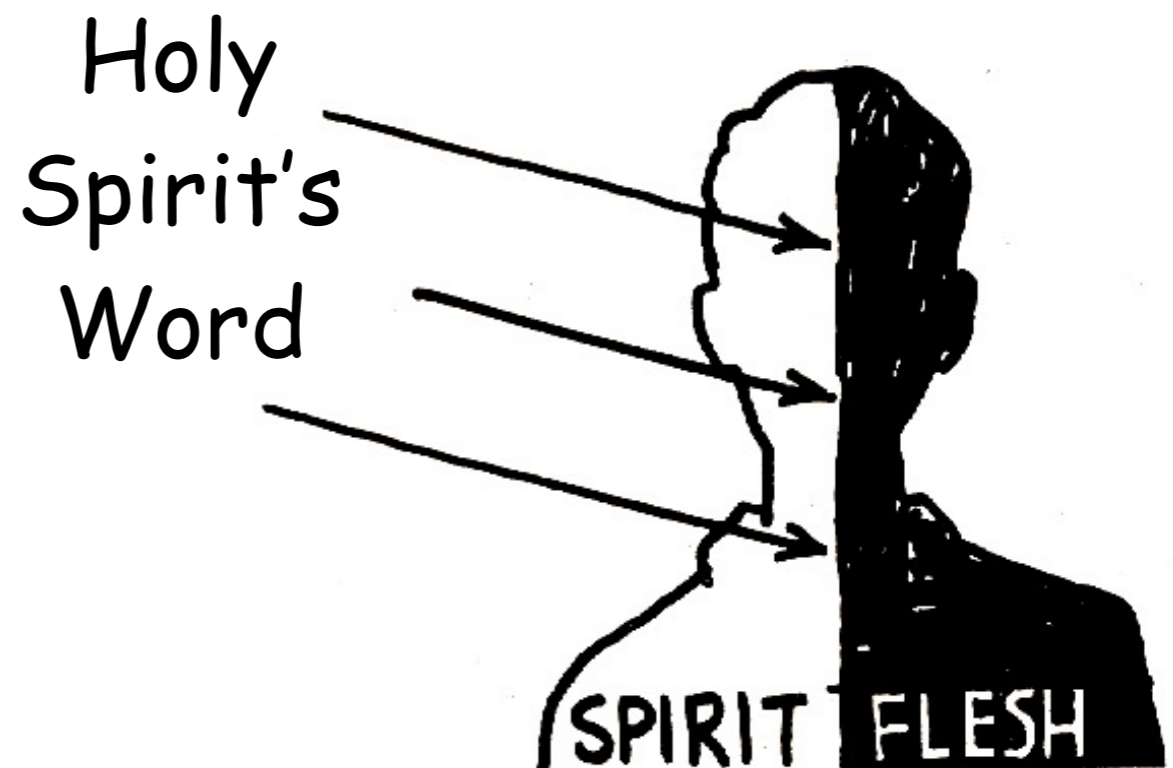


What Does It Mean To Be Led by the Spirit?

- Living according to the Spirit, not the flesh
Rom. 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- We put to death the deeds of the flesh and bring forth fruits of righteousness **Gal. 5:16-25**
16-18 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Put To Death the Deeds of the Flesh

- **Gal. 5:19-21** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- **Bring forth fruits of righteousness Gal. 5:22-25** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
 - He leads & does not force



We Are Responsible to Sow to the Spirit

- **Gal. 6:7-10** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

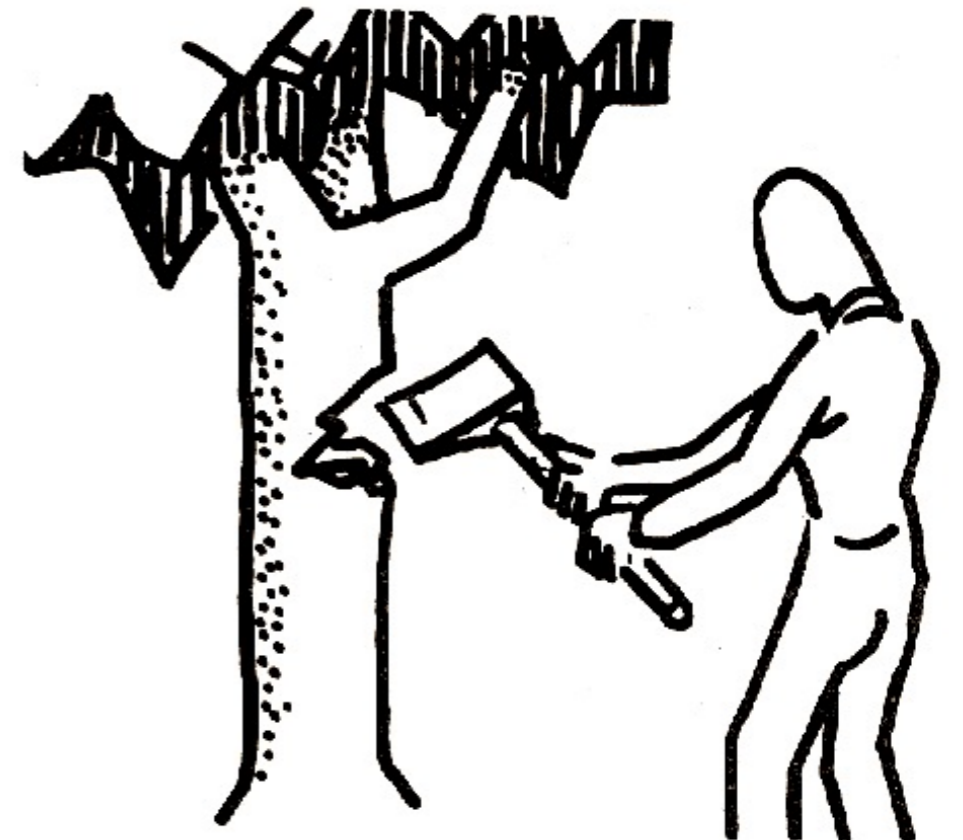
For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

We Are Not Under the Law of Moses

- **Gal. 5:18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.
- Any impulse to follow the Law of Moses is not from the Spirit
- The Spirit says we are under the gospel
- Any leading that says we should act contrary to the gospel cannot be the leading of the Holy Spirit
- We are led by the Spirit when we listen to His voice through the word of God.
- Walk by the Spirit = follow His commands & principles
- Apply the golden rule

No Direct Operation of the Holy Spirit

- He will not come into your heart & overwhelm you directly apart from the Bible
- The Spirit works through the word **Eph. 6:17** And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- A tree is cut down by a man, but also is cut down by an axe. It is cut down by the man through the axe.
- God's Spirit cuts man's heart through the word!

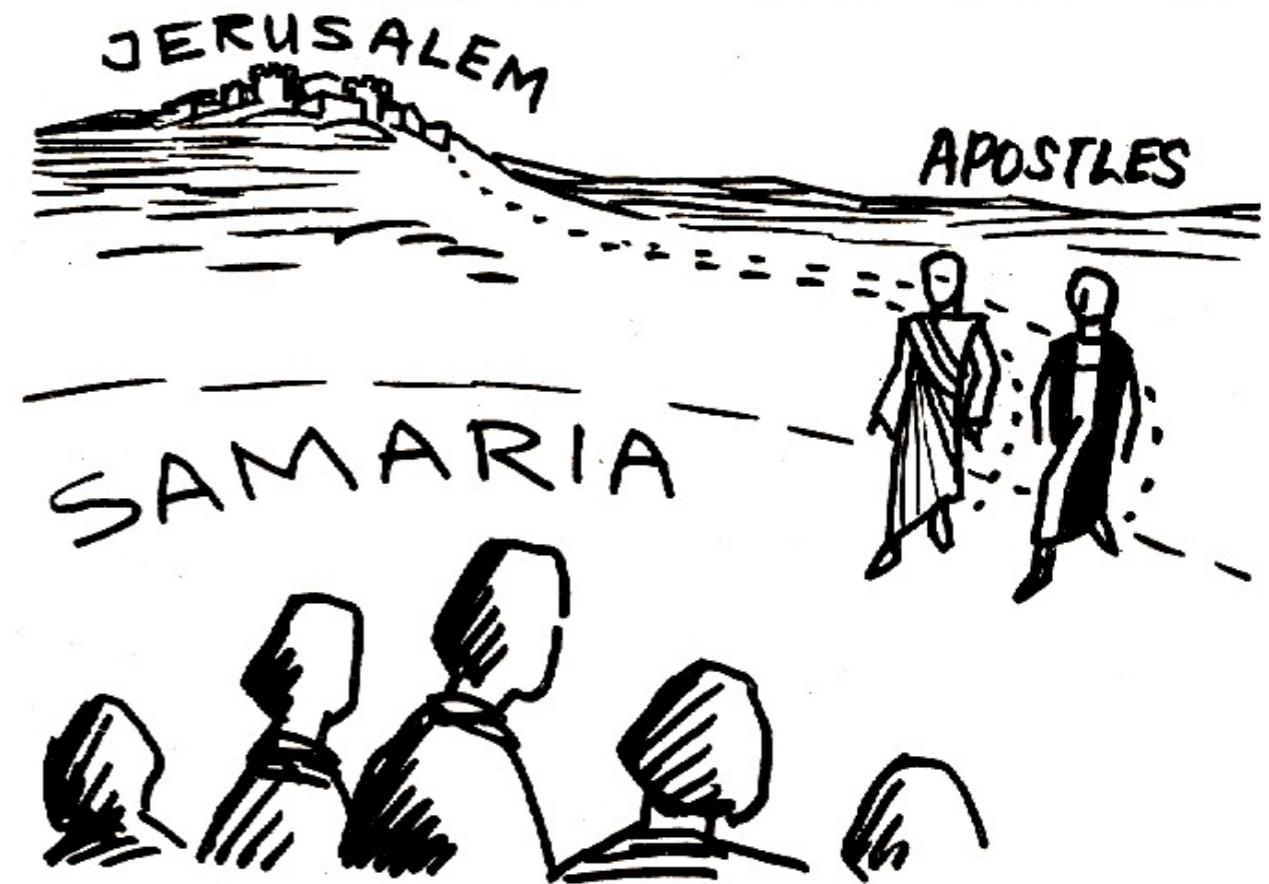


No Direct Operation of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit speaks through the words of the apostles & prophets **1 Tim. 4:1** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,
- The Spirit worked to reveal the word of God by inspiring the apostles & prophets **Eph. 3:3-6** that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

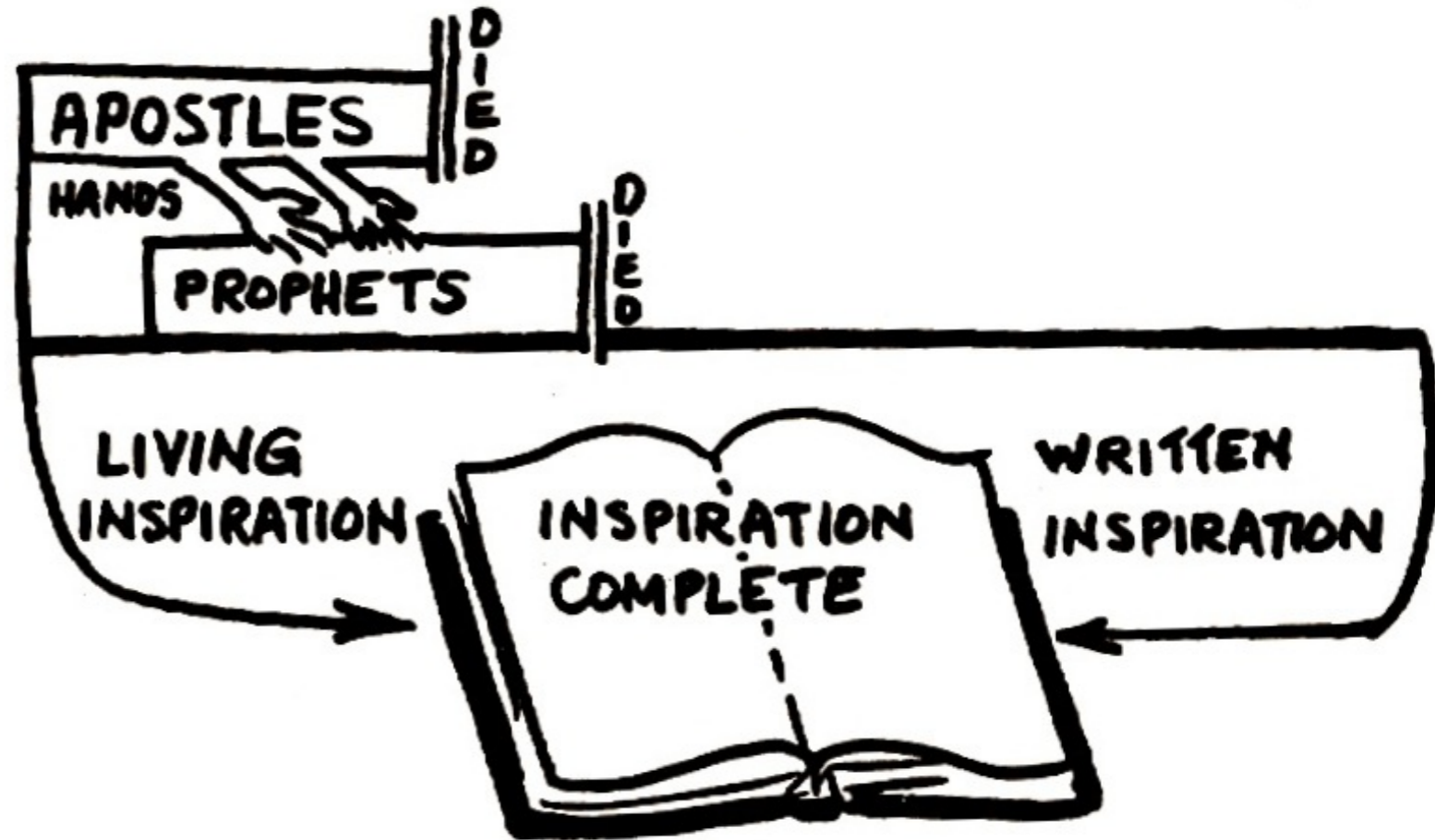
Only the Apostles Gave Powers of Inspiration by Laying on Their Hands

- **Acts 8:18** Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,
- **2 Tim. 1:6** And for this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
- **Acts 19:6** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.



God's Timetable Allowed Inspiration To Cease When the Apostles & Prophets Had all Died

- **Jude 3** Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.
- **1 Cor. 15:8** and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.
- **Rev. 22:18, 19** Not add or take away



No Direct Operation of the Holy Spirit

- God calls people only through the gospel **2 Thess. 2:14** **It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- Should no expect or pray for some mystical experience - nothing better felt than told
- Believe & obey the word of God - the Spirit leads & dwells

Holy Spirit's Plan of Salvation

- Believe & be baptized **Mk. 16:16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
- Repent & be baptized **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Confess & be baptized **Acts 8:36-38** As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Led by Impulses & Impression

No Substitute for the written words of the Spirit

Biblical Faith Believes That God Is Able To Perform his Promises

- It is not believing He will perform what we promise ourselves **Rom. 4:20, 21** yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.
- Many thing it is too common to just study the Bible
- Many seeking something direct - wait for inward impluse
- Mrs. H. W. Smith - Quaker background
 - Impulse to stand on one foot
 - Waiting for an impulse to do anything
 - Impulse to get out of bed - get dress with what? etc...
 - Foolishness - God gave us reason - meant to use it

Mistake of Applying Natural Emotional Excitement to a Divine Origin

- Emotions are the least controllable part of our nature
- Everything can effect it: state of our health, weather, food, atmosphere, circumstances of life, other people (glum, frowning, cheery etc...)
- Music, Heroic deed, Stories of great emotion, Fine pictures
- Religious service, fast music, people shouting & claim H.S. influence - “don’t resist the Spirit”
- Ignorance of emotions & the Bible make one susceptible to being deceived.

Mistake of Applying Natural Emotional Excitement to a Divine Origin

- Emotionalism effects people
- Emotion of a football game.
- Something white in a dark cemetery - Ghost
- Inward voices in a solemn moment - what guards from error?

God Protects Us From Self-Deception by his Word & our Common Sense

- **2 Tim. 3:13-17** But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- Use the means God has given to guard against deception
- Should not expect Him to keep us from being deceived
- Martin Luther: “Feelings come, And feelings go. And feeling are deceiving. My warrant is the word of God, Nought else is worth believing.”

Faith Comes by Hearing Not Feeling

- **Rom. 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
- Freedom comes from knowing the truth, not feelings
- **Jn. 8:31, 32** Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
- Feelings must be controlled or we will hurt others & ourselves.
- Personal feelings will lead on to act selfishly & sinfully
- We must do God's revealed will even if we don't feel like it.

We Must Not Contradict the Word of God for our Feelings

- **1 Cor. 14:37** If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.
- **1 Jn. 4:1-3** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

When in Doubt Don't

- **Rom. 14:23** But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.
 - Act on what you know is right
 - Don't do what you doubt is right
 - Not to be reckless, presumptuous, careless, rash
 - Study the Spirit's word to know right & wrong

Emotions Will Follow Belief

- Don't think we are saved because we feel good
- We feel good because we know we are saved
- Believing a lie will produce the same emotions as believing the truth
- Example: Jacob thinking Joseph was dead **Gen. 37:31-36**
- Moslem & Mormon & Catholics, etc. all feel saved
- Feelings only prove sincerity not truth
- The eunuch knew God had forgiven him, when he had been baptized into Christ, & went his way rejoicing **Acts 8:37-39**
- Bring every thought & emotion into captivity to God's will
2 Cor. 10:1-6

Things That Are Done by Another Cannot Be Proved by our Feelings

- Must be proved by testimony & evidence
- Example: Soldier pardoned by commander
- Pardoned - not known or felt until read

The Holy Spirit Speaks to Churches by the Written Word

- **Rev. 2:1** "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:
- **Rev. 2:7** 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'
- He tells us what is commendable or condemned
- He will commend or condemn the same in churches today

God Wants Service From the Mind

- **Matt. 22:37** And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'
- **Heb. 8:10** "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM UPON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.
- To serve the Lord with our mind & the rest of our being
- God speaks through His word to put His law in our minds

The Holy Spirit Puts the Law of God in our Minds Through the Word

- Pentecost **Acts 2:**

- Called them to listen

14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give heed to my words."

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

The Holy Spirit Puts the Law of God in our Minds Through the Word

- Pentecost **Acts 2:**
 - Hearing pierced the peoples' hearts **36-37**

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"
 - Words told them what to do **38**

And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit Puts the Law of God in our Minds Through the Word

- Pentecost **Acts 2:**
 - Word testified & exhorted them to be saved **40**
And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"
 - The word was received **41**
So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
 - They continued in the apostles teaching **42**
And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The Law of Spirit Is Written on the Christian's Heart or Mind

- The Spirit's law will direct our lives
 - **Matt. 7:12** "Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
 - **Matt. 12:34** "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.
 - **Prov. 4:23** Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

Must Exercise Judgment

- Take God's specific & general commands & make application
- 10, 5, & 1 talent men **Matt. 25:14-30**
- Not using your ability & judgment is wicked
- By training we discern good & evil in everyday life **Heb. 5:14**

God's Providence - Helps Today

- God's overruling care - control of natural law
- God answers prayer - seek & pray for help
- Providence is not supernatural interventions (miracles)
- Providence works behind the scenes through natural means & through people
- Not tempted beyond our ability to endure **1 Cor. 10:13**
- We must take the way of escape - use our minds & God's principles

Pray for Wisdom

- **Jas. 1:5-8** But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
- Pray for the ability to make the right decisions
- wisdom = the proper use of knowledge
- God will answer in a non-miraculous way
- Does not explain how
- Study, talk to wise brethren, experiences in living, etc...
- Do what you can & God helps with rest

Examples of Providence

- God helping David overcome the counsel of Ahithophel, **2 Sam. 16:23; 15:34; 17:1-4, 5**; God did it, **2 Sam. 17:14**
 - David sent Hushai to thwart his counsel & it worked
- Paul would not be harmed in Corinth, **Acts 18:9, 10**
 - Gallio ruled against the Jews, **Acts 18:13-17**
- Joseph - God over-ruled
 - Brothers did not kill him
 - Prosperity in Potiphar's house & in jail & ruling Egypt
 - Turn planned evil into good, **Gen. 45:5; 50:20**

Walk by Faith

- Not revealed where God's special providence is working
- We should study the Scriptures & find out what things are right
- We should back the right even though at the time it seems unsuccessful, & we should oppose the wrong even though it seems at the time successful.
- We should do all we can in the way of study & prayer & then act without wondering to what exact extent God will help us & without having to figure out how God can do it.
- We should do our duty & leave to God His overruling providence.