

Led by the Spirit

(Pray that All would be Led by Him Daily)

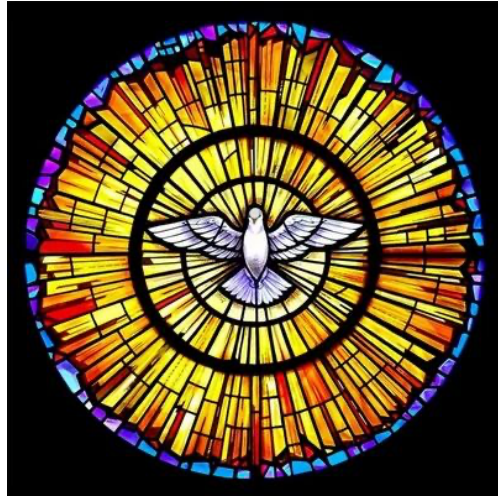
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A Man Approved of God

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

(Matthew 3:16-17)



Jesus being fully human, was filled and led by the Holy Spirit. We can see this first happening after his baptism by John the Baptist as quoted above and to the left. “*Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*” (Matthew 4:1) And let’s take note to what Peter said: “*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.*” (Acts 2:22)

First, we see Peter saying that he was “*a man approved of God,*” and then by “*miracles and wonders and signs,*” and finally: “*which God did by him.*” Therefore, being flesh and blood just like us, Jesus was operating through the power of the Spirit. This would include his ability to do miracles, walk on water (which we know Peter did as recorded in Matthew 14:29), casting out demons, foreseeing events and all other supernatural works. These abilities were not only performed by the early disciples of Jesus, but they have been passed on to us his disciples today as well.

- The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (Luke 4:18)

God Cannot be Tempted with Evil

Now, we must realize that God the Father CAN NOT be tempted to do evil. For the bible says: “*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man*” (James 1:13) However, as we read above, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil to do evil. Therefore, this is proof that Jesus couldn’t be of the same nature as God the Father while being in the flesh. However, even though Jesus came in the flesh and was vulnerable to this world’s temptations, he was strong enough to put them off by the Holy Spirit that dwelt within him. And let’s thank God for that my brothers and sisters in Christ. For our salvation was at stake.

Below are more passages on this subject:

- Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (Matthew 4:1)
- The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (Luke 4:18)
- But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. (Luke 11:20)
- So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. (John 5:19 ESV)
- Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. (John 8:28)
- For I spake not from myself; but the Father that sent me, he hath given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life eternal; the things therefore which I speak, even as the Father hath said unto me, so I speak. (John 12:49-50 ASV)
- Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I say unto you I speak not from myself: but the Father abiding in me doeth his works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. (John 14:10-11 ASV)
- Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God unto you by mighty works and wonders and signs which God did by him in the midst of you, even as ye yourselves know; him, being delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye by the hand of lawless men did crucify and slay: whom God raised up, having loosed the pangs of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. (Acts 2:22-24 ASV)

The Holy Spirit within Us

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (Romans 8:13)

Now, according to that passage above, we must always be walking after the Holy Spirit. For this is the only way we can put off all the sins of this world. For we know that this is God's desire for us brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, don't believe the lie that says we Christians can never stop sinning. I say this because scripture clearly says otherwise. For John first says: *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not."* (1 John 2:1) Then he goes on further saying: *"And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness."* (1 John 3:3-4 ESV)

Yes, we're required to do our best by purify ourselves as *"he is pure."* For John again clearly says: *"You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for*

God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God." (1 John 3:5-9 ESV) So, that should stop all mouths that say we as Christians can't stop sinning. For those who speak thus are weak in their faith and therefore making excuses to continue in their sins.

But if You Do Sin

"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (1 John 2:1 ESV)

Now, that being said, we know that Jesus never sinned. However, we who are in Christ may at times end up committing a sin. And sense this was not one that "*leads to death*," we can rest assure that God hears our repentance. However, we should lean by our mistakes and do our best not to repeat that same sin again. (See Hebrews 6:4-8, 10:26-31 and 1 John 5:16-17 for info pertaining to the "*sin that leads to death*," which I believe is apostacy) Therefore, let's be diligent to always walk after the Holy Spirit. "*So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*" (Romans 8:12-13 ESV) Yes, let's put to death those wicked deeds of the flesh and be true followers of Jesus Christ. For he on every occasion was able to resist the temptation to sin. And sense Jesus is our "*forerunner*," we should be following him in his footsteps as well.

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 6:17-20 ESV)

Below are some other passages in God's word that we need to consider. For leaders in the church should make sure that all know the consequences for turning away from the truth after receiving it:

- For **it is impossible**, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and **then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance**, since **they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt**. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. (Hebrews 6:4-8 ESV)
- For if we **go on sinning deliberately** after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one **who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?** For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:26-31 ESV)

- If anyone sees his brother **sinning a sin which does not lead to death**, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death. (1 John 5:16-17 NKJV)

Closing Words

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. (1 John 2:27)

So, where did John get his information concerning the Holy Spirit teaching you all things? Well, it was from Jesus himself, for we read: *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”* (John 14:26 ESV) Yes, brothers and sister in Christ. You do not need to rely on any pastor or teacher to tell you what the bible says. Yes, we do need leaders in the church to keep things in order and to make sure we’re not led astray. However, it’s the Holy Spirit in us who opens our understanding of God’s word whether it’s preached from the pulpit or we read it on our own.

Therefore, let’s: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (2 Timothy 2:15) Yes, fellow Christians. We need to read the bible for ourselves. For it’s God himself who opens up your understanding as said above.

- Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, **for you yourselves have been taught by God** to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 ESV)

God bless you as you seek to do his well. Amen.

Note: Bible text other than the King James Bible have been abbreviated below according to the version that was used. This was done so that you the reader can study them for yourself. Therefore, I encourage you to: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (2 Timothy 2:15)

- ESV = English Standard Version
- NKJV = New King James Version
- ASV = American Standard Version