

IN SYNC



LIVING IN STEP WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT

LEARNING TO RECOGNIZE,
DISCERN AND FOLLOW

His Leading

NICKY S. RAIBORDE

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INTRODUCTION

A Life in Sync with the Holy Spirit

Have you ever had a moment that felt completely ordinary—and yet, without realizing it at the time, it changed your life forever?

Scripture is filled with moments like that.

A shepherd boy delivering food.

A fisherman mending nets.

A young woman going about her day.

Ordinary moments that became divine turning points—not because they were dramatic, but because someone responded to God’s leading.

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.” (Psalm 37:23)

I was seventeen years old.

It was my final year of high school, and it was Good Friday. I was helping at the church my parents pastored, doing what I usually did—working behind the scenes. I was comfortable there. I knew computers. I did graphic design. I made things look good—but I stayed out of sight.

That afternoon, I was putting together the church bulletin for the Good Friday service.

Every year, we followed the same tradition: Seven speakers.
Seven sayings of Jesus on the cross.

Five minutes each.

I typed out the list, filling in the names one by one—until I reached one phrase:

“Woman, behold your son... and son, behold your mother.”

There was no name next to it.

Assuming it was a mistake, I called my dad.

“Hey, who’s speaking on this one?”

There was a pause.

“No one yet.”

I remember feeling stuck.

“What do you want me to do? Leave it blank?”

He simply said, “The Lord will provide.”

That answer didn’t help me.

I hung up the phone and stared at the screen.

Leave it blank?

Print it like that?

It felt awkward. Incomplete.

And then—without warning—it happened.

I saw it.

Not with my eyes, but clearly—an image of me standing on that stage, speaking.

Instantly, fear flooded my body.

Not mild discomfort.

Not nervousness.

Fear.

You have to understand—this wasn’t just outside my comfort zone. This was my fear.

I was extremely shy. I avoided attention. Even saying “hello” to people felt uncomfortable. In school, if a teacher called on me and everyone turned to look, I would freeze—sometimes even begin to cry.

For some people, public speaking is a dream.

For me, it was a nightmare.

So when that image came, my immediate response was, There’s no way.

But the impression didn’t leave.

It wasn’t loud.

It wasn’t forceful.

It was gentle—but persistent.

Looking back now, I recognize what was happening. It wasn’t imagination. It wasn’t ambition. It was what Scripture calls the leading of the Spirit. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

In a moment I still can’t fully explain, I typed my name into that empty space.

And I hit print.

Six hours. That’s all I had.

Six hours until I would have to stand in front of people and speak on something I had never prepared for—in a setting I had always avoided.

I remember thinking, What am I doing? What am I going to say? How am I even going to stand up there?

But something had already shifted.

What I didn't realize at the time was that I wasn't just filling in a blank on a bulletin.

I was stepping into a life God had prepared long before I knew it existed.

That night, I prepared a five-minute message. I was terrified. When the time came, I remember quietly praying for the rapture.

But the moment I stepped behind the pulpit, something unexpected happened.

A boldness I had never known came over me.

The fear lifted.

The moment felt normal—almost natural—as if I had been prepared for it all along.

It wasn't confidence.

It wasn't personality.

It was the Holy Spirit.

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord. (Zechariah 4:6)

That moment didn't just change that service.

It changed me.

It was orchestrated by God—and it revealed something I would spend the rest of my life learning:

The Holy Spirit isn't just with us.

He wants to lead us.

More Than Belief—A Life in Sync

To be “in sync” means to move in rhythm with something or someone else.

When two people are in sync, there is a flow—no striving, no forcing, no constant second-guessing. When musicians are in sync, they don't compete for control—they listen, adjust, and harmonize. This is the picture Scripture gives us of life with the Holy Spirit. *“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”* (Galatians 5:25)

To live “in sync” with the Holy Spirit is to live in line with Him—not just believing in Him, but allowing Him to set the pace, to guide your steps, and to shape your daily conduct.

In the same way, God never intended for your life to be lived out of constant confusion, pressure, or self-reliance. He designed you to live in sync with His Spirit.

Not occasionally.

Not only in church.

Not just in crisis.

But daily.

Moment by moment.

Decision by decision.

The Missing Piece for Many Believers

Many believers love God—but still live disconnected from His leading.

They pray, but don't expect a response.

They read Scripture, but don't recognize His voice in real time.

They make decisions based on logic alone, hoping God will bless what they choose.

They are saved... but not led.

And the result?
Unnecessary frustration.
Missed opportunities.
Unclear direction.
Spiritual dryness.

Not because God is distant—but because they’ve never been taught how to walk in step with Him.

This book is an invitation to something more.

A Pattern We See in Scripture

When you read the Bible through the lens of the Holy Spirit’s leadership, you begin to notice something powerful: The most impactful lives were not just gifted—they were led.

Peter, once impulsive and unstable, stood up filled with the Holy Spirit and preached with boldness—and in a single moment, thousands encountered Jesus. This wasn’t personality growth. This was transformation through alignment.

Philip was interrupted by the Spirit and told to approach a stranger’s chariot. No explanation. No roadmap. Just a prompting. His obedience led to one man’s salvation—and the Gospel reaching a new region.

Paul had a clear plan for where he wanted to go, but the Spirit said no. Then came a vision that redirected him entirely. What felt like an interruption became a defining moment in history.

These weren’t random events.
They were lives lived in sync.

This Is Not Just for “Special” People

It’s easy to read those stories and think:

That's for apostles. That's for leaders. That's for the spiritually elite.

But Jesus made something very clear:

“My sheep hear My voice...”

Not pastors.

Not prophets.

Not a select few.

Sheep.

If you belong to Him, you were created with the capacity to hear Him.

The question is not if He is speaking.

The question is—have you learned how to recognize His voice, His leading?

What If This Changed Everything?

What if being led by the Holy Spirit wasn't reserved for spiritual moments—but applied to every part of your life?

What if He wants to guide:

- The decisions you make
- The relationships you pursue—or walk away from
- The opportunities you step into
- The words you speak in critical moments
- The timing of your actions
- The direction of your life

What if the Holy Spirit isn't just present—but actively involved?

What if the difference between frustration and fruitfulness...
between confusion and clarity...

between striving and peace...
...was learning to follow His lead?

The Areas We Often Keep Closed

Here's the truth: The Holy Spirit is willing to lead every area of your life—but He won't force His way in.

Many believers invite Him into their spiritual life—but keep Him out of their decisions.

They welcome His presence—but resist His direction.

They desire comfort—but avoid surrender.

But His leadership is not partial—it's relational.

He wants to lead you in:

- Your spiritual growth
- Your thought life and emotions
- Your relationships
- Your calling and purpose
- Your daily choices

There is no part of your life that falls outside His care. Only the parts we choose not to yield.

Why This Matters More Than You Think

Living without the awareness of the Holy Spirit's leading doesn't just limit your spiritual life—it affects everything.

You may still move forward—but with unnecessary resistance.

You may still succeed—but without divine alignment.

You may still grow—but slower, harder, and with more confusion.

But when you begin to live in sync with Him...

There is a different kind of clarity.

A different kind of peace.

A different kind of confidence.

Not because life becomes easier—But because you are no longer navigating it alone.

An Invitation to a Different Way of Living

This book is not about becoming perfect. It's not about getting everything right.

It's about learning to recognize, trust, and respond to the One who is already with you.

As you move through these pages, you will learn:

- How the Holy Spirit speaks
- How to discern His voice from your own thoughts
- What hinders His leading
- How to respond with confidence
- How to develop a lifestyle of sensitivity to Him

This is not a formula.

It's a relationship.

The Invitation

What if your life could be led—not just managed?

What if you didn't have to constantly guess your next step?

What if the God who lives in you... actually guided you?

Right now—where you are—this invitation is open to you.

To slow down.

To become aware.

To lean in.

To listen.

And to begin living a life...

in sync.

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