

Led By the Spirit

Sermon #1012

Study by W.D. Frazee—December 2, 1966

This will be, the most important meeting, in the lives of a number of people, here, tonight. I trust, that it will be, for quite a number. As we open our hearts, to the Spirit's blessing, we can receive more, much more, far more, than we have even thought of receiving, in the past. Our God is rich, we are needy, and if we will bring our need to His riches, all that heaven has, is for us. Let us turn to Romans the eighth chapter, where we will find our text, in the fourteenth verse. Romans 8:14.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” Romans 8:14.

The children of God, His sons and daughters, are led by His spirit. The Shepherd leads the sheep. Jesus, by His spirit, leads His people. Now suppose that you and I were sitting, just the two of us together, and I should ask you, “Are you being led and guided by the Spirit”? Now there are those that might say, “well, I would like to be, I wish I knew”? There are those who might hesitate, to claim such a thing. They might feel that it was a bit boastful, a bit presumptuous, it is too much to claim. But Paul makes a very broad statement here.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, (they are what?) the sons of God” Romans 8:14.

How many of God's children are led by the Spirit? (Audience says “all”). Is that what this text says? Do you believe that? Do you believe the Bible? Then, if you and I are God's children, we are being what? Led by the spirit, led by the spirit. So this evening, I would like to study with you, four areas, in which the Spirit desires to lead us. This won't exhaust the subject, this will merely introduce it. First of all, turning over to John the sixteenth chapter, we will find that the Holy Spirit, brings to us, conviction. In our sinful state, He very often puts His finger, first of all, on the sins in our lives. The work of the Holy Spirit, is thus described by Jesus, in John sixteen, verses, seven, and eight.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he (that is the comforter, Holy Spirit) is come, he will reprove the world of sin..” John 16:7-8.

The margin says, “convince” the world of sin. The first thing, then, that the Spirit of God may find to do, in my heart and yours, is to convince us of what? Of sin, and we should thank Him for that, dear friends, shouldn't we? Oh, yes, that is a wonderful blessing, to have sin pointed out, in our life.

If we go to the doctor for a physical examination, and he finds a cancer, we may be sorry, that we have the cancer, but we ought to be thankful, for what? That the doctor found it, and pointed it out, shouldn't we? How foolish it would be, to blame the doctor, for finding the cancer. But you know, there are people that hate to go to doctors, because they are afraid of what he will find. Yes, and there are people, who hate to have the Spirit of God come very close to them, because they are afraid, of what He may point out.

Well dear ones, God is not going to tell us everything we need to know, unless we want, His diagnosis. And some things, He may trouble us about, whether we ask Him or not. But there are other things, other duties, that we have not perhaps even thought of, that God is waiting to bring to our attention, if we want His guidance. Now what did our opening text say, will you repeat it with me?

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” Romans 8:14.

Does that mean, that if I am really God's child, I want Him to point out in my life, anything, that ought to be changed? Yes, now this is not merely negative, it is positive as well. It isn't just, convincing us of sin, it is pointing out duties. Take this wonderful statement here in Volume 5, page 163.

“The Lord speaks; enter into your closet, and in silence commune with your own heart; listen to the voice of truth and conscience. Nothing will give such clear views of self as secret prayer. He who seeth in secret and knoweth all things will enlighten your understanding and answer your petitions” Testimonies, Volume Five, page 163, paragraph 4.

Now this sentence.

“Plain, simple duties that must not be neglected will open for you” Ibid.

Could that happen? Could the man go into his closet, (might be his bedroom or in the barn, or in the garage or somewhere) all by himself, and kneel down, and open his heart to God, and say, “Lord, I want you to lead me by Your spirit.” Could it be, that God would impress his heart, with some duty, that he hadn't thought of before? That is what this is talking about, friends.

Now I know, in all that I am going to study tonight, there is a danger of being extreme. I don't know of any good thing, that can't be carried to extreme, and can't be twisted.

We are told plainly by inspiration to beware of following impulse, calling it the Holy Spirit.

And thank God, we have His word, to test the impressions, that we get. And if we get any impression, to do some crazy thing, according to the word, we can measure it, you see. And we will know, it didn't come from God, isn't that right? But

friends, when we get an impression, to do the will of God, we can bring that impression, to the test of the Bible, the law and the testimony, and it will measure up alright.

Now the question is, Will we be led by the Spirit, when the Holy Spirit impresses us, in the secret place of prayer, as to duty, or will we wait to see, what somebody else will tell us, on the question? Or what somebody else, will do, about it? This is where, so many miss the blessing. Our text says, that the children of God, are led by, what? Led by the Spirit. Do you think the Spirit, (listen carefully to my question) do you think the Spirit, will impress everybody, to do the same thing, at the same time? Do you? No, I don't either. Well now, if you agree on that, then you will agree with this. That the Spirit might ask you to do something, that at that particular moment, as far as you know, He is not asking other people to do. Is that right? And what will you do?

Well, as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Let me illustrate that. Suppose I am here, in a family of people, in one of the great popular churches, serving God, to the best of my knowledge, and all, in our family, are. But we tune in someday, and we hear the Sabbath message, over the radio, or perhaps the literature comes to our door, and we begin to study the Sabbath. And I take that to God in prayer, and I begin to study, and one day, as I am studying and praying, the conviction comes, definitely, to my heart, "the seventh day, is the Sabbath, of the Lord thy God." You ought to keep it. Shall I wait, to see, if all the other members of the family, have seen and embraced it, before I take my stand, shall I? Is that "being led" by the Spirit? Well, no, friends. Oh, how many, miss the point, because they do that. No, today, if you will hear His voice, (what?) harden not your hearts, go ahead, and obey God.

And God (watch this point) often allows deep conviction to come, to one individual, before He does others, so that, that individual, can get the experience, of being led by the Spirit, in harmony with the Word, of course, rather than by the influence of friends and relatives. Do you see? And yet, we are living in an age, my dear friends, where mass pressure is such, that millions of people, are being educated to do nothing, unless they can get a consensus on it. And even among those, who claim to be looking, for the coming of Jesus, it is a hard thing, to get many of them, to take a stand, on any subject, unless, the people that they are associated with, will do the same thing.

You will hear parents lamenting the fact, that their children, are put in circumstances, where the other children make fun of them, because they stand for certain things. The inference is, that it would be so much nicer, if the children, wouldn't have to do that. My dear friends, where are we going to develop any Daniels or Josephs?

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

Let me read you something interesting, that was written a hundred and thirty-five years ago. Over in Burma, by the great missionary, Judson, primary missionary, to Burma. Now this is a long, long letter, on the subject of dress, and it was

addressed to the women members of all the Christian churches, in the United States of America, back in 1831. He was appealing to them, to lay off of the jewelry, their gold and silver, and pearls and precious stones, in harmony with the Bible. He was appealing to them, to do it, so that the missionaries they sent over there in Burma, wouldn't make it hard for him, as he tried to help the Burmese, that were accepting Christianity, to see, what the Bible says. He was appealing, to put their influence and example, on the side of plain, simple, economical, sacrificial dress, and living. Now I am not going to read you his letter, because that isn't my subject. I want to read you, one, of his concluding paragraphs.

“The gay and fashionable will, in many cases, will be the last to engage, in this holy undertaking. But let none be discouraged on that account. Christ has seldom honored the leaders of worldly fashion, by appointing them, leaders, in His cause. Fix it in your hearts, that in your heart, the Lord Jesus Christ, expects every women, to do her duty. Wait not, therefore, for the fashionable, to set an example. Wait not, for one another, listen not to the news from the next town, but let every individual, go forward, regardless of reproach, fearless of consequences.”

What do you say? Do you say, amen? Do you? That is what it means, dear friends, to be led by the Spirit of God. And dear sisters, young and old, may I say to you, if you want some of the sweetest experiences of a Christians life, know what it means, to go into your closet, and there, alone with God, talk over with Him, everything that affects your appearance. From the shoes on your feet, to the way you arrange your hair, on top of your head, and everything in between. But all that is useless, it is mere pantomime, just mere gymnastics, unless when you do it, when you go to the closet, intend to carry out what the Spirit of God impresses on your heart, not waiting, to see what somebody else is going to do. Do you see what I mean, friends?

Oh, how many a blessing has been lost, through a failure to recognize that. Now, I use this as an illustration, it applies to everything in life, our diet, our reading, our music. Every now and then, somebody asks me a question, something about music. Why? My dear friends, this text, will handle nine tenths of the problem.

“For as many as are (what?) led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” Romans 8:14.

And many of the questions that you and I, ask human beings, if we would ask God, and let the Holy Spirit impression our hearts, and as dear old, Luther Warren, says, “just play fair with God.” In other words, when He convicts your heart, say, “alright Lord, I won't argue about it, I won't run around to find somebody that will give me an excuse for evading this, I'll just do it, I'll do it.” Friends, we can be in heaven, soon, if we will do that. The road to heaven is not so far, that isn't what is keeping us. But any distance, would be far, if we only moved, once inch, in a year, wouldn't it? Any distance would be far. But, oh, may we say, as David said, “Run the way of God's commandments.”

Now looking again there in John 16, notice what the second thing is that Holy Spirit leads in.

“And when he is come, he will reprove (or the margin says, convince) the world of sin, and (what?) of righteousness...”
John 16:8.

Of righteousness. Let's go back to Romans the eighth chapter, where our opening text was. Oh, this is sweet and precious. Notice the Holy Spirit's endeavor, to make us happy, to make us peaceful, to give us assurance. Romans 8:14,15,16.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”
Romans 8:14-16.

Oh, the Holy Spirit then, leads us away from sin, to righteousness, (and watch) just as the first thing He does, is convince us, and tell us, we are sinners, then as we give up the sin, and accept Jesus, He tells us, that we are righteous. Oh, somebody says, “really, the Holy Spirit tells us, we are righteous”? Yes, if we accept Jesus, if we accept Jesus. Because as we studied here, not long ago, we are covered with His righteousness. We are clothed with Him. We are no longer naked, and thank God, we don't have, just some fig leaf girdle on. We are covered with the righteousness of Jesus, and the same Spirit, (watch the point) that troubled us, and bothered us, if we will resist it, it said, “you're a sinner, you're a sinner.” Now He says, “you are all right.”

Oh, somebody says, “I wish I could hear that.” Well you will, if you will listen, and meet the conditions, of course. Because that is what this says, notice,

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear...” Romans 8:15.

What does that “again” mean? The second time, over again. We are in bondage, when we are in sin, aren't we? And believe me friends, when the Spirit of God, begins to wake a man up, and he knows he is lost, and he sees that he is a sinner, and under condemnation, he feels bad, he ought to. But some poor souls, have been in that, for years, friends. And it is distressing, and God wants to get us out of that. His purpose in talking to us about the cancer, isn't so that He can just lash us over that, everyday. No, He wants to do something for it. His purpose, in pointing out the sin, is that He may remove it, He may take it away.

Ah, but somebody says, “It doesn't work that way with me.” Listen friends, what we are studying, is righteousness, by what? By faith. What is faith? Is faith believing that, that book is blue? What? Why no, that's sight, you can see it is blue, can't you? Is faith believing that this book is black? Why no, you can see that, by sight, you don't have to have any faith at all. Faith, is believing, what God says,

when we can't see it. And you can't see, that you are righteous, can you? If you can, friends, you need to have your eyes examined. That's right. But if you believe that you are righteous, because you have accepted Jesus, not because of what you see in yourself, but because you believe the Word of God, that's faith. And with that, the Holy Spirit combines His witness, that's what this says.

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" Romans 8:16.

Let's listen, what do you say? Let's listen. Oh, to get these two great works of the Spirit, fully understood, and fully accepted, in our hearts. The first, to convince us, of what? Sin. And the second, to convince us, of what? Righteousness. Why, there is the blessed work of being born again, of being converted, of regeneration, of justification. And they are just different terms, for the same thing, we pass from death unto life. Who was it, that convinced us of sin? The Spirit. Who is it, that convinces us of righteousness? The Spirit. Oh, yes, and friends, He never tells a lie. If He says we are sinners, we had better believe it, and then when we give up our sins, and turn our lives over to Jesus, immediately, He pronounces us, what? Righteous. Oh, what a wonderful thing, what a wonderful deliverance.

Now the Devil, as in everything else, goes at things negatively. And when the Holy Spirit, is trying to tell you, you are a sinner, the Devil, (and you have some good people to help him) will kind of pat you on the back, and say, "oh, you're not so bad after all, don't get fanatical, you're pretty good, you are about as good as most people, and don't worry about that." But once you get in earnest, and accept what the Spirit convicts you of, and give up the sin, and start turning your life over to Jesus, on every point. Then, my dear friends, the Devil, he will turn right around, when the Spirit is trying to tell you, that you are righteous, the Devil will start lashing your soul, and telling you, what a bad sinner you are. That's right, he will, just as sure as can be. And he will make it uncomfortable, if you will listen to him. But do just what Martin Luther did, when the Devil tried that with him, he said, "that's none of your business."

We don't need the Devil's help. Let us listen to the Spirit of God, as He speaks through the Word, and by the impression, on our hearts. Let's test every impression, by the work, and accept only those impressions, that agree with the work. Now these verses, are so important, I am going to have you read them, with me, now. Verses fourteen, fifteen, and sixteen, Romans eight. You have it there, (altogether).

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" Romans 8:14-16.

You know, as I read that fifteenth verse, my soul rejoices, as I think of an experience that came to me, and to our little girl. Many of you know, we have a dear daughter, that we adopted, when she was eight years old. I remember once, when she was learning to read the Bible, she noticed this word, "adoption" in this fifteenth verse. How she rejoiced in it. But this is what I was going to tell you. You know, our

little girl, after she had only been with us a few days, and I noticed that she was just talking, “daddy, daddy, daddy.” And you know, as the days came and went, sometimes she would just say, “daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy.” I think she was making up for lost time. She was so glad to have a daddy, to ride around, and we had a wonderful time. And I think, that is what Paul is trying to tell us, here in this fifteenth verse.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received (what?) the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, (what?) Abba, Father” Romans 8:15.

Do you know what “Abba,” means? It means “father.” Father in the Aramaic, and then the next word was, “father,” in the Greek. But they translated the “father” in the Greek and left the “Abba” there.

“...whereby we cry, Abba, Father” Romans 8:15.

What it really is, we cry, “Father, Father.” “Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy”, you see? Now Jesus has taught us, to call His Father, our Father, is that right? And the Holy Spirit, is in that business of witnessing to us, that we are the children of God. Oh, let’s make Him happy, what do you say? Let’s look up with joy. And listen, we will never get that confidence, if we keep looking at ourselves. Oh, no. Because God hasn’t promised to give us, in this world, the consciousness, by looking at ourselves, that we are alright. He has never promised us that. Some people just look, until their eyes get weary, and their hearts are soft. No, the way you and I, can be conscious of righteousness, is by looking to Jesus, accepting the simple fact, as we have chosen Him, the Father counts us, like Him.

His righteousness is accounted to us. Now that is so utterly unreasonable, to the natural selfish human heart, that it seems to good to be true. It doesn’t seem to add up, it doesn’t friends. Grace and peace multiplied, it is the wondrous mercy of God, poured out, as a free gift. Let’s accept it, what do you say? And if we will listen, in the secret place of prayer, and as we study the word, the Holy Spirit will witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. Notice, not that we, may be, someday, hope to be, but that we are. And so if somebody says, “Are you a child of God.” You can say, “Thank God, yes I am.” Are you righteous? “My Savior counts me that way.” Do you feel that way? “No, I don’t, but I believe in Him, instead of believing my poor old deceitful heart. My guilt is under the precious blood. My bondage is gone, the chain is broken, Jesus is my Savior and He has delivered me.”

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” Romans 8:16.

And friends, on these first two points, I beseech you, get an experience of your own. Get an experience of your own. It is a wonderful thing, to see God in a meeting, and get a blessing. But friends, every soul here, needs a renewed experience, from day to day, in going through these two steps, alone with God. Because the Spirit that convicted you of sin, in the beginning, He will have new duties to teach you, from time to time. Ask Him to, don’t feel that you have to go to the doghouse, when the Spirit of God begins to tell you, about some weakness in

your life. Thank Him for it, agree with Him at once, don't have a battle with Him about it. Just say, "alright Lord, I know I am weak, and if this is the point I need help, Lord, I accept it, and I believe You accept me, because I accept Jesus." See, you can have a happy walk with God, from day to day.

Alright, now number three. Acts 1:8. Here is something else the Holy Spirit wants to do for us. Acts 1:8. Remember our text,

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

"Led by the Spirit", that is to teach! Acts, the first chapter, and the eighth verse.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" Acts 1:8.

Did that happen? Did they tarry in Jerusalem, until they received the Spirit? Did He come, did He fill their hearts and lives? And at once, they started, what? Witnessing. Did they win some souls? Finally, after years, did they get one or two? That very day, they got how many? Three thousand. But friends, they didn't all come, in great big numbers, that way.

Turn over to the eighth chapter of Acts. Here is something wonderful. We won't read the whole chapter, but much of it is taken up with the experience of Philip. He was up in Samaria, holding a meeting, the Lord was blessing, many were accepting, but there came a day when the Lord said to Philip. "I've got a job for you somewhere else, I want you to leave Samaria, I want you to go on south, way on south of Jerusalem, and I want you to go down there, on the desert, toward Gaza."

And friends, thank God, here is the man, that was led by the Spirit and he knew it, and he didn't stop to argue with God, he didn't stop to tell God, "why Lord, there is a whole lot of people down there at Jerusalem, they are closer than I am, why don't you have them go, they have had more experience than I, some of them, are ordained preachers." Philip, you know, was only a deacon. He could have told the Lord a lot of reasons, why it ought to be arranged, some way else. But he didn't do any of that. Do you know what the twenty-seventh verse says?

"And he arose and went.." Acts 8:27.

Can you do any better than that? Oh, friends, let's not do worse, what do you say? When the Spirit of God, brings conviction to our soul, that here is somebody, He wants us to talk to, somebody, He wants us to work for, let's do it, what do you say? Alright, he arose and went, and what happened?

"...behold a man of Ethiopia, (way down there on the desert) an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had

come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet” Acts 8:27-28.

Now the 29th verse, read it with me.

“Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot” Acts 8:29.

Who was conducting this soul winning work? The Holy Spirit was. What part did Philip have in it? He was the agent. He was the visible agent. How in this world, did he ever get there, at that particular time, away up there, in the desert? Philip had come from Samaria, this man had come from Jerusalem, and there they met, way out there on the desert. One man on foot, and the other man, in a chariot. The Spirit said, “this is your man, go near and join yourself to this chariot.” And Philip didn’t say, “well, Lord, don’t You know, he is a great big officer in the kingdom, I couldn’t talk to him”? Why, he didn’t do anything of the kind. He ran right up to him, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading”? The man said, “How could I, without somebody to guide me, will you help me”? And then he jumped into the chariot, and as they rode along, he explained the fifty third of Isaiah.

If it had been an hour earlier, it would have been an hour, too early, if it had been five minutes later, he would have missed him, for all time. Oh, friends, how wonderful it is, to be guided by the Spirit. Will you be willing, to be guided, by the Spirit? Will you speak to the one, that God impresses you, to speak to? Will you go visit the one, that the Holy Spirit impresses you, to go to? Will you witness?

“As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” Romans 8:14.

Now God, may use some human agent, to suggest somebody for you, to go to. But may I counsel you? If you are wise, and understand this subject, if anybody, and I mean, anybody. If anybody asks you to go and visit somebody, you wait, at least three seconds, before you say “all right, I will go.” Wait a minute, listen for the voice of the Spirit, just listen. I am not talking, about some audible voice. I am talking about something deeper. Look to God and say, “Lord, is that a job you want me to do, or not?” Don’t hesitate to do that. I want to tell you something, if you try to do all the good things, that all the good people ask you to do, you will be so confused, friends, you will be going around in circles. You won’t know where you are at. Do any of you know, what I am talking about? Any of you, ever try it? Don’t think, that every good thing, you are asked to do, is the invitation of the Spirit.

You are asked to take an office, or go give a Bible study, or go out and do colporteur work, or anything else. Ask God, what He wants you to do about it. You say, “well, Brother Frazee, How would I know”? Well, you had better get acquainted, with how God leads. Because “as many as are (what?) led by the Spirit, they are the sons of God.” And if you go to God earnestly, and tell Him, that you have to be guided by Him, He will lead you. You may stub your toe a few times, you might even fall down and get hurt, but nothing, that will be eternally damaging. It is worthwhile, if you have to make a few mistakes, to learn arithmetic, isn’t it? Yes, and it is

worthwhile, learning to be guided by the Spirit of God, and in no field, is it needed more, than in this one, of soul winning.

But do you know, where many a person, has missed these precious experiences? The Spirit spoke to them, impressed them, to talk to somebody, and they held back, they pulled away. And the Spirit is very courteous, He comes only where He is asked, and only where He is wanted. We can grieve Him away, we get busy with all our plans, and neglect to do that, which the Spirit has impressed us to do, friends. We can go a good many days, without it. Let's come back, and listen to the Spirit, and do what He says, what do you say?

Alright, now this book of Acts, somebody has said, while men have called this the Acts of the Apostles, really, it is the Acts of the Holy Spirit. And the whole book, is wonderful on this. Now I want to show you another wonderful thing, that the Spirit of God does. In the second chapter of this book of Acts, you will remember, that this was the day of Pentecost, they were all of one accord, in one place. The Spirit of God, was poured out, and before that day was over, how many had been converted? Three thousand people. But now notice what happens, here the Spirit begins to get right down to business, if I may use that expression, and deal with practical material things. Second chapter of Acts, verses forty-four, and forty-five.

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” Acts 2:44-45.

Believe me friends, when conversion gets way down, in the hip pocket, here, into the pocket book, it is going deep. Do you agree with me? Yes. Turn over to the fourth chapter. Notice another wonderful outpouring of the Spirit. Fourth chapter of Acts, and the thirty first, verse.

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness” Acts 4:31.

The whole congregation was filled with what? The Holy Ghost from heaven. Now watch,

“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul: neither said of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all” Acts 4:32-33.

What is the repeated adjective, here, again, and again? Great, great, great, great.

“Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and

brought the prices of the things which were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need" Acts 4:34-35.

Listen friends, and I don't want you to misunderstand my question, but I want to ask a question. Do you read anything here, that indicates, that they had a committee, that went around, and pulled that money, out of the people? Now, the only way you can get milk from a cow, is to milk it. Some of you know that, don't you? That's right. And a lot of people, the only way you can get money out of them, is to put some pressure on it. But here, the Spirit of God, was guiding people, and they were coming up, and laying the money down at the apostles feet. The apostles weren't out there, pulling it out of them, do you see the difference? Who was in charge? The Holy Spirit.

One of the sweetest experiences of Christian life, is to have the guidance of the Spirit, in matters of stewardship. There is nothing in which God wants to come closer, than this matter. Has God given everyone, the same amount of money? No, and He never will.

"And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and another one; to each man according to his (what?) several ability..." Matthew 25:15.

Some people read these verses, and they say, "this is communism"! This is as far from communism, as the north pole is, from the south pole! You read the fifth chapter of Acts, and you will see, that God had not taught the people, that they should turn over everything they had, to somebody else. Peter said, in the fourth verse,

"Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?..." Acts 5:4.

Individual stewardship, is a very important thing, in God's way of thinking, friends. And if God has given you any money, whether it is ten cents, or a million dollars, He has made you steward of that, and nobody of this world, can tell you what to do with that, but the Spirit of God. Somebody else might ask, somebody might even suggest, but be very careful, just as I warned you, about accepting every suggestion, about going on missionary work. You had better listen to God, or you will get overburdened, nervous, confused. And if every time somebody wants to borrow money from you, if every time somebody comes with some wonderful missionary project, and they want you to have a part in it. You think that you have to do that, and keep up with all of that, friends, you not only run out of money, you run out of the joy, that comes with fellowship with the Spirit.

I have a friend, he lives a good many hundred miles away from here, that has assisted a number of young men, through the medical course. One young man, that was in the medical course, heard about this man, and so he went to him. And he said, "you know, brother, I am needing some money to get through the medical course, and the Lord impressed me, to come to you, and talk with you, about it." And my friend told him, just like this, and I think it was a good answer. He said, "you

know brother, if the Lord impressed you to come to me, probably the Lord will impress me, what to do about it.” Do you think that was a good answer? Yes. I always feel sorry for people, who have to give either to individuals, or to a cause, because they are afraid somebody is going to think, they are “tight”, or “stingy”, if they don’t. That is no reason. Why be slaves, to men, friends? God loves, what kind of a giver? A cheerful giver. And anything we do for God’s cause, ought to be done for God, shouldn’t it? That’s right.

And you notice that the Spirit of God, guided those believers back there, and they just came and pressed the money, on the apostles. The apostles did not have to stop their work, of winning souls, to just pull money, pull money, pull money. The money just came rolling in, why? Because the Spirit of God was in charge. Do you think, that will ever happen again, friends? Yes, friends, it will. It is happening, in some part of the world, tonight.

You know, we are building a chapel down here on the highway, and about two thirds of what it is going to take, to give us that chapel, was already in hand, before we started to build. That is a good way to have it, isn’t it? We need the other third, some of you have heard me give a word of invitation, on Thanksgiving day, about this. And do you know, how much we got back in return, that day? About one twentieth, of what we need, to complete it. In other words, we need to do what we did, Thanksgiving day, nineteen times, over again. Now I am so glad, for what several did, Thanksgiving day. But I am going to give you an opportunity, in a few minutes, to let the Holy Spirit lead your mind, as to what He wants you to do. And I don’t know, what will happen here tonight, friends, but I tell you, what I believe. I believe, that if the Holy Spirit has His way, that some of us are going to do some things here tonight, that we hadn’t the slightest idea, that we would do.

“As many as are led by the (what?) Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” Romans 8:14.

It is a wonderful thing, to say to God, “Lord, all I have is on the altar, all I need to know, is how much do You want me to use, for this particular purpose, it is all Yours, anyway.” I feel sorry for people that have an argument with themselves, every time they give something. There should be no argument with self, if you have to argue, well, go to the cross, friends. And there, look on those wounded hands, the pierced side, and the marred feet, until everything you have and are, goes there on the altar, before the bleeding Jesus, who gave His life.

But friends, there are many other offerings to be taken. This year and next year. And God wants you and I, to be sensible stewards, and just as when we are invited to do some missionary work, we have to stop and think. Now what, are my other obligations? So when we are invited to give an offering, we need to think. Now what, are my other obligations? That won’t quench the Spirit, if we are really on the altar, all we have, the Holy Spirit, will help us, to think of several things at once. And let me be very frank and honest with you. My purpose tonight, is not to raise money, my purpose, is to get everyone of us, by God’s grace, into the happy experience, of being led by the Spirit.

Number one, in personal duties, number two, in the assurance that we are accepted in the beloved, number three, in working for definite souls, guided by the Spirit, number four, in giving of our money, our offerings, as the Spirit of God will impress. In Volume 7, of the Testimonies, we have a most remarkable statement. It was written to encourage individual stewardship. Volume 7, 178. Some people back there, when this was written, had the idea, that if a man wrote a book, that he ought to turn all that, over to the church, and forget about any income from it. But the Spirit of God said, if a man has wisdom enough to write a book, he has wisdom enough to have a part in the stewardship of the income from it. A wonderful principle, friends. Now notice the comment on it.

“While it is right for them to place a portion in the treasury, to supply the general needs of the cause, they should feel it their duty to acquaint themselves with the necessities of the work, and with prayer to God for wisdom they should personally dispense their means where the need is greatest. Let them lead out in some line of benevolence” Volume 7, page 178, paragraph 3.

Now listen to this wonderful sentence.

“If their minds are under the direction of the Holy Spirit, they will have wisdom to perceive where means are needed, and in relieving this need they will be greatly blessed. Volume 7, page 178, paragraph 3.

Isn't it wonderful, friends? So I am going to give you an opportunity tonight, to take part, in finishing this chapel. And I don't know what the Holy Spirit, will impress you to do. But if He impresses you to do something, far out of the ordinary, be very careful about turning it down. Be very careful about turning it down. You know, what I am praying tonight? That God will repeat what He did back there at Pentecost, and turn lose our hearts and our money, for the finishing of the work. The purpose of that building down there, while it will be used as an institutional chapel, and while it will be used as a place for our Sabbath School and church, on Sabbath morning. Let me tell you , it's basic purpose, the thing that has given inspiration, for the raising of thousands of dollars, to build that, is that it is primarily, an evangelistic tabernacle. It is primarily a place where young and old, can be gathered from near and far, to hear God's last message for this dying world.

And frankly, unless that were it's purpose, I would have small interest in it, I have to be honest with you. But I want to tell you something, I have been preaching this message for over forty years now. I have preached it in tents and tabernacles, in halls and churches, in the great cities of America, from the Pacific coast, all over here, and I have never seen an evangelistic facility, well arranged, as this chapel is going to be. I thank the Lord, for the way He has blessed the brethren who have planned it, the way He has blessed the brethren, who are carrying out the plans, there has been one providence after another. And I expect to see another providence, here tonight. You know brethren, it wouldn't surprise me at all, if the Lord would impress some people here tonight, to give \$2,000.00, to this work. If you have \$2,000.00, or can get your hands on it, if you have it on deposit or have some

property that can release it, think carefully about it, the Lord might want you to give \$2,000.00. He might want you to give more than that. Perhaps what He wants you to do is a \$1,000.00. It might be \$500.00. It might be \$300.00, or \$200.00. And it might be, and I am not saying this in any foolish way, it might be, ten cents. It might be ten cents.

There are people here tonight friends, for whom ten cents, would be a larger offering than a \$1,000.00, for some other people, here tonight. That's right. There are some of you here tonight, that if you give a sacrificial offering, it will run, more than three figures. But there are others, like that widow that Jesus blessed, who give of their poverty.

Many of us can meet a need best, by spreading it over a period of time. We are going to give you an opportunity tonight, to make pledges, so much a month, for a year. You can start in December, and be through by next Thanksgiving, or you can start the first of the year in January, and be through by next Christmas. Some of you may be impressed by the Lord, to give \$50.00 a month, for twelve months. How much would that be? How much would that be, \$600.00 dollars? Well that would be a real lift, down there at the chapel. We have men, that under the blessing of God, multiply dollars, they spread the money over a good deal of results. It is going to be wonderful friends, to see a beautiful building down there, all ready to preach the message in, all paid for, for less than \$25,000.00 dollars. What do you say? Isn't that wonderful. It is not being done very many places, but God is blessing our brethren.

So I am so happy, that we can have this opportunity tonight. So you who are thinking, in terms of a lump sum, ask the Spirit to guide you. And you that make your offering best, by having it so much a month, a dollar a month, or ten cents a month. Some of you dear children, by sacrifice, you may be able to find ten cents a month. Put it down, don't feel apologetic because it is little. It only takes ten dimes to make a dollar. It only takes a hundred of those, to go along way towards meeting some needs down there. So let God lead your mind, let those who can give a little, pile in the littles, and let those that God has blessed with means, either of income or of capital, let them consider carefully here tonight.

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

Oh, that Pentecost may be repeated, as we come to grips with this glorious opportunity, and this great privilege. Now, I wish we might have a season of prayer, and then we are going to pass the slips, and ask the Lord impress our hearts. Let us kneel together, and Brother McClure, will you please come up, and offer prayer, that God will impress our hearts as we ask Him what He wants us to do? Whether in a lump sum, or some, month by month.

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