The greatest gift that Christians have received, other than salvation itself, is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. The moment that you committed your life to Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit entered your heart. At that time, you were “sealed” and marked by the Holy Spirit as God’s possession. Ephesians 1:13 says, “In whom (Christ) you also trusted after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after you believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” You may not have been aware of it then – and, perhaps even now, this is new information for you. But the great news is that if you are a Christian, you have the wonderful Holy Spirit living in you! Your job is to get to know Him better and become sensitive to His guidance.

Becoming Sensitive to the Spirit

The Bible tells us in many places that the Holy Spirit will endeavor to prompt you, lead you, and guide you (Rom 8:14). Therefore, it is vital for you to learn how to follow His lead and obey His promptings. At times it may seem like a little voice speaking in your heart. Some people describe it as an inner impression, a nudge, or a ‘knowing.’ The point is, the Holy Spirit wants to lead you, guide you, and help you make right choices. He wants you to succeed in life! He knows the right path that you should take. John 16:13 says, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but..."
So dear friend, once you wake up to the fact that the Holy Spirit is in you, make it your goal to become more and more sensitive to Him. **Learn to follow His leadings, promptings, and guidance.** And, not only sensitive to His promptings—but OBEDIENT to what He shows you. **Obedience is very important if you want to make progress in the will of God.** The moment you disobey something that the Holy Spirit shows you, it slows you down in your Christian walk. It’s like trying to run a race with a ball and chain tied to your ankle! Hebrews 12:1 says, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” All of us have “sins” and “weights” that we must deal with and lay aside. A weight is not necessarily a sin. There are some things that the Holy Spirit may ask you to lay aside that are not necessarily wrong—but, for you, it will slow you down in God’s will if you hold on to it. Relationships can be like that. For example, someone who previously was your best buddy may not want to follow Christ like you do. You may have to lay it down like a “weight.”

Through the years, I’ve seen good Christians at times disobey things that the Holy Spirit specifically told them—and they suffered for it. No, it wasn’t God who punished them—it was the consequences of their own wrong choices (Gal 6:7-9). God tried to warn them but they thought they knew better. Thank God, when we...
mess up, the Lord is right there to help us recover -- but it’s best to obey from the start! Friend, when the Holy Spirit prompts you in certain areas, then it’s only because He has your best interests in mind. He wants you to succeed in life. At the time, you may not be able to see or understand the reasons — but obey Him anyway. I’ve learned (and, yes, I admit sometimes the hard way) that it’s much better to trust Him and follow His promptings. God longs for you to have the joy that only comes when you abide in Him and follow His will (Jn 15:11).

Miracles That I Almost Missed

Many years ago, I almost missed God’s prompting to start our MISSIONARY AGENCY. I mentioned some of those details in a previous Study Guide entitled “The Secret of Desire” — but here’s how close I came to missing it. At the time, I was in the southern part of the Philippines on the island of Bohol. I was conducting crusades and a leadership conference for pastors throughout the region. One evening, between meetings, God sent a missionary couple to me that desperately needed a “home office.” They explained that a church in Texas had been helping them with their support letters, tax receipts, deposits, etc. However, the church just informed them that they would no longer be able to help them because of problems within the church. As they shared their plight, they made an appeal for my office to begin handling all those details for them. Now, here are some details of the story that I did not cover in the other study guide. The Holy Spirit had, in fact, been dealing with me about starting a Missionary Agency. At the time, it was rather vague in my mind as to what this would entail, but the idea had been formulating in my mind. For months, I had been thinking about it and praying about it. Yet, when God sent the first couple, I didn’t put two and two together, so to speak. My “knee-jerk” reaction was to say no. I said “no” to them right on the spot. Wow! How could I have been so blind? Well, dear friend, I think all of us are rather blind without the light of the Holy Spirit to help us. I nearly missed a HUGE miracle in God’s plan for my life.

Now, let’s talk about those “weights and sins” that we mentioned earlier — you know, the ones that Hebrews 12:1 says that we are to lay down. You see, at the time, I was perfectly happy doing crusades around the world and conducting leadership conferences. Even to this day, I think it’s a powerful combination. We would teach pastors and leaders during the daytime, and then in the evenings we would hold crusades in villages. I can’t tell you how many thousands we brought to Christ through the years. And, in some cases, we started new church-plants right on the heels of the crusades. Remember, we were teaching pastors during the daytime so it was relatively easy to take the new converts and assign a young pastor to them. And, voila! — new churches were born! Sometimes, a pastor and his wife would relocate great distances to adopt the new group of converts that we had. It was like the book of Acts and the apostle Paul. And, right in the middle of my wonderful plans, God sent a missionary couple asking us to be their home office. The point of this story is that I nearly missed a miracle by not obeying the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Are crusades bad? No. Are conferences bad? No. But God was trying to take me into a new phase of ministry. If I had held on to “my” plans it would have been like a weight. Late that evening, the Holy Spirit prompted me again and basically said, “Jason, get with the program!” So I did. The next day I told the couple that God had changed my mind and we would be glad to help them. For a season, I continued with the crusades when we first started the Missionary Agency. But in time, God told me to shift my focus to the Missionary Agency. God has a race for me to run and a course laid out. My job is to comply with His guidance. Today, we serve hundreds of missionaries all over the world and help over 1,000 native workers each month with our study materials. And, the best is yet to come! God has put a clear plan in my heart to do even more to help reach the world for Christ. Once we are able, we plan on installing a video studio to create a Resource Library for missionaries. We’ll start with the orientation sessions for our Missionary Agency. These will be extremely helpful for the new missionaries who affiliate with us. Then, we’re going to start interviewing key missionaries on “how” they do it. We’ll have videos on how to do crusades, Bible schools, medical clinics, children’s shelters, feeding programs, water wells, and on and on and on. It’s really unlimited because we have such a diversity of outreaches that our missionaries are involved in. We already have hundreds of missionaries to choose from, so you can see the potential.
I am convinced that God has all types of miracles for us. Some are relationship miracles, where He may prompt us to call someone that we’ve been at odds with. If we obey, there will be a miracle. Some are character miracles where we overcome destructive habits and save our lives. Some are marriage miracles, where we see a new love spring up when we thought the marriage was over. And, yes, some are financial miracles and business miracles. The point is that you must learn to be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and follow them. 

*By the way, I want to be a good Bible teacher here.* There have been times in my life that I’ve missed God. I’ve discovered that when we do, the only way back is to repent, recommit, and get back on track. God will restore you and help you get on His path once again (1 Jn 1:9). Just ask David, Jonah, Peter, and nearly all the heroes in the Bible!*

### Develop a Listening Ear

One of the favorite sayings of Jesus was, “*He that has ears to hear, let him hear.*” That phrase is repeated throughout the Gospels and even in the book of Revelation. God wants us to learn how to “tune-in” to Him. For me, the way that you tune-in is to keep doing the simple things that you know to do in order to walk with God. Keep praying. Read and study the Bible. Spend time singing to the Lord in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph 5:16-21). When others offend you, be quick to forgive and let it go. In other words, *abide in the vine!* As you do, your mind and heart will be more attuned to His promptings. Psalm 32:8 says, “*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with mine eye.*” As you walk with Him, expect His guidance. Become sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14 says, “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God.*”

Dear friend, may you grow more and more in your communion with Christ and sensitivity to the Spirit.  

*Jason Peebles*
Key Memory Verse:

“[I] will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”

Psalm 32:8

Prayer to Obey
the Promptings of the Holy Spirit

“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. I desire to be more sensitive and obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Give me a listening ear and an obedient heart. I want your will above my own. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus Name – Amen.”

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