

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW

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Text: Romans 8:14

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."
(Romans 8:14)*

INTRODUCTION

- leadership is one man/woman who is the person giving voice to the direction of a group of people
- * group consents to listen or follow leader
- * some examples: a) corporate leader in employment b) pastor of a church c) president/prime minister of a country d) elected leader of non-profit group (voluntary)

"The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth." (Acts 8:32)

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;" (Ephesians 5:1)

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

1. FOLLOW HIS DIVINE Presence (v. 9-11)

A. The presence of the Spirit (v. 9)

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." (Romans 8:9)

BELIEVERS ARE IN THE SPIRIT

THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE IS EVIDENCE OF SALVATION

- when Spirit dwells within, that means Holy Spirit lives inside Christian

B. The power of the Spirit (v. 11)

TO GIVE LIFE

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

TO GIVE HOPE

"And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power." (1 Corinthians 6:14)

"Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 5:5)
earnest means guarantee
guarantee is down payment

2. FOLLOW WITH A DETERMINED

Practice (v. 12-13)

A. The works of Mortification (v. 12-13a)

MORTIFY THE FLESH - put to death

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5)
evil human lusts

Quote: "Putting to death the deeds of the body is the work of Christians, for true believers in Christ only."—John Owen

RECKON YOURSELF DEAD TO SIN - count yourself

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." (Romans 6:11-13)

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Quote: "We may never be martyrs but we can die to self, to sin, to the world, to our plans and ambitions. That is the significance of baptism; we died with Christ and rose to new life."—Vance Havner

- works of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21)

- God does not work in Christians
sinning life

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (John 12:24)

B. The power for Mortification (v. 13)

Quote: "The Holy Spirit is the only way to kill sin."

—John Owen

HE GIVES LIFE

new life

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" (Titus 3:5)

HE GIVES GRACE

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith," (Galatians 5:22)

C. The product of Mortification

THE CONSOLATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE COMFORT OF OBEDIENCE

when sin
dies, God
works &
shines more
brightly

"For innumerable evils have compassed me about: Mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; They are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me." (Psalm 40:12)

3. FOLLOWING PROVIDES A DEFINITE

Proof (v. 14) - of salvation

A. The ~~practice~~ proof of His Leading

WE ARE LED

"But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law." (Galatians 5:18)

Abba

"Daddy,
Daddy"

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." (Galatians 4:6)

WE ARE HUMBLE

"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned

to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." (James 4:6-10)

B. The practice of His Leading

LED TO FOLLOW

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." (1 Peter 2:21) Peter to Christian

"And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren." (Genesis 24:27) Abram's oldest servant maybe Eliezer of Damascus (Gen 15:2)

LED TO LOVE

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." (Ephesians 5:1-2) - Paul writing

LED TO GIVE

"Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God." (Philippians 4:15-16) - Paul writing

LED TO WITNESS

"While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. 20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them." (Acts 10:19-20) Peter to Christian

LED TO BEAR FRUIT

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)

Jesus speaking