

BFF415 Sons of God, #2

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I am surprisingly well.

**Scott:** Nice.

**Steve:** You're supposed to say, what do you mean, surprisingly?

**Scott:** I don't have time for that. Nobody cares. Get to your thing. I'm just kidding. Why are you surprisingly well, Steve?

**Steve:** Because I was in California. On the flights there, I had to sit in the Las Vegas airport both ways. They have slot machines everywhere. It's loud. It's noisy. There are less chairs compared to other airports because it's full of these games of chance.

It wears me out being in that environment. But when I'm at the convention, I love the people. I love the conference.

I led worship Friday and Saturday morning, at 7:30 and it's voluntary. People showed up, we had a really nice time.

Each day we work through our four-page handout, praying, believing, binding the strongman, etc. The second morning, a couple of the ladies that were there the first day came to me and they said, "You know, we were in our room last night talking about what it means to bind the strong man."

It was a really good question because I assumed that people knew what it means to bind the strong man. Ever since, I've been thinking about how we can explain it and make it more clear. We're going to address this in a future, but today we're going to continue what we started last time talking about what does it mean to be a Son of God who's led by the Spirit of God. Let's pray.

"Father, thank You for my bodily resurgence, because normally I would still be dragging, but I feel pretty good. Thank You for giving me energy, and thank You for getting me safely to California and back, and thank You for the wonderful time that I had there ministering and being ministered to by the saints on the West Coast. Draw near to us now as we contemplate afresh what it means to be a Spirit-led Son of God. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** The idea of us being Sons of God comes from Romans 8. "All who are led by the Spirit of God are Sons of God. For you did not receive the Spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself bears witness with our Spirit that we are children of God."

That verse inspires me, and it also challenges me, because I want to be a Spirit-led Son of God. As I was thinking about this, my mind went back to Jesus, Who was conceived, or you might say, born of the Spirit, as the Spirit that came upon Mary. It was soon thereafter that He began being called Jesus the Christ, which we know means Jesus the anointed.

He was born of the Spirit, He was anointed by the Spirit, and at His baptism, the Spirit came upon Him. So, you might say He was filled with the Spirit. And as soon as He came out of the water, He received that wonderful benediction from His Father, "You are My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." He affirmed his Sonship.

The Spirit was upon Him, and the first thing that happened was the Spirit led Him into the wilderness. This is Jesus, THE Son of God. And we, being Sons of God, should expect to go through the same sequence or very similar as Jesus did.

In the Greek, Son of God is the genitive case, which means possessive. When you say Son of God or Spirit of God, you can turn this around and say, God's Son for Son of God, and instead of Spirit of God, we could say God's Spirit.

So, Jesus, God's Son, was filled by God's Spirit. You and I, as adopted children of God, are sons and daughters of God, who've received the Spirit of adoption, we are now God's children, and we're seeking to be led by God's Spirit. How's that?

Last week we talked about a lot of these similar concepts, I thought we'd focus on a couple of other adopted Sons of God written about in Acts. Acts 16:7, "When they had come to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." Paul and his compatriots were clearly being led by the Spirit.

Acts 19:21, "After these events, Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem." The Spirit is leading Paul. Acts 20:22, "Behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit." He's resolved in the Spirit. He's constrained by the Spirit. He is, you might say, restricted by the Spirit, all are expressions indicating that he is being led by the Spirit.

In Acts 21:4, "Having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days, and through the Spirit, they were telling Paul not to go to Jerusalem." The Spirit was present in every interaction we see between Paul and God, Paul and the disciples.

Jesus promised that where two or three are gathered, there He is in their midst. We know He's physically sitting at the right hand of the Father, if I can say physically, but He is present right now at the right hand of the Father. He left the earth, but He sent his Spirit. It is His Spirit that is present when there are two or three of us.

That's what I wanted to talk about today, because when I go to conferences, I see people encouraging each other, encouraging me, and I'm encouraging them. It's because God's spirit is present in God's people.

It would be easier to stay at home on Sunday morning and flick on the remote and watch church. But God wants us to get together with God's people because where two or three are gathered, there He is by his Spirit.

Paul and his friends attempted to go into Bithynia and the Spirit, through the disciples, was communicating to him. Paul is rarely alone. Paul is usually with Timothy, or Titus, or Silas, or Mark, and Luke. There's a team there because God's Spirit goes with God's people.

After saying this, here we come to an individual led by the Spirit. That would be Philip in Acts 8, where the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." We know the rest of the story, and it's fascinating. Philip ran to him, heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you're reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"

A nice way of saying, "Come on up in here, explain it to me." So they read the passage from Isaiah, and Philip started right there, and spoke to him about Jesus. He believed and was baptized. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away and the eunuch saw him no more.

The Spirit directed Philip, go, talk to that man right there. Yet, the Spirit was preparing that man to hear Him by speaking through that passage in Isaiah. We know that Isaiah was written and inspired by the Spirit. He was preparing him to hear the good news.

Peter, in Acts 10:11-12, "While Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Behold, three men are looking for you. The Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, we entered the man's house.'" So that we know he was going to speak to Cornelius. He was speaking to the Gentiles. This was monumental, and it was arranged, led, directed by the Spirit. The Spirit was all over that one.

My namesake, Stephen, was one of the seven selected in Acts 6:3, "Pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the spirit and of wisdom." I think sometimes we use the word Spirit like we use the word grace or we just use it as Christianese.

However these men were full of the Spirit and wisdom and everybody knew it. That's why they were chosen. Then in Acts 6:10, Stephen is interacting with these other religious leaders, and "They could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking."

We mentioned last time that in Revelation, seven times to the seven churches, "He that has ears to hear, hear what the Spirit is saying." It's important that we ask God to give us ears to hear what the Spirit is saying, because there was a whole bunch of people who were told that they were unable to listen to the Spirit because they had

not circumcised their heart or their ears. So, we want to have teachable hearts, and we want to have ears tuned into the Spirit.

It's very difficult to be led by the Spirit without the Word of the Spirit, the Word of God. I think we need to be immersed in the Word of God. We need to let the Words of Christ dwell in us richly. We need to abide in the Word, because the Word was inspired by the Spirit.

The Spirit and the Word go together. In John 4:23–24, as Jesus is talking to the woman at the well, "The hour is coming and is now here when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. For the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth."

We need to be filled with the Spirit, and we need to be filled with the Word of God. We need to be immersed in the Word. We need to have ears attuned to the Spirit. So many times, God speaks through His Word, because the Spirit and the Word are the same. They're synonymous.

2 Timothy 3:15–16, "From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is..." It's a great Greek word, theopneustos. Theopneustos is one word, but it's really a combination of two. Theo, God. Pneustos, breathed. "It is God-breathed. It is inspired in the Spirit." Different translations render it different ways, but it's theopneustos, breathed out by God.

2 Peter 1:21, "No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were moved or carried along by the Holy Spirit." The Word of God is a production, you might say, managed and inspired and infused by God's Spirit. He was the overseer of the Word of God being written.

I think there's something that we just need to say, but I think most of us who are listening know this. We're not going to be led by the Spirit and not be led by the Word of God. We're not going to be led by something that is not true and truth is revealed in Scripture.

If we wonder, "Is this the Spirit that is leading me? We also have to ask, does it line up with Scripture?" If it doesn't, then perhaps we're being deceived. Perhaps it's our own spirit. Perhaps it's an evil spirit. But I'll be really surprised if anybody gets light that is contrary to what has already been revealed, which is God's inspired Word. Because the Spirit and the truth are the same thing.

Ephesians 1:13. "In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit." The words of truth, the gospel, Holy Spirit, they go hand in hand.

Ephesians 6:17. "The helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

1 Thessalonians 1:5, "Because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit."

This is a little bit more obscure passage, but I like it a lot, and I've experienced it many times. Proverbs 1:23, "If you turn at my reproof (if you repent when God shows you something, you turn, you make a change), behold, I will pour out My Spirit to you. I will make My Words known to you." The Spirit and the Word go hand in hand.

It's the Spirit that is convicting you, perhaps it's the Word of God convicting you, but when you turn, when you repent, when you say, yes, I see that, I'm going to make a change, then God says, pour out My Spirit on that man. Reveal more of my Word to that man, because he has turned.

John 3:34, "He whom God has sent utters the Words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure." John 6:63, "It is the Spirit who gives life. The flesh is no help at all. The Words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and life." That was Jesus speaking. Then Paul reiterates that thought. "My speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power."

So, there's our text. Learn to be led by the Spirit. Learn to hear the Spirit. Learn to give place to the Spirit. Learn to honor the Spirit and develop that relationship with the Spirit that obviously Paul had, Peter had, Philip had, Stephen had, and Jesus had. You can't separate Jesus from the Spirit. He was Jesus the Christ, Jesus the anointed, Jesus born of the Spirit, lived by the Spirit and as we've already examined, His life was in the Spirit. They were one and the same. So I'd like to have my life come into focus, so to speak, and be clearly the Spirit and the truth govern me. What do you think, my dear Puddleglum?

**Scott:** It strikes me that it's like the difference between believing in God and walking with God. You can believe all the truth, and you've made your confession of faith and all that but then are you going to be led by the Spirit and that strikes me that humility is just absolutely necessary and a willingness to listen and be led. Because I think I want to lead the Spirit most of the time.

I wonder how many things, like if I was in Philip's shoes, I wonder if I would have just, the Spirit's like, "Hey, go to that Ethiopian guy." I'd be like, "Are you nuts? I'm not going over to that guy. I don't know him." I mean, I don't know, but hopefully I would have obeyed. But I wonder how many times I've just been too proud or stuck in my own ways to do what the Holy Spirit wanted me to do.

It just strikes me that just a state of humility and the willingness to listen and be led because it's not always going to look like what you think it's going to look like.

**Steve:** That's an excellent point, when you say you would rather lead the Spirit than be led by the Spirit.

**Scott:** Yeah.

**Steve:** Yeah. I've probably done that many times putting all my notes together and say, now God bless these notes. I should pray before I even start making notes, and say, now Lord, lead me. What do you want me to study? What do you want me to see? What do you want me to hear? That's a great perspective.

**Scott:** It strikes me that men I've known and women that I've known who've walked with God for a long time, the deeper they get into that, the more evident it is that that's just their normal state is, a willingness to slow down and listen for where the Spirit is leading and follow.

**Steve:** Amen. That might be the whole podcast right there. Are we leading the Spirit, or are we being led by the Spirit? That's an excellent perspective. When you said, I think it's necessary to be humble, my mind thought of Isaiah 66:2, "This is the one to whom I will look, he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word." That pulls it all together there.

**Scott:** Yeah, that's very good.

**Steve:** Let's pray and ask God to do that for us. "Father, help us to not be leaders of the Spirit, but followers of the Spirit. Help us to be humble, contrite, and teachable, and tremble at Your Word.

Help us to have a love for the Spirit and a love for the Word. We've seen how they go together in Your Word, and I pray that You will help us to line right up with Your truth and be led by Your Spirit in a deeper way, without feeling condemned or beat up. Take us deeper today. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.