

## LED, GUIDED, DRIVEN, BY THE SPIRIT

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ELLIOTT THINKSHEETS

309 L.Eliz.Dr., Craigville, MA 02636

Phone 508.775.8008

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What's the appropriate word for the Holy Spirit's part in our having arrived at a place we conclude we'd not have gotten to without the Spirit? Depends, doesn't it, on (1) our sense of the Presence during the journey, (2) our feelings-thoughts about that Presence in our reflecting on the journey after our arrival, & (3) our sense of the Presence during that reflecting.... Such reflection sensitizes us to the Spirit here & now & prepares us to be, in the future, more open to & aware of our divine Companion.

1 When you know where you're going, you need nobody to lead-guide-drive you. In fact, you're very apt to feel some insult if, you so knowing, somebody nevertheless insists on going with you "just to be sure you don't get lost." (Indeed, you're apt to feel like saying "YOU get lost!") So secular humanism considers the God-premise insulting; & Nietzsche took it as evidence you've a weak, timorous soul, the "Überman" (*Übermensch*, "Super-man") needing nobody over.... We biblical folks reject this high view of humanity, & our rejection is taken by radical humanism as an insult to humanity--as though we found it necessary to demean humanity to make room for deity!

2 But isn't it possible to have that high view of humanity without sacrificing spirituality? Of course it is. Currently in America, the marriage is called "New Age," which professes to honor you as your own god while you "access" cosmic spiritual energies. Even with "channeling," such as in A COURSE IN MIRACLES, the magic is in your hands. (Ron Enroth, master of America's cults & new religions, says New Age ideas are [HOUGHTON MILIEU, Oct90 15, ed.'s words] "adaptable to fully 25 percent of Americans.")

3 Gen.3 pictures pre-Fall Adam & Eve as too ignorant to make ethical decisions (good/evil) but able to make the relational decision as to whether or not to obey, & walk with, the God of the Garden. The rest of the Bible shows that even after becoming ethical, humanity remained too ignorant to go it alone without divine guidance. Thus this Thinksheet's title: I accept the biblical assumption that we're not designed to be God-independent creatures. But our public schools, & most of our intellegentsia, are ignorant of this ignorance, & are led-guided-driven by other than the Spirit. E.g., this from E.O.Wilson, the sociobiologist famous for saying we're "only DNA's way of making more DNA" (p.2, SOCIOBIOLOGY, Harv.UP/75): We need to "construct the mythology of scientific materialism, guided by the corrective devices of the scientific method" (p.209, ON HUMAN NATURE, Harv.UP/78). Guidance from below (let's call it **bioguidance**), not from above (pneumatoguidance). Equally adamant against the transcendent, & promotive of naturalistic determinism, is Melvin Konner (THE TANGLED WING, BIOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS ON THE HUMAN SPIRIT, H&R/82).

4 Near-&-Mid-East shepherding provides the political analogy of the king as shepherd & the devotional analogy (Ps.23, Jn.10) of the Lord as shepherd of the devout. In Ps.23.2f, both Hebrew & Greek (Ps.22.2f) have two different verbs to "lead-guide," the Gk. vbs. being colorful, but neither one used of the action of Jesus as shepherd (Jn.10.16, where the vb. is the same as L.'s version of the Spirit's leading Jesus into the wilderness before the temptation [1.1, where Mt. (4.1) has the same base, but "lead up" instead of "lead"; & M. (1.12) has the radically different "drive out [into]"--all of which explains this Thinksheet's title]). More anon on "drives out."

5 In this Thinksheet's title, the boldface constitutes the title of George W. ("Bill") Webber's just published (subtitle) THE STORY OF NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (Pilgrim/90), which I'd read in manuscript, as I'd lived the stormy-fearsome-joyful decade of transition ('69-'79) there with him. I vouch for the accuracy & balance of the narrative, & I agree we felt "led by the Spirit" both positively, in surprising unplanned openings on educational ministry, & negatively (as Paul: Ac.16.6), in surprising failures (surprising because we put so much heart & mind &, you might just say, sweat equity into those schemes & designs). Yes we were led, guided, by the Spirit; but we were also driven into the urban wilderness, as our Lord had been into the wilderness of temptation (the same vb. the same Evangelist uses for Jesus' driving out the moneychangers [11.15] & demons [1.34,39 16.9]). But it's no insult to be driven by the Spirit while intending the glory of God & human dignity.