

"The Guidance of the Holy Spirit"

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: To Understand how the Holy Spirit guides the children of God...and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Life Group Leader preparation:

John 16:13 – However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide** you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Jesus said in *John 16:12* – He has many things to say us but we cannot bear them, (grasp them)

John 16:13 (Amp) – He will guide you into the whole, full truth; He only speaks what he hears from the Father. He will announce and declare things that are to come (in the future). Whatever he says: will honor and glorify the Father and Jesus Christ the Lord.

Examples of the guidance of the Holy Spirit

1. Acts 13:2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the **Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."**
2. Acts 15:28 "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials:
3. Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Comforter: (Greek – parakletos)

Helper, counselor, advocate, intercessor, standby, strengthener

Life Group Leader: This is a great time to Minister the Holy Spirit.... Ask if all are filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4

- Pray that all will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Minister the Holy Spirit to those who have not/and desire to be filled

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(scriptures to help minister the Holy Spirit)

- HOLY SPIRIT

- John 14:16,17,26
- John 7:37-39
- Luke 11:9-13
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2:4
- Acts 10:44-46
- Acts 19:2-6
- I Corinthians 14:2,4,14

More Scripture References: Mark 16:14-17,

- Mark 16:14-17
- Luke 24:49
- John 3:18,36, 5:24
- John 6:47; 7:38; 16:7-14
- Acts 4:12; 8:5-19; 9:17
- Acts 10:43; 16:30,31
- Romans 3:10-12, 23
- I Corinthians 14:18
- Ephesians 2:1-3
- I John 3:12

WEEK #1 – Learn to be guided by the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:14, 16 For as many as are led by the spirit of God they are the Sons of God

- The *Spirit Himself beareth witness* with our spirit that we are children of God
 - It’s an inward witness (a knowing on the inside)
 - Learn to listen to the “inward witness”
- I Cor 14 – But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.

Discussion Question: Share when you were led/given guidance by the “inward witness”.

- Life Changes, Relationships, Ministry, etc

Rom 8:16 (NAS) - The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are children of God

- He speaks to our spirit man

LIFE GROUP LEADER: Take time to Minister the Holy Spirit to those who want to receive: Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of “speaking with other tongues”? I Cor 14:2,4, 14-15

Week #2 – Receiving Direction from God

Discussion Question: What is the first step in learning how to be led by the Spirit of God?

1. The first step in learning how to be led by the Spirit of God is to become more spirit conscious; become more aware of the **inward man**.
 - a. For which cause we faint not; but thought our outward man perish, yet the **inward man** is renewed day by day – II Corinthians 4:16
2. The inward/hidden man of the heart or your born-again spirit is of great price to God
 - a. ...But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God a great price. – I Pet 3:1-4
3. God will enlighten our spirit. Therefore, we should look to our spirit for insight and direction.
 - a. I Thess 5:23 – refers to our whole spirit, soul and body. We are made of three parts. We are a spirit, we have a soul and we live in a body.
 - b. I Cor 2:12 – And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.
 - c. Job 32:8 – But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding
4. We must become spirit –ual minded. The Holy Spirit only speaks to our spirit, because the natural man (flesh/body) cannot receive the things of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. I Cor 2:7-16

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Therefore, if we are seeking insight, direction, or a leading from the Lord, we must learn to listen to the still small voice of our spirit or the inward witness of our spirit, not:

1. The voice of our mind; reasoning
2. The voice of our body; feelings

5. Spiritual Immaturity can cause us to miss the voice of God.
 - a. I Sam 3:1-8
6. Spiritual Perception will cause us to know the voice of God
 - a. I Sam 3:9-11

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Week #3 – The Holy Spirit guides us by the Word of God

Group Discussion Question: How does God usually speak to His children?

1. God’s word is our ultimate and final authority and is more sure than the voice we may have heard.
 - a. II Peter 1:16-21
 - b. II Timothy 3:16-17
2. The Word of God will help us discern the true thoughts and intentions of our spirit
 - a. Hebrews 4:12
3. Wise Counsel
 - a. For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death – Psalm 48:14
4. Our recreated spirit only desires to follow the Holy Spirit, because that’s how we are led by God.
 - a. John 16:13-15
5. Secret things belong to God
 - a. The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. – Deut 29:29

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Week #4 – Key Insights on How to Be Directed by God

Group Discussion Question: What steps should you further take to experience the wisdom and direction of the Holy Spirit?

The witness of the Holy Spirit will always follow wisdom and wisdom will always follow the way of pleasantness and the path of peace.

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- Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are please. – Prov 3:17
1. We should wait on at least two or three witnesses with our spirit before we take action. We should not act on just one witness.
 - a. Deut 19:15
 - b. Paul said that every word shall be established by two or three witnesses
 - i. II Cor 13:1 – This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.
 - c. The testimony or witness of two people are considered true
 - i. John 8:17-18
 2. We should not get in a hurry to take action. Faith is never in a hurry.
 - a. He that believeth shall not make haste or get in a hurry or panic.
 - i. Isaiah 28:16
 - b. Be swift to hear (listen for the witness or voice of your spirit) but slow to act (speak or wrath).
 - i. James 1:19
 3. Remember God is slow to anger
 - a. Psalm 103:8

7 Benefits of learning to be directed by God’s Spirit

- 1) Make decisions that turn out right
- 2) Stay in the will of God
- 3) Walk in God’s purpose for your life
- 4) Have a good success
- 5) Always have things work out for your good
- 6) God is pleased with you
- 7) Have a fulfilled, satisfied and peaceful life

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