



## WOW: Word Of the Week

### AUTO-PILOT

June 28, 2023

This week's WOW reflects the time in which we live. In an age of self-driving vehicles, hands-free driving, airplanes on autopilot. On a typical commercial flight, about 90% of the route is flown on autopilot!

We are hearing more and more about AI. Described simply, AI combines computer science and robust datasets to enable problem-solving.

What are the spiritual applications? In my readings and study of the Holy Spirit, I have been challenged by the concept of "spiritual autopilot." The Bible talks not about AI but about SI – spiritual intelligence!

**Autopilot.** This week's WOW. Galatians 5 makes a strong claim. "Live by the Holy Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh." That sounds a lot like autopilot. When the Holy Spirit guides your life, you will not participate in worldly deeds. The problem comes when we disengage the autopilot, when we don't listen to God's Word and honor God's Holy Spirit presence, when we let other factors take control. Paul makes a similar statement in Romans 8. The Christian chooses a new path, no longer living according to the flesh but living by the Spirit. A person alive in the Spirit puts to death the deeds of the flesh. This is how children of God are identified: they put to death the worldly life, showing that they live under the direction of the Spirit of God.

There are days when we are not ready for such a high standard, we don't want autopilot, we want to speak our mind, we prefer reacting to Spirit-acting, the ways of the world look attractive. **To live by the Holy Spirit, under his direction, can be described as putting your life on spiritual autopilot.**

**SI—Spiritual intelligence.** Listen to Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:12-16. We have received the Holy Spirit from God so we can understand the wisdom of God, the things which God freely gives us. God's spiritual wisdom is discerned and evaluated with spiritual intelligence (SI). Spiritual perception is possible only with spiritual intelligence. This SI is ours because of the Holy Spirit. Paul is describing the same thing when he writes about "the mind of Christ" (Phil. 2:5). The mind of Christ is described in 2:1-4. Wow!

This week, give it a try. How long can you keep your life in balance on spiritual autopilot? Do you live most of your life on WI (worldly intelligence) or SI (spiritual intelligence)?