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**Greater Hartford Chapter
 R HOUSE Restaurant
 June 5, 2013**

- Welcome! Opening prayer, praise reports
- FCCI news: regional conference on June 14
- Today's topic: **You're not a Puppet on a String!**



But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented. For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children. --Matthew 11:16-19

As business owners, we have many voices calling to us (sometimes shouting at us), saying "Do this, do that."

- Customers want **more**.
- Employees want **more**.
- Suppliers want **more**.
- Families want **more**.
- Churches want **more**.
- Community groups want **more**.
- Governments want **more**.

There's only so much of you to go around! As humans, we all have limited time and treasure. No matter what you do, someone will complain that you're not doing what he or she wants. You're not performing. You're not conforming. You're not meeting expectations. You're darned if you do, and darned if you don't. When you're not giving someone what they want, he or she may accuse you with, *If you were a real Christian, you would...*

In the midst of this chatter and noise, we must listen to the still small voice of wisdom to guide us in our decision-making, regardless of what others think and say. Why? Because in the final analysis, "wisdom is justified of her children." In other words, God's wisdom is shown to be true by its results.

What situations are you facing today, in which you're hearing voices coming from multiple directions telling you to go in multiple directions? Is it in strategic planning, R&D, sales and marketing, HR, production, legal and administrative, finance, facilities, ministry and community service? Or is it coming outside of your business?

Evaluate yourself from 1 (weak) to 10 (strong) in terms of operating in Spirit-led liberty.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits might you enjoy by being less manipulated?										
What specific actions can you take to become less manipulated?										

- Next meetings on 6/19 and 7/3
- Regional Conference on 6/14
- Other news/announcements
- Closing prayer