



[John 16:13](#)

(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.

[Romans 8:14](#)

(14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
King James Version

Romans 8:14 refers to those who are "led," not dragged, forced, imposed upon or imputed to. Paul's comments supplement what [Jesus](#) says in [John 16:13](#), as some of the verbs in this sentence demonstrate that free moral agency on our part is still involved. "Guide," "speak," and "tell" show that [God](#) has chosen to persuade rather than force us. In addition, they give the distinct impression that the followers and hearers will need to do something on their own.

They will have to make choices, pay attention to what is said or written, and set their wills and follow through on their choices in order to accompany and learn from the Guide. Without these, they will not produce fruit because they are doing insufficient or the wrong activities.

A teacher cannot impose knowledge, understanding, and [wisdom](#) upon a student. The student must cooperate in the process. Without this, little or no fruit is produced. The Bible shows the [Spirit of God](#) as influencing, suggesting, and, if we choose to permit it, dominating—perhaps even controlling—our lives. This is good because God is good, and if we will yield, the fruit of His Spirit will be produced in our lives.

Are we aware that a divine influence is drawing us away from the corrupting passions and vanities of [this world](#)? Are we conscious of a desire to yield to that influence and be conducted along the path of [holiness](#) and life? Do we resist, or do we follow cheerfully

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and energetically, mortifying [pride](#), subduing passion, destroying lust, stifling talebearing, humbling ambition, and annihilating the [love](#) of the wealth and fashions of this world?

God will not lead us astray. Our real love, [joy](#), and [peace](#) consist only in yielding ourselves entirely to Him and being willing to be guided and influenced by His unseen hand. To be led by the Spirit is to choose voluntarily and consciously to submit to the Word of God.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[The Fruit of the Spirit](#)

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