

The Guidance of The Holy Spirit

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

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 (NKJV) - 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.*

John 16:13 (AMPC) - But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].

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 necessary things:
3. Romans 8:14 – For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.

Comforter: (Greek – parakletos) definition: Helper, Counselor, Advocate, Intercessor, Standby, Strengthenener

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

Scripture Resources to help minister the 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
- 1 Corinthians 14:2,4,14-15

Additional Scripture References:

- Mark 16:14-17
- Luke 24:49
- John 3:18,36; John 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
- 1 Corinthians 14:18
- Ephesians 2:1-3
- 1 John 3:12

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

Romans 8:14,16

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, it is an inward witness (a knowing on the inside of you)

- It is an inward witness (a knowing inside of you)
- Learn to listen to the 'inward witness'
- 1 Corinthians 2:14 – 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.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION: Share when you were led or given guidance by the inward witness. Example - Life changes, relationships, ministry, etc.

Romans 8:16 (NAS) - 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God

- He speaks to our spirit man

WEEK #2 – Receiving direction from God

GROUP 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 though our outward man perish, yet the **inward man** is renewed day by day. *2 Corinthians 4:16*
2. The **inward, hidden man of the heart** or your born-again spirit is of great price to God.
 - a. ... ⁴ rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the ⁱⁿincorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. *1 Peter 3:1-4*
3. God will enlighten our spirit. Therefore, we should look to our spirit for insight and direction.
 - a. *1 Thessalonians 5:23*, refers to our whole spirit, soul, and body. We are a spirit. We have a soul, and we live in a body.
 - b. *1 Corinthians 2:12*, 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 breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.
4. We must become **spiritual minded**. The Holy Spirit only speaks to our spirit, because the natural man (flesh/body) cannot receive the things of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. *1 Corinthians 2:7-16*

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:

- The voice of our mind; reasoning
 - The voice of our body; feelings
5. Spiritual immaturity can cause us to miss the voice of God.
 - a. *1 Samuel 3:1-8*
 6. Spiritual perception will cause us to know the voice of God
 - a. *1 Samuel 3:9-11*

Life Group Leader: Take time to minister the Holy Spirit to those who want to receive. Ask, have you been filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other tongues? *1 Corinthians 14:2,4,14,15*

Allow the Life Group to pray in tongues together.

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. *2 Peter 1:16-21*
 - b. *2 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 *is* God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide ^[a]Even to death. *Psalms 48:14*
4. Our recreated spirit only desires to follow the Holy Spirit because that is how God leads us. *John 16:13-15*
5. Secret things belong to God
 - a. "The secret *things belong* to the LORD our God, but those *things which are revealed belong* to us and to our children forever, that *we may do all the words of this law.* *Deuteronomy 29:29*

Life Group Leader: Take time to minister the Holy Spirit to those who want to receive. Ask, have you been filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other tongues? *1 Corinthians 14:2,4,14,15*

Take time to pray in the spirit together.

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.

- Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace. *Proverbs 3:17*
1. We should wait on at least two or three witnesses with our spirit before we act. We should not act on just one witness.
 - a. *Deuteronomy 19:15*
 - b. Paul said that every word shall be established by two or three witnesses

- i. *2 Corinthians 13:1* - This *will be* the third *time* I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall 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 act. 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 (KJV)*
 - 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. *Psalms 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 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

Life Group Leader: Take time to minister the Holy Spirit to those who want to receive. Ask, have you been filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other tongues? *1 Corinthians 14:2,4,14,15*

Take time to pray in tongues together.