

AVELEIGH'S SEASON OF INSPIRATION

Sunday Feb. 3

SEROMN: LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT

Texts: John:14:1-3, 25-28 page 1158 NIV & Psalm 23:1-3

Leader: No matter how far we wander from you, O God,

People: your goodness finds us.

Leader: No matter how unjust the world seems to us, O God,

People: your goodness sustains us.

Leader: No matter how vulnerable our lives seem to us, O God,

People: your goodness gives us hope.

Leader: No matter how unloved and uncared for we feel, O God,

People: you hear our cries and answer our prayers.

Leader: God Is Good

People: All the time

MITCH only : When we keep our faults and failures locked safely away, we have no need to confess. But God comes into our hearts when we least expect it, so we can be filled with forgiveness, with hope, with peace. Please join me as we pray, saying,

People: God of empty tombs and empty people: When we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us, and give us voice. When we find it difficult to love another, forgive us, and give us new compassion. When we want to stand with the high and mighty, forgive us, and put us next to the poor and oppressed. When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, forgive us, and fill us with your joy.

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"The Lord is MY Shepherd, I have everything I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. HE LEADS ME in the right paths for his name's sake" Psalm 23:1-3

"Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are God's children." Romans 8:14 (CEV)

Part 1: 5 STOPS, PEOPLE WHO ARE LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT . . .

1. DON'T FOLLOW A CULTURE THAT DOESN'T FOLLOW GOD! "Do not copy the behavior or values of this world. Instead, let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is! Romans 12:2 (NLT)

2. DON'T FOLLOW FRIENDS WHO AREN'T LED BY GOD.

"Do not let anyone lead you the wrong way! Christ is righteous, so to be like Christ, you must do what is right. And anyone who keeps on sinning is being led by the Devil." 1 John 3:7 (NCV)

3. DON'T LOOK TO OTHER SOURCES BESIDES GOD.

"Never look to psychics or séances or fortunetelling or the stars or people who claim to contact the dead. People who do these things are doing evil and God hates it with a passion." Deuteronomy 18:10-12

4. STOP BEING LED BY MY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Example from Paul: Acts 27:10,13-15

5. REFUSE BEING CONTROLLED BY THEIR FEELINGS.

"You may feel you're on the right road and still end up dead." Proverbs 14:12 (CEV)

PART 2: 5 THINGS PEOPLE DO WHO ARE LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT . . .

1. THEY MUST WANT TO BE LED.

“My God, I want to do what you want. Your teachings are in my heart.” Psalm 40:8 (NCV)

2. THEY MUST BE WILLING TO DO WHAT GOD SAYS

“Whoever is willing to do what God wants and chooses it will know if what I teach comes from God.” John 7:17 (TEV)

3. I MUST LOOK TO GOD'S WORD

“Your Word is a lamp to guide me, and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105

“Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by any evil.” Psalm 119:133 (NLT)

- God's Will is found in GOD'S WORD

4. I MUST ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE MY GUIDE.

“You do not have, because you do not ask God for it.” James 4:2 (NIV)

“Teach me, Lord, what you want me to do, and lead me down the right path.” Psalm 27:11 (TEV)

ASK HUMBLLY.

“God guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.” Psalm 25:9 (NIV)

ASK IN FAITH

“If you want to know what God really wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; but . . . be sure that you really expect him to tell you . . . If you don't ask in faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer.” James 1:5-6 (LB)

5. I MUST LISTEN FOR GOD'S RESPONSE

“God does speak — sometimes one way and sometimes another — even though people may not understand it.” Job 33:14 (NCV)