

On Eagle's Wings: Communion with the Holy Spirit

THREE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS:

- If you have chosen to be a follower of Jesus Christ, then the Holy Spirit dwells within you. (Romans 8:11a; 1 Corinthians 6:19)
- The Holy Spirit communicates with us and we have the capability to understand Him. (Romans 8:16)
 - Assures us of our salvation (Rom. 8:16)
 - Guides to the truth (John 16:13)
 - Convicts of sin (John 16:8)
 - Reveals God's thoughts (1 Cor. 2:10-12)
 - Promotes unity in community (Acts 4:32; Eph. 4:3)
 - Reveals the character and nature of Christ (John 15:26)
 - Pours God's love into our lives (Rom. 5:5)
 - Helps us to know what to say (1 Cor. 2:13)
 - Prays with us (Rom. 8:26)
 - Leads us in what God wants us to do (Rom. 8:14)
- The Holy Spirit speaks to us through our spirit and is understood as thoughts or images in our mind.

Question: How do I distinguish between my spirit (the voice of my spirit) and the Holy Spirit (his voice)?" (*John 10 – We are able to recognize His voice*)

- **The voice of our physical body.** This voice is not always wrong (pain, pleasure). But the voice of our physical body is wrong when it's reasoning becomes "do it because it feels good" and there is no thought of the consequences to ourselves, to others, or to our relationship with God.
- **The voice is our own mind.** It is usually a voice of rationalization or a voice of excessive emotion. It usually speaks from the "I" perspective, meaning this is what will be best for me.
- **The voice of another "spirit".** This voice usually has characteristics that are the opposite of the Fruit of the Spirit, and will usually contradict truths found in the Scriptures. It will often create doubt or confusion in your mind and life.
- **The voice of the Holy Spirit.** This voice will exhibit the characteristics of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, and will always be consistent with scriptural truths. There may be an insistent message, but will always seek cooperation and not work through coercion.

Suggested Readings:

- Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 2
- "Hearing God" by Dallas Willard
- "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby
- "Abide in Christ" by Andrew Murray

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Question: "How do we 'walk in the spirit'? What does it mean to be led by the Spirit?"

- **"To be led"** means to take direction, advice, or counsel from. It is allowing your decisions to be influenced and determined by something. It is a contemplation or an act of the will.
- **"To walk in"** means to do something, to exert effort, to progress toward. It is an action of our body. To walk in something means to have that something by your source of strength or energy for the action.

<i>The Influence</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Walk in</i>
Our flesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To decide what to do based on what "feels" right to do. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use our own strength. When it is gone, we are done. • Do it until we either can't or don't want to.
Our own will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To decide what to do based on our emotions. • To decide what to do based on our own reasoning. "It seemed right to do this." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use our own determination or will to accomplish the feat.
A spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To obey a "voice" either from within or without. • This will always contradict scripture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To rely on supernatural power to accomplish the deed.
Holy Spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To align our decisions to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. To yield to the inward working of the Holy Spirit. • It will always be in line with Scripture and will always advance the cause of Christ. Notice the results in Gal. 5: 22, 23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To rely on His wisdom and His Gifts to accomplish His tasks. • It is yielding to the outward working of the Holy Spirit, His anointing, to provide us with the sources we need to accomplish the task. • It is cooperating (yoked) with Him instead of working without Him.