

# Obeying the Checks

by John Hames

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of obeying the gentle guidance of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 23:3, Proverbs 3:6, Isaiah 30:21, John 14:26, John 16:13, Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:25, Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:19

**Topics:** "Holy Spirit", "Spiritual Guidance"

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## Description

John Hames emphasizes the importance of being led by the Holy Spirit, who guides believers through gentle whispers, inward restraints, and burdens to communicate His will. He explains that the Holy Spirit uses these 'checks' to indicate approval or disapproval, when to act or refrain, and when to move forward or stand still. Hames warns against behaviors that grieve the Holy Spirit, such as loud talk, jesting, and careless living, while highlighting the Spirit's role in inspiring prayer, testimony, holy living, and providing strength in times of temptation and trials.

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## Transcript

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14).

No doubt by this time the newly converted soul has become acquainted with the Christian's guide, the blessed Holy Spirit, therefore, it will be no great difficulty to make him understand what we mean by "obeying the checks."

Now what we mean by the "checks" is as follows: The Holy Spirit, our great teacher and leader, makes His home in our hearts; hence, in communicating His will to us He does not yell or use violent language but leads sometimes with a gentle whisper and at other times through a gentle inward restraint and at still other times by suddenly causing us to feel inwardly burdened and heavy hearted. The foregoing are what Christians call the "checks." The Holy Spirit uses these methods to let us know when He is pleased with our conduct and when He is displeased, when we should speak and when we should refrain, when we should go forward and when we should stand still. If we obey His voice He will guide us daily like clock work.

It is to be borne in mind, however, that the blessed Holy Spirit is very tender, also very easily grieved out of our hearts. He is not pleased with loud, boisterous talk; scolding; jesting; loud, reckless laughter; careless, loose walking; trifling, giggling, flirting; unprofitable sightseeing; spending too much time before the mirror, primping and such like things.

The blessed Holy Spirit also inspires, prompts and reminds us to pray; helps us to testify, sing and preach; actuates us to live holy lives; subdues the human, enlightens the mind and inflames the heart with the fire of heavenly love. He commends and blesses us when we do well and chastises and reproves us for thoughtless and careless works and deeds. He holds us steady in the storms of temptation, fiery trials and persecution.

Above all things, reader, let us obey His still small voice, mild impressions and gentle reproofs, and by so doing our souls will be kept like a "watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters fail not."

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