

**DALE WALKER LEADERSHIP PODCAST
LEADING BY BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
WITH PASTOR HUNTER HOWARD
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I. Introduction:

A goal of our leadership podcasts over the coming months (as we enter a season called HFTW 2.0) is to choose one of our core values each month and describe how it applies to leadership.

Today's core value is what I sometimes call, "Come Holy Spirit" (Being Spirit filled and Spirit led facilitators of God's presence to bring heaven to earth).

- A. Our main point: Great leadership is the result of **great followership** of the Holy Spirit. I like to think of this as learning to 'ride the wave' of what the Holy Spirit is doing.

Charles Spurgeon said, "I can only spread the sail; the Lord must breathe the gale."

Francis Chan said, "God wants us to live a life that is inexplicable apart from the Holy Spirit."

The reasons are easy to recognize.

- We don't want the best we can do; we want the best God can do in our church, family, business, and ministry.
- When we are riding the wave, we won't burn out. (Is the scarecrow pumping the well or is the well pumping the scarecrow?)

- B. David is one of my favorite examples of what this means. (2 Samuel 5)

- David is led to capture Jerusalem. He succeeds "*because the Lord God Almighty was with him.*" (vs. 10)
- He is almost immediately faced with the Philistine army. David "*inquired of the Lord.*" (vs. 23)

David doesn't

1. Presume
2. Rely on principles, formulas

(The greatest leadership steps are not prescribed but **perceived.**)

3. He wins a completely different way, circling around, listening for the rustle of the trees. Gets the angelic armies on his side.
- C. A key observation is that being Spirit led allows you to be effective even without traditional personality traits of a leader. You're not a great leader just because of you but because of **Who** is using you.

"I was with you in weakness, in fear, and much trembling."
(I Corinthians 2:3 NKJV)

"But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him." (Judges 6:34 ESV)

II. Keys to leading by being led by the Holy Spirit

- A. Seek, **befriend**, love, sense, be filled with, and obey the Holy Spirit.
People who are led by the Spirit learn to be "**soaked**" with the Holy Spirit.

"These are people who divide you who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life." (Jude 1:19-21 NIV)

1. **Recognize the "anointing"** and how to be in and flow with the manifest presence of God. Be aware of both the prompting of the Spirit within and the manifest glory of the Spirit without.
2. Have **daily** times of being still so God turns up the volume of the Holy Spirit in your heart.
3. Learn the difference between "outer court worship and inner court worship."

"Sometimes I sing, sometimes I shout, sometimes I dance, but mostly I just gaze." -A.W. Tozer

- B. Keep your heart and **motives pure**, don't "grieve" or "quench" the Holy Spirit.

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit by whom you have been sealed for the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30)

“Do not quench (extinguish the fire of) the Holy Spirit. (I Thessalonians 5:19)

1. If we don't withdraw from things that we sense bother the Holy Spirit, there will be a **lessening of our awareness** of His availability (Nazarite vow).
2. Reverence and fear of the Lord increases awareness of the Holy Spirit.

“Great fear seized the whole church... and the apostles performed many signs and wonders...more and more people believed.” (Acts 5:11-12, 14)

3. Reverence for the Holy Spirit means being willing to **obey quickly** even if it means uncomfortable things. (Amy McPherson)
4. Being available to be used and led by the Holy Spirit means staying on **His agenda**- living for God's glory and seeking to love and add value to others. The more we're focused on God's glory and how to encourage others the more we'll sense His heart.

C. Be willing to **wait on the Lord**, being humble, dependent, and patient.

“I discovered an astonishing truth: God is attracted to weakness. He can't resist those who humbly and honestly admit how desperately they need Him. Our weakness, in fact, makes room for His power.” -Jim Cymbala

1. It seems our willingness to wait corresponds with our **dependency** and ability to receive. We need to especially be aware when we start to strive. That puts us in the flesh. When we work (strive) God waits, when we wait God works.
2. **Humility** is key. Pride or self-will stops the Holy Spirit from using us. Highly driven people sometimes struggle to be effectively led people.

The more we are willing to do things like listen and be accountable, the more we can be effectively led. When we are willing to be flexible and patient, not demanding that we are in control, the more the Holy Spirit can use us.

D. Choose to respond to the Holy Spirit by **faith**. Being led of the Holy Spirit always involves steps of faith. If you want to step into God moments and facilitate the ministry of the Holy Spirit with others, be willing to get out of your comfort zone and walk on the water.

Some keys:

1. **Expect** the Holy Spirit to lead you and move through you to help others. Affirm that you are ready to **partner with Him**. Faith is setting the thermostat of your heart continually higher than what the circumstances around you seem to indicate.
2. Take steps of faith to move with the Spirit as you sense He's leading you even when you're not completely sure. Faith is spelled **R-I-S-K**. It's always how you "catch the wave."

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." (I Peter 3:15 NIV)

Discussion Questions

1. Describe a recent experience in which you sensed you were being led by the Holy Spirit? What did you sense? What happened?
2. What key about being led by the Holy Spirit especially stood out to you in this lesson?
 - a. Befriending the Holy Spirit
 - b. Soaking in His presence, living with a spirit of praise and thanksgiving
 - c. Be sensitive about grieving the Holy Spirit
 - d. Keep your motives pure to honor God and value people
 - e. Quit striving and don't let your flesh control you
 - f. Admit your need and depend on Him
 - g. Step out in faith
3. What would you describe as something you especially must ask for God's help to overcome to be able to be led more by the Holy Spirit?
 - a. Wanting to be in control and do things my way with my ideas and ability
 - b. Fear of being embarrassed or missing it
 - c. Grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit
 - d. Procrastinating
 - e. Being busy and not stoking the fire of His fellowship
 - f. Pleasing people
 - g. Other
4. What is an area you especially would like to ask God to help you be led by the Holy Spirit?