



Are We Led By the Spirit of God? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Question: Are We Led By The Spirit Of God?

Answer: It is problematic that people will listen to the Scriptures for promises of the Holy Spirit's work, but refuse to listen to anything else in the Scriptures where the Holy Spirit explains the fulfillment of His work! Before He was crucified, Jesus told the Apostles:

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come" (**John 16:7-13**).

Exactly when, where, and how did the Holy Spirit-inspired Scriptures tell us this was done, or was this Jesus' promise to everyone? If to everyone, then there is no further need of any written New Testament Scripture, for the Holy Spirit will directly guide all individuals "into all truth." But, if the Holy Spirit intended to fulfill this indirectly, through the written Scriptures, then whatever people may think they are following, it is not the Holy Spirit teaching them, if they are not listening to the Apostles' writings. Jesus prayed over the 11 Apostles in Gethsemane, and said,

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word" (**John 17:20**).

Then the miracles that followed them as the New Testament was being written was:

... The Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen (**Mark 16:20**).

Jesus expected people to follow Him through the "word" given through the Apostles. Incidentally, no one today would know of Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit's work, except through the inspired, written word of John! Think of the irony of that!

Many people think the Holy Spirit became a constant revealer of God's Will to each individual. If that were the case, then God is a "respector of persons," (**Acts 10:34**)

for many live in ignorance of what they must do to be saved. However, according to the written Scriptures, with the Lord,

There is no partiality (**Colossians 3:25**).

And if the Holy Spirit would provide on-the-job instruction, then why did He inspire Paul to write:

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ [that] now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him (**Colossians 1:2; 3:8-10**),

[and that they should] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom (**Colossians 3:16**)?

Was that the directly revealed or the written "word of Christ?" But, if the Holy Spirit is to directly influence and guide a Christian's heart, then did He fail with Ananias?

But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?' (**Acts 5:3**)

Was that a victory for Satan and failure for the Holy Spirit? The answer is "Yes," if both were directly-revealing their doctrine into Ananias' heart!

To those misguided people who think God speaks to the individual's heart, why do we have written Scripture?

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

What was/ is the Holy Spirit to provide to the believer's heart that was not provided in "all Scripture?" Did the Holy Spirit leave out essentials from the Scriptures, or in some individual's heart? In either case, the Holy Spirit failed, and not the individual! If the Scriptures are inadequate, then **2 Timothy 3:16-17** is a false claim. But if the Scriptures "thoroughly" equip a Christian for service, then there can be no truth to the claim of people who wait for the Holy Spirit to directly guide them. It is a misapplication and misunderstanding of the written word of God for people to listen to the promised work of the Holy Spirit, but not listen to any other Scriptures on that subject.

Why had not the Holy Spirit directly spoken to the Jews? The Apostle Paul's sermon showed how those Jews who crucified Jesus Christ had not listened to God's Prophets:

For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him (**Acts 13:27**).

"Voices" can be "read?" Yes, that's what the Holy Spirit-inspired Scriptures are for: to speak as if God were saying it. The Apostle James said,

Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath" (**Acts 15:21**).

The only "voice" of God every heart today should hear is from the written Word of God!

We know from the written Scriptures, that Jesus had said:

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (**John 6:63**).

Since Jesus' words are "spirit," and "life," what does the Holy Spirit need to do but preserve those words? Jesus said:

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (**Luke 21:33**).

The Holy Spirit leads people when they accept His inspired Bible.

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

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (**Galatians 3:26-27**).

Everyone who listens to God's Word in the Bible is being led by the Spirit of God.

-----**John T. Polk II**

published in the **Gospel Gleaner**, January, 2016