

Is The Lord Leading?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Looking at what is called, 'the church today' can one really think that the Lord is leading all that profess to be believers? I am not trying to criticize, or judge, but to point out that God built his church by his son Jesus, the Christ, and told us how to serve, and to worship. Jesus said, in **Matthew 16:18**, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Notice, he said church, not churches. The rock that Jesus spoke of was not Peter, but the statement of faith that Peter had made. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and we are to trust in him and not in any other, certainly not in any man.

Through the years I have visited several congregations. Some experiences were good, but some were not. In a few cases when I was introduced as a minister in the Christian Church, I was preached at and not preached to. The speaker made fun of baptism, and other doctrines, that the Lord established. Did the Holy Spirit direct a

preacher to mock the commands of God? You know that he didn't. **John 16:13**, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." The Lord leads us in the truth and, in the paths of righteousness, never in a false way.

In many cases I wonder if the Lord is leading, or is he leading, but man follows his own way, and forsakes the leading of the Spirit. No one can lead those who will not follow. Two, or three, people have asked their church leaders if I could come and preach a revival. They were told "No." When they asked why not, they were told that I was a Christian. Even some Christian churches say no. I wonder if God told them to say no, or are they lead by their own likes and dislikes. We know that it is God's church, and will answer to him, but here on earth the congregations are directed by men.

There are churches now where, instead of lifting up Jesus, there is a power struggle by those who want to have their own way. This is not of the Holy Spirit, but is of the flesh.

1 Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." We cannot praise God while fussing at our brother. None can edify and encourage others, and undermine the teachings of Jesus at the same time. **1 Peter 5:2-3**, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." This is what a leader is supposed to do, not try to be a dictator, or bully. Could such a man stand before God and defend his thoughts, words, and conduct? Not if they are contrary to the Word Of God.

We need to take a look at the way we live, worship, and serve God. When a decision is made, is it what we want, or what God wants us to do? To many times it is evident that things are done because the flesh won out over the Spirit. **Romans 8:9 & 14**, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. / 14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

JACOB'S TOIL
JACOB, HAVING STOLEN AWAY IN THE NIGHT WITH ALL THAT IS HIS, LABAN NOW PURSUES HIM, BECAUSE HE DID NOT TELL HIM HE WAS GOING...

WE SHALL OVERTAKE JACOB FOR WE ARE NOT HINDERED BY THE SLOWNESS OF THE FLOCKS AS IS JACOB.

AYE, FATHER LABAN! AND WHEN THOU OVERTAKEST JACOB WHAT THEN SHALT THOU DO UNTO HIM?

LAST NIGHT THE GOD OF JACOB SPOKE TO ME AS I SLEPT AND COMMANDED THAT I DO NO BAD THING UNTO JACOB.

I MUST OBEY, FOR HE IS A POWERFUL GOD!

... AND LATER.

BEHOLD! JACOB HAST PITCHED HIS CAMP ON THE MOUNT OF GILEAD!

WE SHALL ALSO PITCH OUR TENTS THERE!

AT LAST LABAN APPROACHES JACOB...

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