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Essential ingredients for Christian growth Pt 7 Live & walk in the Spirit, and be led by the Spirit.

This is our seventh study on our topic – Essential ingredients for Christian growth. In our previous study we established the need to abide in Christ to bear fruit of the Spirit as evidence of spiritual growth. In this teaching we will cover the need to live and walk in the Spirit & be led by the Spirit.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Live in the Spirit.

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Gal.5: 25).

When we live in the Spirit we bear fruit of the Spirit, as established from the preceding verses that identify the fruit of the Spirit (verses 22 & 23).

2. Walk in the Spirit.

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Gal.5: 25).

And when we walk in the Spirit we crucify “the affections and lusts” (Gal.5: 24), such that we “let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body” (Rom.6: 12).

3. Be led by the Spirit.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Rom.8: 14), c.f. – Gal.4: 6
“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts”.

To be led by the Spirit of God we need to be still and listen to God.

“And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice” (1Kg.19: 12).

When we are led by the Spirit of God our spirit discerns the will of the Spirit of God.

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God...because they are spiritually discerned” (1Cor.2: 14).

Examples –

(i) “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost...was led by the Spirit into the wilderness” (Lk.4: 1).

ii) Paul – “After...they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not” (Acts 16: 7).

An illustration to help us apply this instruction in our lives today.

At Waco Texas in 1993 an ex Seventh-Day Adventist (David Koresh) taught that he alone could open the seven seals of Revelation “setting loose catastrophic events that will end mankind and propel him and his followers into heaven”, but instead 80 people tragically died.

Question to think about.

If David Koresh was a born-again Christian what Biblical doctrine did he fail to learn?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Discernment of the “still small voice” speaking to him, whether the voice was the Spirit of God or Satan. To claim “God said” when the voice you hear is contrary to the scriptures is disobedience to our Heavenly Father because the Spirit of God does NOT lead a Christian contrary to His written revelation. Hence, the scriptures require believers to “try the spirits whether they are of God” (1Jn. 4: 1), and “prove what is that the good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom.12: 2).

An essential ingredient therefore for Christian growth is the development of spiritual discernment, where we listen to the Spirit of God for His leading in our life, and where we experience times when we discern incorrectly but learn from them. In going through such experiences we will increasingly be led by the Spirit of God and consequently grow as a Christian.