

Led By the Spirit (Rom 8:14)

- Remember the context is the assurance of salvation

I. What does being a son of God mean?

A) The Father's likeness

1. In mind, outlook, understanding and activity
 - i. 1 Cor 2:15-16- "We have the mind of Christ"
 - ii. Eph 5:1-2- "Be ye followers of God"
 - iii. Matt 5:16- "Let your lights shine" to the glory of the Father
 - iv. Rom 12:2- "Be not conformed to this world..."

B) The Father's love

1. This is not "common grace" but fatherly love, God's special concern and care
 - i. 1 John 3:1- "Behold what manner of love...."
 - ii. Luke 12:7- "The hairs of your head are numbered..."
 - iii. Eph 1:3-4- "In love" the Father elected the believer
 - iv. Zech 2:8- "The apple of His eye"
 - v. Gal 6:10- We are to show this same special love to the "household of faith"

C) The Father's plans

1. As the patriarch planned his family and name for generations to come
 - i. Heb 2:10- "Bringing many sons to glory"
 - ii. Luke 12:32- "Father's pleasure to give you the kingdom"

D) The Father's provision

1. Whatever is needed: supply, leading, educating, humbling, chastening, etc.
 - i. 2 Cor 9:8- "God is able to make all grace abound toward you..."
 - ii. Matt 6:32- "Your Father knows you have need...."
 - iii. Heb 12:6-12- "Whom the Father loves, He chastens..."
 - iv. Psa 25:5- "Lead me oh Lord...."
 - v. Deut 33:27- "The everlasting arms"

E) The Father's access

1. The Father is ever willing to receive His children (not as a harsh Judge)
 - i. Heb 4:16- "Let us come boldly...." (neither glibly nor rigidly)
 - ii. Jer 33:3- "Call and I will answer thee"
 - iii. Psa 27:10- "When Father or mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up"

II. How can we know that we are sons of God?

A) Paul's context in this section of Romans is the assurance of justification

1. Thus being led by the Spirit is another in his line of assurances

B) "Led by the Spirit"

1. Ex 13:21-22- Example of the Lord leading Israel by the cloud/pillar
2. "Led"- The greek is present passive- "are being led"
 - i. This isn't forced, whipped or driven
 - a) Luke 4:1- The Lord Jesus Christ "led by the Spirit into the wilderness"
 - ii. This also isn't carried, or stretched in
3. How does the Spirit lead?
 - i. Psa 110:3- "Thy people will be willing"
 - a) We are made willing by His word
 - b) The Spirit persuades us by words, bends and changes our wills by revelation of God's will
 - c) John 4:24- "The words I speak unto you are Spirit and life"
 - ii. Psa 32:8-9- He leads us, but not like a horse
 - a) 1 John 5:3- "His commandments are not grievous"
 - b) Isa 30:21- "You shall hear a word behind thee..."
 - c) Matt 5:6- "Hungering after righteousness"
 - d) 1 Kings 19:11-12- "The still small voice"
4. Does the word of God guide my life? Am I aware that a change has taken place and I am now being led on a pilgrimage?
 - i. 1 Cor 2:14- The natural man is led by nothing more than his lusts, passions, desires, impulses, instincts, etc. (hence advertising)
 - a) But even he is being led or "persuaded" and is not fully aware
 - 1) 2 Cor 4:3- "The god of this world hath blinded them..."
 - 2) Consider the false prophet of Revelation, the "anti-spirit"
 - b) Some see this failures of this world, and seek to raise themselves up by systems of philosophy, false religions, cults, etc.
 - 1) Some even stand on their "common sense" (Dr, Phil)
 - c) Rom 8:9- But not a single lost person is "led by the Spirit" of God
5. Being led of the Spirit is not sinless perfection; but can I say that the general tenor and direction of my life is being led by God through His word?
 - i. Is God the main thing in my life?
 - ii. With all my faults and failures, can I still honestly say that I am being led by Him as the directing force in my daily life?
 - iii. Is conformity to His will my main desire?
 - a) If we can answer yes to this, then we are being led by the Spirit of God