

## Captive Christianity

### How the Holy Spirit Leads:

#### 1. The Holy Spirit leads through the WORD

- **Matt. 4:1-4** - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup>Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." <sup>4</sup>But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" "
- Our love for the Word of God is a direct reflection of our LOVE for CHRIST!
  - i. **John 1:1** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
  - ii. **Hebrews 4:12** - For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- As we embrace the Word of God, we will take on the APPEARANCE of Christ
  - i. **2 Cor. 3:18** - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
- The Word of God SUPERSEDES any and all sensational experiences
  - i. **2 Peter 1:16-21** - For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup>For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup>And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; <sup>20</sup>knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup>for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.
- The continual intake of God's Word will keep us HOLY
  - i. **John 15:3** - You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

#### 2. The Holy Spirit leads through the INWARD WITNESS

- **Romans 8: 15-16** - For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup>The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...

- The inward **WITNESS** will often manifest in **PEACE**
    - i. **Colossians 3:15** - And let the peace of God **rule** in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
  - The inward witness is just as **SUPERNTURAL** as guidance through visions, it's just not as **SPECTACULAR!**
  - Under the new covenant God doesn't lead his children by fleeces
  - The inward witness will also manifest in an inward **KNOWING**
    - i. **Acts 27:9-10** - Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, <sup>10</sup> saying, "Men, **I perceive** that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."
3. The Holy Spirit leads his children through **DREAMS** and **VISIONS**
- **Acts 10:1-3 / Job 33:14-18**
  - Note: Nowhere in the Bible does it say that anyone was **SEEKING** a vision or dream when it came.
  - All dreams and vision must line up with the Word of God and / or should **CONFIRM** that which God has already been speaking to you.
4. The Holy Spirit can also choose to lead us through **PROPHETIC** ministry
- **1 Tim. 4:14** - Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
  - God used this type of ministry to lead the Apostle Paul
  - **Compare:**
    - i. **Acts 20:22** - And see, now I go bound **in the spirit** to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there...
    - ii. **21:4** - And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through **the Spirit** not to go up to Jerusalem.
    - iii. **21:10-11** - And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup> When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his *own* hands and feet, and said, "**Thus says the Holy Spirit**, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles.' "