

Freedom - Romans 8

Romans 8:14

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Freedom to follow the Holy Spirit

Adoption story / illustration

Being led story / illustration

Holy Spirit illustration

How do you know who to follow?

Freedom to follow the Holy Spirit

I will follow the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is my leader.

Sons of God are led by the Spirit of God

Children of God are led by the Spirit of God

I want to be led by your Spirit

How to be led by your Spirit

Characteristics of being led by your Spirit

What happens when I am led by your Spirit

How to be led by God's Spirit

Everyone has a leader

Everyone follows someone or something.

Vs. 14

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

- A. Once again Paul is speaking about a certain kind of people.
 1. Those who are led by the Spirit of God
 2. He connects two realities
 - a. Those who are led by the Spirit of God
 - b. Those who are the children of God
 3. They are the same people
 - a. If you are the children of God then... You are led by the Spirit of God
 - b. If you are led by the Spirit of God then you are the children of God.
 4. These people are both Jew and Gentile.
 - a. He includes Jews who have been born again.
 - b. He includes Roman's who have been born again.
 - c. Some are led by the Spirit of God – some are not led by the Spirit of God.
 - d. Led is a key word.

5. In other words, you can tell what a child of God looks like by who is leading them
 - a. You will know who a child of God is by what kind of spirit is leading them.
 - b. If they are led by **God's Spirit**, then you will know they are a **child of God**.
 - c. If they are led by **any other Spirit** other than God's Spirit you will know they are **not a child of God**.
- B. What does that look like?
1. What does being led by the Spirit of God look like?
 2. How do I know.
 3. How do I distinguish?

Characteristics of being led by the Holy Spirit

1. When I obey the Holy Spirit, the result is spiritual life.

Galatians 5:22-23a

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

2. The Holy Spirit gives me direction for life.

Luke 4:1

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness

Acts 10:19-20

¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

Acts 16:6-7

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

3. The Holy Spirit is always in agreement with the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 2:11b-13b

¹¹ ...In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit...

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

4. The Holy Spirit convicts me of sin.

John 16:8a, 9

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin...⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;

5. The Holy Spirit leads me to crucify sinful desires.

Galatians 5:24-25

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

We can take some clues from the previous few verses.

Romans 8:12-13

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

If you are led by the Spirit you do not have an obligation to the flesh, to live according to it. You put to death the misdeeds of the body

Promptings that are inward urgings to do God's will and put to death the misdeeds of the body. (Vs. 13, Php. 2:13, Tit 2:11-12,

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Titus 2:11-12

¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Galatians 5:17-28

¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

1 Peter 2:11

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

6. The Holy Spirit warns me concerning falling away from Christ.

Hebrews 3:7, 8, 12

⁷ So, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts...

¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

7. The Holy Spirit exhorts believers to persevere in the faith.

Hebrews 3:13-14

¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

8. The Holy Spirit’s promptings become weaker the longer they are resisted.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not quench the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30-31

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

Ephesians 4:17b-19a

¹⁷ ...you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity...

9. When the Holy Spirit is rejected, it results in spiritual death.

Romans 8:6,13

⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Application

- Ask for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit
- Determine you will follow the Holy Spirit everywhere he leads you.