

**N.G. Davidson**



**FOLLOWING  
THE  
LEADING  
OF GOD**

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## FOLLOWING THE LEADING OF GOD

**T**he LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. *Psalms 23:1-3*

We have to know the leading of God and how to follow it. It is important as believers to know how God leads and obtain that leading. A lot of Christians don't know how God leads them, so God

may be leading them and they think it is not God. Some of them expect the leading to come in a certain way, but then it doesn't come because they don't understand the diverse ways by which God leads. You need to know the diverse ways by which God leads so that you can tell whether you are following the leading of God or you are simply on your own. And I advise every believer not to be on their own on the journey of life because a time will come when they will need God; when it gets beyond human principles; when they will need the hand of the supernatural.

The psalmist said, "the Lord is my shepherd." A shepherd leads. If the Lord

is your shepherd, it means someone is leading you: you are not just going on your own in life. It is not enough to pursue destiny by your strength. The Bible says by strength shall no man prevail (1 Sam 2:9). A lot of people get so motivated that they think their destiny is in their hands and so can just jump into it. No, as Christians we are to be led into destiny.

Let me quickly establish that though God leads in divers ways, he doesn't lead just anyhow. He has stipulated ways of leading and these ways can be known. It is important you are reading this so that you can know whether you are being led because the Bible talks of Jesus being led

by the Holy Ghost to be tempted by the devil. He saw temptations. He was led by the Spirit into it. He was led into the wilderness. Contrary to what people think that if God is leading them they can only see pleasant things. The psalmist says though he walks through the valley of the shadow of death, he fears no evil because the lord is with him. Yes, the lord leading you is because he is with you, so nothing can happen to you. Nothing. But how does God lead?

## **1. God leads through providence**

Providence is the hand of God in the circumstances of life. Behind the circumstances of life is the invisible

hand of God. Understanding that that hand is there to make things work together for your good is necessary to being guided through providence. But that things will work together for your good does not remove the necessary challenges. When God led the children of Israel out of Egypt to Canaan, they had to pass through the wilderness. The wilderness challenges may not be pleasant but the destination ahead is worth it. In being led through providence, you may not hear God's voice. No dream, no vision, no thus saith the Lord. Joseph's case clearly portrays this:

*So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Genesis 45:8*

Joseph didn't know that when he was passing through the hatred from his brothers, it was God who was sending him to Egypt as a slave. It was through slavery he got there. Do not let the wilderness experience discourage you. The promised land is what should motivate you. If it is God, it must turn to you for a testimony. Joseph later understood that it was not the brothers who sold him into slavery, but God. You don't have to hold the rejection you have

suffered against the person who rejected you. It may be God trying to make you find a headway. That disappointment may just be God leading you by providence. Perhaps you have encompassed your mountain enough and it is time to make advancement, but you are afraid and timid or don't have enough faith to take steps, yet it is time for God to bring out the potentials in you, so he causes you to face disappointment, rejection, segregation. But if you don't know, you may just begin to cast blames, blaming your father, uncle, friend, brother, or whoever for forsaking, disappointing or rejecting you. No. It may just be God

trying to get you through to your destiny.

## **2. God leads by his Word**

There are people who are vision seekers. They run from church to church seeking visions and prophecies. All thanks to God for visions and prophecies. But what you must understand is that God majorly leads by his word. You have to know God's Word. The Scripture says, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105). If you want to be led by God, then go for the word. Know what God is saying in his word and follow it. Then you are in divine leading. You will make mistakes

in marriage unless you are being guided by God's word marriage. The Bible says the word of God is the beginning of wisdom, and since it takes wisdom to make positive decisions in life, it is by the knowledge of the Word that God will guide you in the path of wisdom. So you must be an ardent listener of God's word. If you don't want to listen to preachings, and don't want to study the Bible, then forget about the leading of God: you will never be led no matter how you pray. You will never be led because you can't separate prayer from God's Word. If you talk to God in prayer, he talks back to you through his Word, i.e., the Bible, anointed teachings,

anointed preachings, anointed books etc. You, therefore, must be an ardent student of God's Word. You have to soak daily in the word of God. If you can be led by God, your victory and success are guaranteed, but to obtain and maximize the leading, you have to go for the Word. God told Joshua clearly in Joshua 1:8.

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Joshua 1:8*

If you don't want to take dangerous and self-destructive steps, heed the word. The word will teach you what to do and what not to do and control your life because when God leads, he leads in the life. When your life is according to God's Word you are already in divine leading, because his word will sanctify your preferences causing you to make only right choices, causing you to walk in his ways, and when you walk in his ways you will find rest for your soul and your godly expectations shall not be cut off.

### **3. God leads by his Spirit**

The leading of God through his Spirit comes by the Spirit speaking to you, speaking to your heart or your ears.

*As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. Acts 13:2*

The Spirit also gives you certain signals in your spirit. Signals of uneasiness, rest and joy, prompting or restrain. Joy, peace, and rest are any of them a sign of approval; whereas uneasiness and restraint a signals of disapproval. You must watch out to be sensitive to these signs when you are committed to doing anything for which you have prayed or

trust God's guidance. But this has to be mastered through experience over time of use.

*Acts 16:6-7*

*[6]Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,*

*[7]After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*

The leading also comes through impressions in your heart. Haggai 1:14

*And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son*

*of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,*

But you must carefully examine the impression through prayers and confirmation before you take major steps based on impressions to be sure you are not acting based on the flesh but the Holy Spirit. And you must master impressions enough not to mistake them for induced, fickle and carnal feelings and opinions.

#### **4. God leads through dreams and visions**

The era of God leading through dreams and visions has not passed away. In short, the Holy Spirit will increase it in our days as promised in Joel 2:28

*And it shall come to pass afterwards that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

Through dream, God guided Joseph to handle all the controversies and contentions surrounding the mysterious birth of the baby Jesus.

*Matthew 1:20*

*[20]But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*

*Matthew 2:13,19,22*

*[13]And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.*

*[19]But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,*

*[22]But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:*

Through vision, God led Cornelius to send for Peter and gave him the location where Peter would be found. Acts 10:3-6

*[3]He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.*

*[4]And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.*

*[5]And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:*

*[6]He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.*

Similarly, he led Paul into Macedonia and Peter to the house of Cornelius through vision respectively.

*And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the*

*Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. Acts 16:10*

*Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, Acts 10:17*

But you must examine the content and instructions of the vision or dream in the light of the Word and ways of God.

### **All the Way my Savior Leads me**

Fanny Crosby (1875)

1 All the way my Savior leads me-

What have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt His tender mercy,  
Who through life has been my guide?  
Heav'ly peace, divinest comfort,  
Here by faith in Him to dwell!  
For I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well;  
For I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well.

2 All the way my Savior leads me—  
Cheers each winding path I tread,  
Gives me grace for ev'ry trial,  
Feeds me with the living bread.

Though my weary steps may falter  
And my soul athirst may be,  
Gushing from the rock before me,  
Lo! a spring of joy I see;  
Gushing from the rock before me,  
Lo! A spring of joy I see.

3 All the way my Savior leads me—  
Oh, the fullness of His love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
In my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed immortal,  
Wings its flight to realms of day,  
This my song through endless ages:

Jesus led me all the way;

This my song through endless ages:

Jesus led me all the way.