
Bible Talk

This week the question is: **Does God lead men in mysterious ways?**

In other words, we are asking: How does God direct us? How does He instruct and teach us and how does He reveal His will to men today? Does He guide men mysteriously? Does He reveal Himself thru mysterious feelings and are we to allow our feelings to guide us in the things we do?

NOT BY FEELINGS

In answer to this, let us first begin by saying that God does not now, nor did He ever guide men by feelings.

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹ "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

The human heart is "deceitful above all things." If we trust in our feelings to guide us religiously, we will surely end up lost! God does not guide men by feelings. He never did and He never will.

You may "feel" like you are saved, but that is no guarantee that you are! Your feelings have nothing to do with whether or not you are saved. The apostle Paul, before he was saved was busy killing Christians and blaspheming Christ. He thought He was saved. He thought He was doing the will of God. Listen to him:

Acts 23:1

¹ Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

Acts 26:9

⁹ "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Do you see the point? Before he was saved and while he was killing Christians Paul felt saved! He felt as though he was doing the will of God -- but he wasn't! God was not leading Paul by feelings!

This is just one example out of many that we could give from the Bible. When men relied upon their feelings to guide them, they always disobeyed God!

- Eve relied upon her feelings when she ate the forbidden fruit thinking that she would become wise like God (Genesis 3).
- Cain relied upon his feelings when he offered his vegetable sacrifice and was rejected by God (Genesis 4).
- The wicked men in the days of Noah relied on their feelings thinking it would not rain and flood upon the earth (Genesis 7).
- The wicked men after Noah relied on their feelings when building the tower of Babel instead of obeying God (Genesis 11).
- The inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah relied on their feelings and thought God would not punish them for homosexuality (Genesis 19).

On and on we could go. Over and over again we have countless Bible examples of men who relied and trusted to their feelings to guide them in matters of religion and morality and constantly we see that God did not use feelings to guide anyone!

MEN AND WOMEN TODAY

But despite all of these Bible warnings and examples, men and women today still rely upon their feelings to guide them. Many believe that by praying God will mysteriously reveal His will to them and they are depending upon these feelings to guide them.

EXAMPLE: Ask someone if they're saved and they will say, "Yes." Then ask them how they know they're saved and they'll say, "I can feel it in my heart."

This is not how God reveals that we are saved! Men and women who rely on their feelings for salvation will end up lost!

Proverbs 14:12

¹² There is a way that seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.

THE INSPIRED WORD

Rather than some mysterious, mystical leading God has revealed plainly how we can know if we are saved:

1 John 2:3-5

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

Here is how God leads us: He leads us thru His inspired word!

Psalms 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

¹³³ Direct my steps by Your word,
And let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹⁶⁹ ... Give me understanding according to Your word.

¹⁷⁰ ... Deliver me according to Your word.

The inspired word is complete and sufficient to guide us in every matter that may arise. It can supply us with everything we need to do to please God:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God does not lead men mysteriously and mystically. He never has and He never will. God leads and directs men and women thru His revealed word.

WHAT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Even the Holy Spirit, who is Himself one with God, leads men, not mysteriously, but thru the written word.

The Holy Spirit speaks to men today, but not mysteriously. He speaks to men thru the written word:

1 Timothy 4:1

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

When we read these words, it is the Holy Spirit speaking to us today.

Again:

Revelation 2:29

²⁹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

Here in Revelation chapters 2-3 the Holy Spirit is speaking. But notice carefully:

- He is speaking thru the written word, not mysteriously, or mystically.
- He is speaking, not just to these seven churches of Asia, but to anyone that might find themselves in a similar situation!

The Holy Spirit leads us and guides us, not by feelings, not miraculously, but by the written word of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

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