

GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby & Hannah

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Hello!

HS: Yes, welcome beloved visitors, beloved church family, we are so happy you're here. If you come today and you're feeling scattered or pulled in multiple directions, come to the Lord, our rock, our fortress, the Lord, our salvation. And during this time, you can throw off all other things. Thank you for being here. You are beloved.

BS: The scriptures say, if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land. Who needs some healing this morning?

Let's turn to the Lord, turn our hearts to Him and receive a good word from the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, we welcome you here. You speak to us. You are our friend. You guide us and lead us in all things.

Today we want to turn our back on the world and on all of the compulsive behavior that keeps us from being led by you. We know wherever you lead God, there is victory, there are miracles, there's abundance, there's life, there's freedom. We want to be led by the Holy Spirit. So we ask you, Lord, to lead us this morning, and then we turn our hearts to Jesus now to glorify His name, to worship Him and to give praise to His name, and it's in Jesus name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

HAVEN: Turn to the person next to you and say, God loves you and so do I.

SCRIPTURE – Romans 12:6-8 - Hannah

Let's feed our faith this morning with Romans 12:6-8.

We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith. If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. If it is to encourage, then give encouragement. If it is giving, then give generously. If it is to lead, do it diligently. If it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Thank you, Lord.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Would you stand with me? We're going to say this creed together. Now we're preparing our hearts for the word of God, and the reason we say this creed first is it reminds us that we are no longer dead in the Spirit, that we're no longer lost, that we're no longer orphans, that God has not left us alone. Isn't that good news? So we remember what was accomplished for us on the cross.

Hold your hands like this, sign of receiving and both worshipping. Let's say this together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with my neighbor. Amen!

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "Led by the Spirit"

Today we're going to finish our discussion on the spiritual gifts by talking about the somatic gifts. That's just a fancy way of saying 'gifts for the body of Christ.' These gifts are service, teaching, encouragement, generosity, leadership, mercy and prophecy. Now, for those of you who are eagle eyed, you know that prophecy, we talked about it before, but it's both. Here's the thing that we want you to catch today is these gifts are supernatural. They're supernatural. So there is a carnal way to encourage someone, and there's a supernatural way to encourage someone. There is a carnal, worldly way to lead, and there's a supernatural way to lead. Is that right? You can serve people in a carnal, worldly way that's life thwarting and exhausting, or you can serve people in a way that is led by the Spirit; that's life-giving to you and the person.

Today I'm not going to spend as much time talking about these gifts as much as the foundation of operating in these somatic gifts: service, teaching, encouragement, mercy.

And that is that in order for these gifts to be supernatural in our lives, in order for them to have real power to remove burdens, break chains, destroy yokes, for that to happen, we need to be led by the Holy Spirit, and we're going to talk about that today. We're going to talk about how to be led by our friend, the Holy Spirit.

Our friend, the Holy Spirit. He's a person. He's a person. Who wants to be led by the Holy Spirit this morning? I do, too. When you leave here today, if you make a promise to yourself that you will hear the word of God preached this morning, that you will not think about the groceries, the laundry, the project tomorrow at work, but you will listen to the word of God preached this morning, you will leave here being able to hear from the Holy Spirit. Is that good news? That's a Bobby Schuller promise. I can teach you because I'm led by the Holy Spirit, and you probably are, too. One word from God can change your whole life.

Before we jump in, let's just make a declaration of faith. Declare this with me: I am a friend of the Holy Spirit (AUDIENCE – I am a friend of the Holy Spirit). The Holy Spirit guides me (AUDIENCE – the Holy Spirit guides me). The Holy Spirit speaks to me (AUDIENCE – the Holy Spirit speaks to me). And Holy Spirit, I am listening (AUDIENCE – and Holy Spirit, I am listening). Amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

If you have your Bibles, turn to Proverbs, chapter three. I want to encourage you to bring your Bibles to church, mainly so that you can write in it, and I mean that. All right.

Proverbs, chapter three. I'm going to read the whole thing and then we're going to go through it, listening to the Lord. Trust. Somebody say trust (AUDIENCE – trust). "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, submit to him." Another translation says, acknowledge Him "and he will make your paths straight." Who's heard this Bible verse before? Let me see by a showing of hands. I want to encourage you, if you need a verse to memorize, here's a good one. Let's walk through it together.

First, trust in the Lord with all your what? (AUDIENCE – heart) With all your heart. With all your heart. You don't trust with your head. Principle number one. You don't trust with your head. You think with your mind. You reason with your mind. You solve problems with your mind, but you don't trust with your mind. You trust with what? (AUDIENCE – heart) With your heart. With your heart. You trust with your heart.

I can think as a theologian and as a thinking person and a guy who likes to read, and to be honest with you, as a guy who likes to argue, I can think my way into anything. Can you? I can think my way into making anything right. I can think my way into saying this or that is good, or this or that is bad. I can think my way to New York and back, if I wanted to. Can you do that, too? But here's what I can't do, I can't trust my way. Trust is what happens in the heart. Trust is what happens in the heart.

My thinking as a believer needs to be led by the Spirit. It needs to be led by my heart.

Trust happens in the heart. Did we catch yet? I think we did. Hannah, did we catch it?

Okay. Number one.

Number two: your heart is not your feelings. It's not your feelings, it's not your emotions. Another way of saying heart is a spirit. It's your spirit man or your spirit woman. It's your spirit person that was reborn in your confession of Christ and your baptism. So the heart is not the feelings in the Bible. In fact, the feelings tend to be in the belly or in the flesh. But the heart is where courage is and the heart is where will is.

Here's another way of saying it. Another way to translate the word heart or kardia in Greek is to translate it as your conscience, as your conscience. People say, I want to hear from the Holy Spirit. I want to be led by the Holy Spirit. Then be led by your conscience. Does that make sense? Be led by your conscience.

If you are not a born again Christian, don't be led by your conscience. Get saved, get baptized because before you're born again, your conscience may lead you into things that are actually not right.

Your heart, if you have a spirit that has not been saved, it could lead you to all sorts of things that the world might say is right that's not actually right. I've seen people say, I need to get a divorce and be with that woman or that man at work, because that's where my heart is leading. That's what my conscience is telling me. Is that what the Holy Spirit will lead us in? (AUDIENCE – no) No. In fact, no believer, no Christian who is listening to the Holy Spirit will believe in their heart that that is right. Where will they believe it? In their flesh and in their head. Their heart will say, don't do that, but their head will look at all the movies and all the paperback pulp fiction that's under your bed, right? And those stories say, yes, you should do that. But a conscience renewed by the Holy Spirit will say, no, you need to fix your marriage. No, you need to do the hard work of saving your family. Is that right, church? (AUDIENCE – yes)

If you're born again, the conscience is the best and easiest way to learn what it means to follow the Holy Spirit. And if you catch anything, I want you to catch that today. So many examples of people who are born again and all of a sudden the stuff that they used to do that was easy, they can't do it anymore.

Funny story, I was born again when I was 15, and I made this conscious decision to be different, and I started noticing that being around my friends, my best friends, we cussed all the time, cussing bothered me now. It didn't bother me before. And you can make a choice to just sort of endure that, become callous to it, or to follow the Holy Spirit.

Another example when I was a teenager, I remember after I was born again and saved by the Lord. How many of you have a little brother? Okay, we all know what little brothers are like, right? I am a little brother to a big sister. She was in her bathroom getting ready and I popped my head in and left out a big burp and then slammed the door and walked away laughing. And no lie, I felt a check in my spirit as this newborn again believer: don't do that. And I went back and I was like, 'Angie, the Bible says that love is not rude, and I just wanted to say I'm sorry. Have a good day.' And then I closed the door. As silly as that is, she said, I knew when my brother did that, because she was like 17 or 18, that something had changed in him. Who knows something had changed in me?

The important thing first is that if we want to hear from the Holy Spirit, we need to pay attention to our conscience, even if we're embarrassed, even if it means we need to apologize. We need to prohibit our soul from becoming callous and worldly. It becomes callous when you ignore your conscience. It becomes callous when you ignore what the Holy Spirit is telling you to do. And if you become callous in those areas, you will also become deaf spiritually. You'll become blind spiritually because the callous that forms isn't just on your heart, it's on your spiritual eyes and your spiritual ears. Amen? And so we want to hear from the Lord.

Here's what the leading is like. The leading of the flesh is feelings. My brother-in-law Nate showed this to me. The leading of the flesh is through the feelings. The leading of the mind is through reason. The leading of the spirit is through the conscience.

We're going to say this together. I'm going to say the leading of the flesh and you're going to say feeling. The leading of the flesh is what? (AUDIENCE – feeling) That's your flesh. It needs to be crucified. I'm going to say the leading of the mind, is, and you're going to say reason. Okay? The leading of the mind is what? (AUDIENCE – reason) Reason. And the leading of the spirit is what? I'm sorry, I'm going to say the leading of the spirit is conscience. Okay? The leading of the spirit is what? (AUDIENCE – conscience)

Conscience. So we're led by the conscience first, not led by the mind. I don't care how smart you are.

Here's what the mind wants. The mind wants clarity. The mind wants to understand it all. The mind wants to map it out. The mind wants to know A, B, C, D, all the way to Z. But the spiritual life is not that way. The spiritual life is not led by understanding, it's led by trust or faith. It's led by trust. And we trust with what? Our heart, our conscience. And then the mind helps us understand.

The mind says, Lord, give me clarity, but God will say, no clarity for you. You get trust. Trust looks like this: you're walking in the fog, you're a child, you're holding dad's hand, and you don't know where you're going, but you're just walking through the fog, and you know you're going to get there. That's what spiritual life is like. When you say, I'm going to reason my way through this, you pull your hand away from the Father's hand and you say, I can figure this out myself. I'm talking to you, smart people. I'm talking to you. You need to hear and be led by your friend, the Holy Spirit. Amen? Okay.

Another way you might, if you're a new Christian maybe, and you're trying to learn what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit, you might hear Christians use the term checks or promptings. In other words, I got a check in my spirit or I was prompted by the Holy Spirit. Maybe a better way we can think of that is a red light or a green light. Red light means what? (AUDIENCE – stop) Green light means (AUDIENCE – go). Yellow light means pedal to the metal. Okay.

Red light, green light. So in our spiritual walk, you see a good thing. You think, surely the Lord wants me to go there. And what you're looking for in the Holy Spirit is red light, green light. You see something and you're taking it slow, you feel red light, green light, listen to it, especially the red light. Listen to it.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding. Is that right? Then what does it say? In all your ways, submit to Him. This is a scripture about hearing the Holy Spirit. In all your ways, submit to Him and He will make your path straight. Another translation says, and He will remove all the obstacles in the way. Isn't that great? That's a promise. So in all your ways, acknowledge Him or submit to Him.

The Bible talks about submitting to authority, about submission. There's a scripture about wives submitting to their husbands. Not modern at all, is it? That's almost offensive for a lot of people. But a big problem is a misunderstanding of that word 'submission.' Submission means coming under a mission, coming under a goal, coming under a vision, and in fact, the rebuke for the submission of wives to husbands is actually for husbands. Husbands, you can't expect your wife to submit to you if you don't have a mission. You need a mission for your family, a vision for your family. Submission means get behind a vision for our family, the vision for where we're going. Wives in the house, how many of you would love to hear.. maybe you get in trouble if you're here with your husband, but just do a finger like this, if you'd love to have a.. Hannah, you'd raise your hand, right? Wives in the house, who thinks it's great to have a vision from your husband about where your family going, what you're going to accomplish, what the Lord's going to do in your house. That's a great feeling, isn't it? Okay, that was a rabbit trail. Sorry.

This calling is to submit to the Lord, which none of us should have any problem with. It means getting under the vision of God for His kingdom and for your life. Submission to the Lord says something like, whatever you want, Holy Spirit, I want. Wherever you go, Holy Spirit, I'll go. Whatever you say, Holy Spirit, I'll hear. Whatever you want me to do, Holy Spirit, I'll do it. Amen?

Many of us are not hearing from the Holy Spirit because we're not submitted to His vision. We want Him to submit to our vision. Wrong. Wrong. Wrong. You will hear from the Holy Spirit when you are submitted in obedience to His mission, to His vision, to His life. And boy, let me tell you, the minute you start hearing from the Spirit, things start going right in your life.

Will He give us orders? Will He give us orders? (AUDIENCE – yes) Yes. Here's why we want to be under the authority of God. Here's why we want to hear His orders. Here's why we want to hear what the commander has to say. It's because you have authority if you're under authority. You have authority if you're under authority. If you want authority to heal the sick, you need to come under authority. If you want authority to preach the gospel, you need to come under authority. If you want authority to prophesy, authority to inspire, authority to build incredible things, you need to come under authority. Amen?

Okay, you have authority if you're under authority.

Declare with me: I trust in you, Lord (AUDIENCE – I trust in you, Lord), with all my heart (AUDIENCE – with all my heart). I lean not (AUDIENCE – I lean not) on understanding (AUDIENCE – on understanding). In all my ways (AUDIENCE – in all my ways), I submit to you (AUDIENCE – I submit to you) and I believe (AUDIENCE – and I believe) you will clear the path (AUDIENCE – you will clear the path). Amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

Turn with me in your Bibles to Romans, chapter eight. You're starting to get a feel? So again, just to rehash that, the first way that baby Christians or any of us learn to hear from the Spirit is by listening to our conscience, if we're saved. The red light, green light. This is the beginning of hearing the voice clearly. Red light, green light.

Romans chapter 8 verse 11, "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies." Anybody need a healing today? Anybody need life in your mortal body? Just this little group right here. The Lord sees you. Who needs life in your mortal body today? My shoulder hurts. My legs are kind of sore from working out. I need life in my mortal body. So I need the Spirit.

Okay, okay. I lost my place. He will give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you. Wherever the Spirit is, there's life. "Therefore," everybody say, therefore (AUDIENCE – therefore), "brothers and sisters, we have an obligation." We have an obligation. You just told me you want to come under authority, right? "We have an obligation, but it is not to the flesh to live according to it for if you live according to the flesh, you will die. But if you live by" somebody, say "the Spirit" (AUDIENCE – the Spirit). Notice how it's capitalized.. oh, it's all caps on this one. In your Bible, it's capitalized. It's referring to the Holy Spirit. If you live by the Holy Spirit, "if you live by the Spirit, you put to death the misdeeds of the body and you will live." We will live. "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

Are you seeing led by the Spirit, full of the Spirit, led by the Spirit? "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. The Spirit you receive does not make you slaves so that you live in fear." If you're living in fear, you're not being led by the Spirit. "Rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship" or daughtership, ladies in the house.

"And by him we cry, abba Father." Abba means daddy or papa. Abba, Father. "The Spirit himself testifies with our Spirit." The Spirit himself, His Spirit testifies with our Spirit.

Another way of saying that is His Spirit speaks to our heart. Another way of saying that is His Spirit speaks to our conscience. Amen?

Honest question. Are most born-again Christians Spirit-led in all things? They're not. Very often I'm not led by the Spirit. As I was writing this, I realized I am called to be Spirit-led in all my ways, in all things. To be full of the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit in all things. Most born-again believers are not being Spirit-led. No wonder so many Christians say silly stuff like God doesn't do miracles anymore. They have not come under authority, so they have no authority.

Jesus says in John 10, my sheep know my voice. They know my voice. They'll not follow the voice of another. They know my voice. How many believers can say with absolute confidence, I know the voice of the Holy Spirit? Very few. And here's why: we are not Spirit-led, we are head-led by our understanding. Or we're feelings led. Or we're emotions led. Or we're friends led. Or we're need led. I need. I need. Or we're comparison led. I know what I need in life, it's on Instagram. No! Or the worst of all, we're fear led, which is the opposite of faith. Another way of saying we're fear led is we're led by our worries. Another way of saying fear led is we're led by our stresses. You cannot be fear led and be led by the Holy Spirit at the same time. Is that right?

Declare with me: I'm going to be Spirit-led (AUDIENCE – I'm going to be Spirit-led). I am a friend of the Holy Spirit (AUDIENCE – I am a friend of the Holy Spirit).

His Spirit testifies to my spirit (AUDIENCE – His Spirit testifies to my spirit). Amen. We cannot be led by other stuff. We got to be led by the Spirit. We also can't be led by compulsivity, which is a huge problem today. It's another way of saying bad habits. I'm sitting at the restaurant with my wife, Hannah, about a year ago. She gets up to use the restroom. I'll give you all a guess. What's the first thing I did? What do you think I did? I did what 99% of us do, I compulsively reached for (AUDIENCE – phone) my phone. And if you had said, why are you reaching for your phone? I'd be like, I don't know. My thumb will lead the way. Some of us are thumb led, aren't we? We're thumb led instead of being Spirit led. This is what I'm saying. Our lives are being compulsively led where there's no space to hear from God. We are thumb led. We are head led. We are phone led. We are TV led. We are fridge led. We are shopping led. We're not Spirit led. We're filling every moment. And this is exactly what the enemy wants for us because the Holy Spirit speaks in the gaps. The Holy Spirit needs an invitation and space. This is something a lot of Christians don't understand. The Holy Spirit doesn't like to interrupt people. He likes to be invited. The Holy Spirit does not like to jump in. He's not rude. Remember? He's never rude. He likes to be asked. The Holy Spirit isn't constantly speaking to you when you're not listening. You have to ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you, a lot of the time. And so what we need to do as believers is understand that the Holy Spirit is like a dove. You keep hearing me say this, but it's true. The Holy Spirit is like a dove. It's not like the enemy. You have to invite the Spirit to speak to you and to land upon you. And when that happens, you begin to hear from the Lord. He doesn't interrupt. Here's our goal as believers if we want to hear from the Holy Spirit, is to become interruptible. We want to become an interruptible, unhurried friend of the Holy Spirit. It's hard to say, isn't it? An interruptible, unhurried friend of the Holy Spirit. When you're a friend, you follow. You listen to the spirit.

If you're a friend of Bobby Schuller, for example, you subscribe on YouTube. Everybody knows that. If you're a friend of someone, you follow them. You give space for them. You listen to them. It's like sails on a ship. You have to raise the sails to catch the wind. You can't ask a violent wind to throw a ship that doesn't have its sails up. You need to put the sails up and you catch the wind. None of us have seen the wind, but we believe in it and we're all affected by it. So in the same way, we need to raise the sail and be led by the Spirit. Amen?

Another thing: be led in every little stupid thing. I'll say that one more time. Be led in every little insignificant, dumb, stupid thing you don't think God cares about. Here's why: for the God of the vast universe that we live in, who holds the entire universe in His hand, everything in our life is little and stupid. Not stupid, but it's little. It's insignificant. This little tiny pebble called Earth that's floating around in the universe, in the scale of things, what house I should get, what job I should have, are just as equally as important and big or small as what shirt should I wear today? Am I tracking with anybody here? Should I ask the Lord what kind of car I should buy? Yes or no? (AUDIENCE – yes) Should I ask the Lord about my business decisions? Yes or no? (AUDIENCE – yes) Should I ask the Lord about what to eat for lunch? Yes or no? (AUDIENCE – yes) Somebody's rolling their eyes right now, but I'm telling you, there is something special about listening to the Lord about where to go, what to eat, what to do. So often when we have an empty, boring space, we don't even think about it, let alone are we led by the Spirit. We reach for the phone. No, we're going to be led by the Spirit, amen?

When you're bored, you say, Lord, what do you want me to do today? He might tell you, write a song, call your mother. Yes, that was my mom who said, yes. The Holy Spirit, John 14 says, the Holy Spirit will teach you all things. Somebody say all things (AUDIENCE – all things). All things is more than spiritual things, isn't it? That includes whether you should go to Chipotle or make a sandwich.

Why should I ask God about whether I should eat a sandwich or go to Chipotle? Here's the answer.

The Lord says this: whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much. If we listen to the Holy Spirit on little things, you're not going to get to big things and go, why isn't God talking to me? Why isn't the Lord speaking to me? Many of us, we get to the big, big important thing like our job or whatever, crisis, we have calloused our ears and calloused our eyes. We can't hear anymore. We're not tender-hearted anymore. Is that right?

Last idea: just because it's a good thing doesn't mean the Spirit is leading you. Is that right? Just because it's a good thing doesn't mean the Spirit is leading you.

Famous story, the Apostle Paul, he and his team, they want to go to Asia, but the Holy Spirit says, no, don't go to Asia. Why is that? Why is that? Well, because the people in Asia were not ready for the Gospel yet. By the way, Asia means Turkey. It doesn't mean East Asia. If he had decided to go anyway because it was a good thing, he wouldn't have had any impact or any authority. So he was led by the Lord. And he does go to Asia later and he has a great victory there in Turkey.

Let me just tell you something: doing something simply because it's good or godly, if you're not called to do it, is one of the most exhausting and spiritually draining things you can do. You are not Jesus Christ. You are a part of the body. Choosing one thing means you can't do another thing, and you can't do everything, right? So therefore, we as believers, we need to be Spirit led, even in the good things.

I'm out of time, and I never got to teaching on the somatic gifts at all. If I wait till next week, will you come back? (AUDIENCE – yes) If I wrap it up now, we'll talk a little bit more about leading of the Holy Spirit, but who will come back next week if I quit right now? All right.

The Lord sees your hand. Stand with me. Hannah, do you feel like I got that across well enough today? Do you all feel like you understand what it means better now, how to hear from the Holy Spirit? The reason I'm asking is this is not a small thing, a small part of discipleship. This is THE thing. We read the Bible, but we need to be led. So many of us are dying on the vine, we're starving, we're lost. We need a touch from the Holy Spirit. We need to be led by the Spirit. And boy, does the Holy Spirit want to speak to you. Amen?

Let's create some room right now. Let's just wait a second and even just close your eyes with me just for a minute and let's just bring room for the Holy Spirit. And if you feel like you can't hear a word from God, just ask the Lord red light, green light. Bring a question before Him, Lord, red light, green light. Holy Spirit, we invite you. We already said this, but let's say it again. Say, Holy Spirit (AUDIENCE – Holy Spirit), I am your friend (AUDIENCE – I am your friend). I invite you to speak to me (AUDIENCE – I invite you to speak to me). Dear friend, Holy Spirit (AUDIENCE – dear friend, Holy Spirit), I love you and honor you (AUDIENCE – I love you and honor you). I'm here to obey you (AUDIENCE – I'm here to obey you). I trust you (AUDIENCE – I trust you) with all my heart (AUDIENCE – with all my heart). Let's just keep listening again. Red light, green light, Lord. Lift your hands with me. I'm going to lead us in a prayer. As high as you can get them. We honor the holy and profound and amazing presence of the Holy Spirit. We open our hearts to you, Holy Spirit, to speak to us. We first ask you to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. To renew our hearts to be holy after you. Some here have become calloused, and we're asking that you would make that callous skin of the Spirit to become like baby skin again. That we would become tender-hearted people with tough faith and tough thinking. Lord, speak to our hearts, we pray. Let us be led by our hearts, led by the Spirit, led by you, God. And I pray over this congregation who have willfully come under my authority as I've submitted to your authority, and I speak over them the power and presence of your Holy Spirit that they would have ears to hear, that they would have eyes to see, that they would have a heart that's like sheets to the wind that would pull from your Spirit, Lord, that would be led by your life. And we just affirm together as a church that we want that, Lord. We want to be led by your Spirit, and we thank you Lord, it's in Jesus name we pray with a smile on our face, we say thank you, Lord (AUDIENCE – thank you, Lord). Amen.