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## Sentence Sermons

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rectly to us, a number of negative consequences will follow. When people today claim that God, or the Spirit, is speaking directly to them and leading them, authority is given to one's personal inclinations or feelings. A person's own word becomes God's word and they begin to follow their own word over the Bible (Proverbs 16:25; Jeremiah. 10:23). Each person becomes a law to himself: "I'm going to follow the voice in my head no matter what you say." Subjectivism (one's own inner voice) will rule over an objective standard of truth (the New Testament scriptures). Plain Bible teaching or wise counsel will often be ignored. Finally, there will be no way of truly determining whether or not God is speaking to someone other than their own "say-so" (Deuteronomy 13:1-5).

There is no question that God led his people miraculously in Bible times (Deuteronomy 8:2,15; 29:5; ; Acts 8:26-40; 16:6). Today, however, God leads his people providentially through his care (Psalm 23:2; Matthew 6:13; Romans 2:4) and practically through his word contained in scripture (Psalm 43:3; 119:105). Friend, will you allow yourself today to be led by the Spirit's word contained in the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:14)? - *Chris Reeves*

- It is never a waste of time to read and study God's word.
- Some history is actually worth repeating.
- The Devil is ok with the preaching of truth as long as no one practices it.
- Dare like Daniel to be different and care like Christ to be courageous.
- Our soul is like our shoes; it's hard to keep them clean when you are always walking around in the mud.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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*May 19, 2019*



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Are You Feeling Led by the Spirit?

Many people in religious denominations today, and some in the Lord's church, claim to have a direct "leading from God". They say things like, "I sensed God was telling me...", "I heard God telling me...", or "I just know in my heart God is telling me...". They might also say something like, "A number of things happened that just told me that this is what God wanted me to do..."

So, the question is: Does God (or the Holy Spirit) speak to us directly and lead us to do things? Do we actually hear the voice of God telling us what to do each day?

To answer this question we must first understand the real issue at hand. This issue is not, "Are we led?" Of course we are led by God. The issue is, "How are we led?" We want to answer the "How" question in this article. How does the Spirit lead us?

We are told in God's word that a number of people were led by the Spirit of God. Jesus, for example, was "led by the Spirit", but we are not told how this was done, or that this leading is for us today (Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:1). We are also told that Christians are "led by the Spirit" and we are told how

this is done. Christians are led through the Spirit's teaching found in the scriptures (Romans 8:14; see 8:2,6,7,16 [Hebrews 10:15; 1 John 5:7]; and Galatians 5:18; see 3:4; 5:16-26; 6:6-8). This is the how.

## What the Holy Spirit Does Today He Does Through the NT

The Holy Spirit...	The Spirit's word in the New Testament...
Convicts (John 16:8)	Convicts (Titus 1:9; James 2:9)
Comforts (Acts 9:31)	Comforts (Romans 15:4)
Loves (Romans 15:13)	Loves (1 Thessalonians 4:9)
Guarantees (2 Corinthians 5:5)	Guarantees (1 John 5:5-13)
Gives faith (Galatians 5:22)	Gives faith (Romans 10:17)
Strengthens (Ephesians 3:16)	Strengthens (Acts 20:32)
Unites (Ephesians 4:3)	Unites (Ephesians 4:4-5,13)
Makes happy (1 Thessalonians 1:6)	Makes happy (1 John 1:4)
Sanctifies (2 Thessalonians 2:13)	Sanctifies (John 17:17)

The Holy Spirit is no less active today when he leads through the instrumentality of his word (Ephesians 6:17), than he was

active in Bible times when he spoke directly to people. In Bible times, God revealed his word and will to prophets through a number of means (Hebrews 1:1-2; Acts 2:17-19). For example, God gave Gideon a "sign" (Judges 5:36-40). He gave Elijah a "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12). He gave Daniel "dreams and visions" (Daniel 1:17). He gave Saul a "light out of heaven" and "a voice" (Acts 9:3-4). He gave Philip's daughters the ability to prophesy (Acts 21:9) and he gave John a "revelation" (Revelation 1:2).

When God revealed his will to prophets directly it was typically rare, an intrusion into one's life, direct and supernatural, clear and non-contradictory, and often against human wisdom. These characteristics of direct and divine revelation found in the Bible are simply not present today.

The truth is, we today are not prophets who receive special revelations outside of God's revealed will in the scriptures. The ability to prophesy ceased once God revealed his complete will in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 13:8-12).

If we allow ourselves to believe that God, or the Spirit, is speaking di-