

Women's Ministries: Week Nine.

Lead Me, Holy Spirit by Stormie Omartian

Next Women's Ministry Zoom Meeting:

Sunday, January 6, 2021 at 5PM

Click this link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83357222185?pwd=ZkdTSFJDUEVDZzFjMIRIeXcwK3JIQT>

This is a season of HOPE. As Christians, we rejoice and celebrate in the hope of salvation in Jesus Christ. The Christmas celebration is a remembrance of the birth of our Savior who brought salvation, a way to repair the relationship between God and man, so long ago. Over the years, it has been transformed from an intimate moment of thankfulness with God into the glittery festivities we see today. The differences in how we celebrate then and now are a far cry from each other. Even though traditions have changed, Christmas is still a holy time and the sentiment is the same. A time to quiet our spirits and be open to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit even more. Every time we put up our Christmas tree or decorate our homes in anticipation of loved ones for the festivities of the holiday, we are demonstrating our hope of what is to come...a common thread of togetherness in godly love. A time to look past transgressions and love one another like Christ commands.

But this season will be much different in the year of pandemic. Although we will not be gathering in large numbers as in the past, we can still gather in our hearts, on the phone, with online video, social media and through the mail. We live in an age where we can still be connected to those we love. For that, I am thankful. This is a season of HOPE in our Heavenly Father for what is to come, a season of salvation for the lost, a season of spiritual healing, a season of spiritual provision, a season of peace and forgiveness.

This week, we will have a summary of *Led to Be Filled with His Love and Hope* in Chapter 2. Questions for this week's reading, Intro to Chapter 3, *Led to Hear, Led to Hear God's Word in Your Mind*, Prayer Power and Word Power will follow afterwards.

In this past week's reading, we learned that God is love. His Spirit is love. When we open up to His Spirit, we have that same love that is God's flowing *through* us. God's love never fails. His love is not the same as the human love we have experienced here on earth. It is constant, unyielding, fierce and tender, unconditional, consistent, and an action verb that pursues us passionately. This is our reason for hope. Being open to God's Holy Spirit gives us this access to God's love, meaning that when you spend time with God, the Holy Spirit opens your heart. He changes your character to be more like His son, Jesus. His Spirit changes everything about you to let go of the negative aspects of your character and enhance the positive. This change allows His love to flow through you which, in turn, helps others to change their hearts as well.

This change helps us also to be motivated by the love of God. Doing good for others is not enough. It takes the love of God working through us to really have effective change in others, to touch their hearts and be the true gift that God wants to give.

The love of God is the answer for everything we do in this life on earth. This love that comes from God gives us the peace that passes all understanding because it gives us more love and more hope than we can ever generate on our own through any other practice. We will never be disappointed by putting our hope in Him. By sacrificing His Son on the cross and sending His Holy Spirit to live and work through us daily, He has proved His love for us.

The following questions are for this week's reading from Chapter 3: *Led to Hear* (Intro) and *Led to Hear God's Word in Your Mind*.

1. Read page 58, third paragraph, in the book. Fill in the blanks.

"In order to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, you must hear from God, and you cannot hear from God reliably if you don't have the solid foundation of His Word by which to judge what you are hearing."

In order to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit you must....
You cannot hear from God reliably if you don't have....

Led to Hear God's Word in Your Mind

Read page 59 in the book, fifth paragraph. Fill in the blanks.

"You will not be able to hear God speaking to your heart if you don't hear Him speaking to you from His Word first."

You will not be able to hear God speaking to your heart if....
Do you ever hear God speaking to your heart when you read His Word? Explain.

2. Read the following Scriptures. Beside each one write what it says about the Word of God.

Colossians 3:16 (Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.)

Hebrews 4:12 (For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man *or woman* of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.)

1 Peter 1:24-25 (For, "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory is like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, But the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word which was preached to you.)

Read the following Scriptures. Beside each one tell what you are to do in response to God's Word and why.

Psalms 119:1-6 (Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the Law of the Lord. 2 Blessed are those who comply with His testimonies, *And* seek Him with all *their* heart. 3 They also do no injustice; They walk in His ways. 4 You have *ordained* Your precepts,
That we are to keep *them* diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be established
To keep Your statutes! 6 Then I will not be ashamed
When I look at all Your commandments.)

James 1:22-25 (But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, the *law* of freedom, and has continued *in it*, not having become a forgetful hearer but an active doer, this person will be blessed in what he does.)

3. Read Deuteronomy 30:19. Deuteronomy 28:1-14 lists the blessings God promised to pour out on Israel if they would obey Him. God was *ready* to bless them and *wanted* to bless them, and He said if they diligently obeyed His voice and carefully observed all His commandments, He would give them everything they needed. Obedience to God's Word puts us in alignment with God's perfect will and in a position to receive His blessings.

In Deuteronomy 28:15-68, God tells the children of Israel of the curses that would come upon them if they disobey Him. This encompasses everything anyone would not want to happen to them, including the unthinkable-which is that they would suffer starvation so terrible that even a previously "sensitive and very refined" man or a "tender and delicate" woman would eat their own children (Deuteronomy 28:54-57). They would suffer the worst diseases with no relief, healing, or recovery (Deuteronomy 28:58-61). Those who survive would lose everything and be sold into slavery and live in fear. How much worse could it get?

The Israelites knew God's will for them because He had given them specific rules and ways He wanted them to live. They knew the consequences for not living His way, and yet they chose to do everything He said not to do. God made it clear what His response would be if they obey Him, and what would happen if they didn't. When things went well for them, they experienced God's blessing. When they forgot the Lord and His laws and served other gods, He took away His hand of blessing and the curses came to pass.

The leading of the Holy Spirit will always be to obey God in all things. He will never lead us in any other way. We don't want to receive God's blessings and then forget His ways and run after what we know is not of the Lord and live with the consequences of our disobedience. We have a way to avoid all that. God has given us His Word and His Holy Spirit *in* us to help us do it.

Write out a prayer asking God to help you understand His Word and remember it. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you do the Word as well.

Prayer Power

Lord, I thank You that by the power of Your Spirit You have given me Your Word. I see it is impossible to know *You* without knowing *it*. I ask that Your Holy Spirit, who inspired the writing of the Scriptures, will bring it alive in my mind and my heart every time I read or hear it. Make every verse clear to my understanding so that I have a deeper comprehension of the full meaning of each one. Help me to retain it. Prepare me with Your Word so that I am complete and thoroughly equipped for everything You have for me to do.

Strengthen me with knowledge of Your truth and help me to obey what You have said to do. Teach me what I don't understand. Make Your Word become part of the fabric of my being. Weave it into my soul so that it forms who I am. Illuminate each word and give me knowledge that I could not have on my own. Help me to hear Your voice speaking to me every time I read it. I don't want to be a person who turns my ear away from hearing

Your law so that my prayers become an abomination (Proverbs 28:9). I want the peace You have promised to those who love Your ways (Psalm 119:165). Your Word is perfect--changing me, making me wise, bringing me joy, and flooding my life with light (Psalm 19:7-8).

In Jesus' name I pray.

Word Power

The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. --Hebrews 4:12

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. --2 Timothy 3:16

I pray that you will lean into God during this season of hope and that your own hope will be renewed in Him. Blessings to you this week as you prepare your heart for the celebration of Christmas. May you have a truly holy experience with God.

Love in Christ,
[Lesley Lint](#)
Bristol First Assembly
Women's Ministry
270-983-1985
lesleyjamesstudios@gmail.com