

The Holy Spirit—Our Guide

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I. Introduction.

- A. The wisest way to make a decision is finding out the mind of God.
- B. Text: John 16.
- C. Most of the time people give advice to a person that will make that person like them better. This is not good advice.

II. One of the Spirit's ministries is to guide the believer daily.

- A. The one directing us is the Spirit of truth. (John 15)
- B. Having the Spirit is like having an in-built compass.
- C. We always have the Spirit to be a guide for us.
- D. God regularly assures us of His guidance because He wants the best for us. (Psalm 23, 32, Isaiah 31, Proverbs 3:5-6, Luke 12:12)
- E. The Spirit of God led the early church to make difficult decisions. (Acts 11:12, 13:1, 16:6, 20:23, Romans 8, Galatians 5)

III. The Spirit guides with a purpose.

- A. He guides to keep us from making mistakes in the immediate present.
- B. He guides to help us fulfill God's great purpose for us in our lives. (Ephesians 5:5)
- C. He guides us to be conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:29)

IV. Conditions for guidance.

- A. One must be a child of God having received the forgiveness of sins by faith.
- B. One must yield himself to God.
- C. One must believe that God will guide. (Hebrews 11:6)
- D. One must wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27)
 - 1. Waiting becomes a time of clean up.
 - 2. God makes us more aware of areas that need growth.

V. How the Spirit leads.

A. Through the Word of God.

B. Through principles in the Word. (I Corinthians 10:31, Ephesians 5:20, Colossians 3:17, Philippians 4:6-7)

1. Will God be glorified in this?
2. Can I give thanks to God in this?
3. Can I do this in the name of Christ?
4. Can I pray to God in this?

C. Through circumstances. (Romans 8:28, Acts 16)

D. Through conviction.

Application questions:

1. Why is the Spirit given for guidance? Explain.

2. How can a person discern God's will for a major decision?

3. How would you respond to someone who says that he has freedom to do whatever he wants as long as it is not explicitly spoken against in the Bible?
