

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## Are You "Led" by the Spirit?

By Richard England

If you are not being "led" by the Spirit, you are not a child of God. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14) Being "led" by the Spirit involves two very obvious points: (1) Directions given by the Spirit, and (2) our following the directions. The Spirit may give a multitude of directions but unless we follow them He is not leading us.

Does the Spirit give directions to us today? If He does not, we are groping in darkness. Men have searched in their own ways without success to find the wonderful things of God. By means of the world's wisdom, scientific developments, and intellectual attainments, no man can know the WILL OF GOD. (1 Cor. 1:18-21) In order for us to know the things of God, there must be communication between God and man! Such communication occurred when God by His Spirit, revealed His will to the men that wrote the New Testament. "Revelation" is "the act of revealing; the disclosing to others of what was before unknown to them." 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 declares that the thing being taught by Paul was indeed a "revelation". Something

that had not been known before was made known to them "by the Spirit". These things were not intended to be directions for ONLY the few men to whom they were first revealed. They were told to preach these truths to all the world. (Matthew 28:19) They in turn, being directed by the Holy Spirit to do so, commanded those that heard them to teach others who would inform still others. We see, then, that the things taught in the NEW Testament are a law for us today too. If we studied this at length we would find the evidences legion, proofs undeniable, and the conclusions irresistible that God directs us today by the Word the New Testament. Who among members of the church of Christ would deny this?

It is mandatory that we follow the directions given in the New Testament if we are to be acceptable in the sight of God. Only those that are "led by the Spirit" are the children of God. One is not being "led by the Spirit" if he does not submit to the overtures of the New Testament. When Romans 8:14 speaks of being "led by the Spirit", the reference is for the whole of the situation of God's part in giving directions coupled with man's part in accepting and following such directions. This is somewhat the climax of what has gone before in the book. Early in the book Paul sets out the proposition to be proved by the rest of the book. Simply stated it is: THE

JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH. He then shows the universal need of salvation in that all have sinned, both JEW and Greek. Next, he demonstrates that salvation and life cannot come by a law that demands sinlessness because we do not live without sin. If man is saved at all, it must be by a system of "faith" which, when followed, will grant forgiveness of sin. Such a system is that which came by Jesus Christ, and was revealed by the Holy Spirit. This is from God. Anything else, regardless of how holy and pious it might appear or how right it may seem to be, is of the world and does not remove the guilt of sin and the condemnation of the man who follows it. But, "there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1) The emphasis here is on Man's part of being "led by the Spirit". To "walk after the Spirit" is synonymous with walking in the light and "walk by faith". They all refer to walking, or living in this life, in accordance with, and by faith in, the gospel of Christ which was revealed by the Holy Spirit to give us light, or show us the way.

If a man will not walk after the Spirit, in the light, by faith, he stands eternally condemned. In that God demands that a man so walk, it is quite elementary that, in accordance with His mercy and justice, the directions as to how to walk be easily recognizable as being from Him. In His efforts to lead man, God never beclouded His directions in ambiguity. If we cannot be for certain as to when, where, and how the Spirit leads us we cannot be certain that he does lead us!

There are those who believe that the Holy Spirit leads Christians today in some other way than the

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# Fulton County Gospel News

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clear, unmistakable directions of the New Testament. The usual illustration given of such leading is that when they are called upon to make a decision as to where to go to preach or perform some other matters of obedience, they simply pray to God and He assists them in some way other than the teaching of the Bible in making this decision. Yet, they say they do not believe in new revelations and modern day miracles. But, if God were to make known to them in some way or ways other than that which is taught in the Bible exactly where they should go and what they should do, it would be both revelation and miracle. That which is unknown to them would be made known (this is revelation and it would be done without means (this is miracle). The transfer of thought from one being to another without means is a miracle.

The argument is made that Romans 8:14 could not be speaking of that which the Spirit does by means of the Word because the entire chapter is speaking of the "indwelling Spirit". There is one Spirit - not one external Spirit operating through the Word and one internal Spirit operating in addition to the Word, thus making two Spirits. The directions given to man by the Spirit come by one operation, not two. If there were

two "leadings" of the Spirit, one by the Word and another as an "indwelling Spirit" in addition to the Word, there would be two "followings". It would then become conceivable that a man might follow the "leading" of the Word but not follow the "leading" of the "indwelling Spirit" (and especially so if the latter were of such a nature that one could not determine the surety of it in any given case) - RIDICULOUS!

Beware of any who would come among you believing and teaching that God, by His Spirit, is leading them in some way in addition to the leading of the Bible. If you believe the Bible is our only guide, you cannot believe that the Spirit is leading men today in some way in addition to the Bible. If you should wonder if any believe and teach this, ASK THEM. "Beloved, believe not every Spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone into the world." (1 John 4:1) If a man tells you he has been "led" to do a thing, ask him by which verse. If his leading is not that of the Bible, he has not been led by the Holy Spirit and he is a false teacher!

The following article is the text of a tract which was written by Bill Graddy, minister of the 6th and Maple Streets church of Christ, North Little Rock, Arkansas. If you should be interested in securing other copies of, he would be happy for you to write him.

## Don't Marry a Question Mark !

God has made rich provisions for every aspect of man's life. Marriage is no exception. But, "When a child of God marries a child of the devil, he will have trouble with his father-in-law." As in all other areas so in marriage, "man must live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" in order to be happy. Matt. 4:4. Many are now and many more according to present trends will live with a QUESTION

MARK which indeed will be a "thorn in the flesh." The purpose of this tract is to save all and especially the young people the AGONY of going through life living with a QUESTION about their marriage. The adulterer shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal. 5:19-21. Think on these things lest the "thorn" becomes yours and give the more earnest heed lest the question mark LOOMS before your conscience terrifying day and night.

### DON'T MARRY A QUESTION MARK THE FIRST TIME!

God ordained marriage. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. Gen. 2:24. Marriage is one flesh. Gen. 2:24. Marriage is honourable and the bed is undefiled: but whosoever defileth it, defileth himself: such shall be judged. Heb. 13:4. Two, who have never been married, have the right to unite in this relationship which God instituted for their good. This marriage is binding whether they be Christian or not. John 12:48. Once the vow is made only death and fornication-adultery will break it in the sight of God regardless of what the courts of the land may decree. Matt. 5:32; Rom. 7:1-4. A long courtship is MOST desirable. Go with a person long enough to know his likes and dislikes, his interests and his convictions — especially religious convictions. Investigate thoroughly. "If thou wouldst marry wisely, marry thine equal." Ovid, "A stitch in time saves nine" is good advice and one sure way to prevent the "thorn in the flesh" and never allowing the QUESTION MARK to become yours.

### DON'T MARRY A QUESTION MARK THE SECOND TIME!

The goodness of God provided for man's happiness in the second marriage. In the case of death, no one questions the right of remarriage. Rom. 7:1-4; 1 Cor. 7:39. However, God placed one restriction on the second marriage for the Christian. This union must be "in the Lord". 1 Cor. 7:39. Many are the reasons for this. But the lesson for the Christian's second marriage is, he must marry

"marry "in the Lord" or another Christian. If he does not, the QUESTION MARK will be his and will serve as a "thorn in the flesh." Be sure your sins will find you out. Nu. 32:23. CAUTION! If the mate be to, is not a Christian — a faithful member of the Lord's church — convert him before the marriage, or else you marry a QUESTION MARK!!

In the case of fornication or adultery, Matt. 5:32, 19:3-9, the innocent may remarry. But don't marry a QUESTION MARK here! Investigate to see beyond DOUBT (?) that the innocent is innocent. Make sure you know who "Causeth". Matt. 5:32, this divorce. WARNING: What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder. Matt. 19:6. A failure of proof will be as a "thorn in the flesh." You cannot be happy and have peace of mind except it be according to the Word of God.

Some do not think that the innocent has the right to remarry. If not, why did Jesus give the exception — fornication and-or adultery??? If this does not free the innocent to remarry, then the burden of non-marriage, "burning in lust" I Cor. 7:9, is on the innocent, thus distorting God's plan for the happiness of His creatures through marriage. The innocent is free to remarry and if he be Christian the marriage must be "in the Lord." I Cor. 7:39.

Many of the heartaches and tears of parents relative to their children's marriages are results of the QUESTION MARK! Those marrying in DOUBT will live with this "thorn in the flesh." It will become as "a worm that dieth not". Isa. 66:24. Before you marry, make sure you know WHAT SAITH THE LORD concerning marriage. Please, please, young and old, DON'T MARRY A QUESTION MARK!

The world divides people horizontally (upper and lower class). But God divides them vertically (to the right and to the left).

True happiness is a condition of the mind, and not an accumulation of surplus cash.

## "Let All Remember God"

O. L. Grisham  
Muscatine, Iowa

Friends, have you taken time out to take special inventory of all the wonderful works of God, and all the wonderful blessings that God has provided for man? We need to recapture the sentiment of him who said, "I will remember the works of the Lord; surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God that doest wonders..." (Psa. 77:11-14). If we would be among God's victorious ones, we must forever sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, crying out, "Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty" (Rev. 15:3). Or, as David expressed it, "Marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth David expressed it, "Marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psa. 139:14). However, is it not true that men of today have lost sight of the wonderful Jehovah God?

What could account for the losing of that sense of wonder? Have we ceased to be amazed any more? Has our sense of marvel faded? What has happened? For one thing, the marvelous advancement that has been, might account for it. Think of the many discoveries that have come through research. These discoveries have brought comforts, conveniences and luxuries that at first were rather startling, but which now have become very commonplace. In travel, communications, medical science, standard of living, great strides have been made within the past few years. Has such advancement caused us to lose our appreciation and excitement for the spectacular things of God? In our day we have witnessed so many unbelievable things that it seems quite fashionable to be surprised at nothing.

When the world of air travel

opened up before us a few years ago, who would have then thought that within a short period of time that man would be orbiting the earth as such fantastic speed? At first this was rather shocking, but now we seem to have accepted it as just a matter of course. A hundred years ago who could have conceived of such a mighty thrust that could launch a satellite into outer space? Who could then have dreamed of such a mighty destructive power residing in a single bomb? All these things make the marvels of radio and television air travel and other things seem as nothing.

Familiarity often causes us to lose that sense of awe and rapture. The things with which we are so familiar we too often take for granted. If we aren't careful, these things, no matter how great they are, will eventually become commonplace to us. If the stars appeared only once a year, or the beautiful afterglow of a sunset only once in a lifetime, we would fall to our knees in adoration and astonishment, but as it is, we scarcely notice these things at all!

Dear Friends, let us open up the wonderful revelation of God to man, and there learn of all the handy work of God, God's eternal plan to redeem man, and the great cost that was required to make it all possible. Let us not lose sight of those mighty things of God just because we live in the most progressive age that man has ever lived. Let it be a wonder to us; that all this is from God, is allowed and permitted of the Creator of all things. "In Him we live and move, and have our very being...."

## Looking Ahead

Brother Clifford Dixon will be in a series of meetings at Viola, Arkansas June 5-13. You will want to make plans to attend this meeting. We might also report that Brother Ralph Eaglemon preaches for the church there on the first and third Sunday of each month.

## What Must I Do to Become a Christian?

**HEAR**— "If any man have an ear, let him hear." Rev. 13:9 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17

**BELIEVE** — Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6

**REPENT** — "I tell you, nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Lk. 13:3 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts 17:30

**CONFESS** — "Whosoever there-

fore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

**BE BAPTIZED** — "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mk. 16:16 "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

"THEN THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED: AND THE SAME DAY THERE WERE ADDED UNTO THEM ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS." Acts 2:41

Clean living takes a lot more than soap and detergents.

## Contributions - -

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# Foy E. Wallace Jr.

ON

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