

Chapter 1 : Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. | Christian Forums

One of the most important ways to recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance is to be familiar with God's Word. The Bible is the ultimate source of wisdom about how we should live (2 Timothy), and believers are to search the Scriptures, meditate on them, and commit them to memory (Ephesians).

Your browser does not support the audio element. This is a tremendous audienceâ€”they tell me that between thirteen thousand and fourteen thousand people are here. I hope that you will join me in a prayer that while I speak to you I will have the influence of the Spirit with meâ€”and that you will, too, so that the time will not be wasted. We particularly need it because I have chosen to speak to you about the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I do not wish to conceal. There is an almost universal sense of apprehension about where the tumultuous developments of our time may take us, a sense of deep anxiety at phenomena which we do not fully understand, let alone control. In all the speculation, much of it depressing, about the shape of the future, there recurs a note of helplessness and fatalism which I find deeply disturbing. This is not a new phenomenon. Dire prophecies have often before been the symptoms of periods of transition and change in human society. What is new is the scope and scale of the problems that give rise to these apprehensions. Today the civilization that is facing such a challenge is not just one small part of mankindâ€”it is mankind as a whole. As conditions worsen, it becomes more apparent every day that we are on a collision course with disaster. I am persuaded that nothing short of the guidance of the Holy Spirit can bring us through safely. I call attention to our unpleasant situation not because I want you to see and clearly recognize the predicament of the world in which we live. Personally I am not disheartened. I am concerned, but I do not live in terror. It has been said that the late President J. Golden Kimball once attended a stake conference session in which the speaker who preceded him occupied nearly all the time with a scorching call to repentance and that when Brother J. Our arrival at the brink upon which we now are poised is no surprise to the Lord. He saw disaster coming and provided the way of escape. As long ago as November 1, , He said: I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jun. That the enjoyment of it is the birthright of every soul is made plain in the following statements found in the 84th section of the Doctrine and Covenants: And every one that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit cometh unto God, even the Father. They are the natural-born spirit children of God. It is, therefore, natural that there persists in every human soul, from antemortal spirit life, the capacity to instinctively respond to the promptings of the Spirit. In the 93rd section of the Doctrine and Covenants it is stated this way; Thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am; And that I am the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. Lehi put it this way: Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. And by this you may know the righteous from the wicked, and that the whole world groaneth under sin and darkness even now. Jesus told Nicodemus that God sent. He that believeth on him is not condemned: And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. Each is enlightened by the spirit when he comes into the world, given his free agency, and held responsible for the exercise thereof. There seems to be no middle ground. When men reject the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they are left to their own wisdom and to the promptings of evil spirits. History, the scriptures, and daily experience all confirm this truth. The uninspired wisdom of men will never solve our difficulties. The time is short; a world calamity can be avoided only if enough people can be brought to humble themselves and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The revelations of the Lord are explicit as to what will occur if this fails. Among other things, the Lord says that a desolating scourge shall go forth among the inhabitants of the earth, and shall

continue to be poured out from time to time, if they repent not, until the earth is empty, and the inhabitants thereof are consumed away and utterly destroyed by the brightness of my coming. Behold, I tell you these things, even as I also told the people of the destruction of Jerusalem; and my word shall be verified at this time as it hath hitherto been verified. But for our own selves we must take the stand Joshua took when he said to Israel: The Holy Spirit brings peace to all who follow it. Paul, awaiting martyrdom in a prison cell, could write to his beloved Timothy: I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: I have a conscience void of offense toward God and toward all men. There is no way to discourage or defeat a people or a person who follows the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. In the 9th section of the Doctrine and Covenants is recorded a test by which one may be assured that he has the guidance of the Spirit. I recommend that we make the use of it a continuing practice. Every person can put that formula to the test and learn for himself the rightness or wrongness of his decisions. Every man is born with the light of Christ in his soul, and it is only when he chooses to reject that light which would guide him through the world that he becomes carnal and sensual and devilish. All of the scriptures agree on this point. Remember also that the Lord has said: If you want to obtain and keep the guidance of the Spirit, you can do so by following this simple four-point program. Pray with each other. Pray in public in the proper places, but never forget the counsel of the Savior: Learn to talk to the Lord; call upon his name in great faith and confidence. Study and learn the gospel. Live righteously; repent of your sins by confessing them and forsaking them. Then conform to the teachings of the gospel. Give service in the Church. If you will do these things, you will get the guidance of the Holy Spirit and you will go through this world successfully, regardless of what the people of the world say or do. The first part of this revelation is a persuasive plea by the Lord to His people to come unto Him while there is yet time. Much of the rest of the revelation is a restatement by the Lord of what He said to His disciples concerning the signs of His coming in the day when He shall come in glory in the clouds of heaven. He gave these statements to the apostles in reply to their question as to the signs of His second coming. And in this revelation He restated them to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Among the wicked, men shall lift up their voice and curse God and die. There shall be earthquakes also in divers place, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another. And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man. And, behold, I will come; and they shall see me in the clouds of heaven, clothed with power and great glory; with all the holy angels; and he that watches not for me shall be cut off. Then shall the arm of the Lord fall upon the nations. And calamity shall cover the mocker, and the scorner shall be consumed; and they that have watched for iniquity shall be hewn down and cast into the fire. And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins. And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation. For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver. We have to take the Holy Spirit for our guide and not be deceived. God bless us, my young brothers and sisters, that we may have the good sense to take the Holy Spirit as our guide and thereby accomplish the purpose and obtain the reward for which this life was given to us. This I humbly pray, and leave my blessings with you, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Chapter 2 : Questions about the Holy Spirit

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, read more.

Man is a traveller to the eternal world. Left to self-guidance he possesses vast and uncontrollable powers of self-destruction. What is he without a guide in the wilderness, a pilot on the ocean? Some recognise no other spirit, and are guided by no other spirit, than the spirit of the world – i. He knows the path to heaven – all its intricacies and dangers: It is utterly impossible, then, that He should mislead. He knows His own work in the soul. All its light and shade, its depressions and revivings, its assaults and victories, are vivid to His eye. Dwelling in that heart He knows where wisely to supply a cheek, or gently to administer a rebuke, or tenderly to whisper a promise, or sympathetically, to soothe a sorrow, or effectually to aid an incipient resolve, or strengthen a wavering purpose, or confirm a fluctuating hope. It assumes – 1 The existence of spiritual life in those He leads. He does not undertake to lead a spiritual corpse, a soul dead in sins, The leading of the Spirit, then, is His acting upon His own life in the soul. It involves leading as – 1 From ourselves – from all reliance on our own righteousness, and strength. But this divorce from the principle of self is the work of a life. And who but this Divine Spirit could so lead us away from self, in all its forms, as to constrain us to trample all our own glory in the dust? He leads us from an opposite extreme of self – from a despairing view of our personal sinfulness. How many walk in painful and humiliating bondage from not having thus been sufficiently led out of themselves! Thus from sinful self, as from righteous self, the Spirit leads us – 2 To Christ. Are we sad and desolate? Are we poor, empty, and helpless? The holy Spirit is our Comforter, but the holy Jesus is our comfort. Tossed from opinion to opinion, perplexed by conflicting creeds, are you anxiously inquiring, "What is truth? He can harmonise apparent contradictions, reconcile alleged discrepancies, clear away overshadowing mists, and place each doctrine, precept, and institution clear before your mind. As the "Spirit of holiness," it is his aim to deepen the impress of the restored image of God in the soul, to increase our happiness by making us more holy, and to advance our holiness by making us more like God. All His unfoldings of Christ, views of God, rebukes, joys, have this for their object – the perfection of us in holiness. If sorrows abound, consolation much more abounds, since "the Comforter" is the Holy Ghost. There He matures the kingdom, and perfects the building, and completes the temple He commenced and occupied on earth. Beware of being guided by any other than the Spirit of God. The temptation is strong of being biased by the profound research, the distinguished talents, the exalted piety, and admired example of men. But this must not be. It is inconsistent with the honour that belongs, and with the love that we owe, to the Spirit.

Chapter 3 : Talking Pentecostalism: The guidance of the Spirit: What Pentecostals believe

SELAH! Pause - reflect- just think of that! Selah Alphabetical Index. The Guidance of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul experienced the leading of the Holy Spirit in his daily life. He saw a great spiritual principle in the Christ.

Thus the nature of guidance from the Holy Spirit will reflect the character and wisdom of Yahuwah. He is steady; He is not fickle, unclear, or vague! He is always focused on guiding us according to what is GOOD for us. Yahuwah is faithful to give us guidance that will lead us into the way that is right and true. Any guidance, wisdom, or counsel that we receive from above "from the Holy Spirit, will be pure, full of light, and will honour Yahuwah. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness no fickleness, neither shadow of turning. Your spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. He loves righteousness and judgment: Dark wisdom is soulish, unclear, and obscure. Dark wisdom is worldly, connected to pressuring tactics of witchcraft [Satanic occult] and mystical practices. When we learn what God has said in His written Word, and if we will be sensitive and of a truly humble heart, then we will recognize a deep uneasiness within our spirit whenever we encounter dark wisdom. We need to cultivate a sensitivity to the type of guidance we encounter. Beloved, many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby you know the Spirit of God: And every spirit that confesses not that Yahushua Messiah [Jesus Christ] is come in the flesh is not of God: This is a deceiver and an antichrist. So we must be on our guard because Satan is constantly working to deceive! False teachings will deny that Messiah died for our sins, that He rose from the dead, and He is coming again! If a teaching or counsel has this feature, it is a deceiving spirit, and is not of the Holy Spirit. This warning will naturally lead us to the second key. This second Key is of great importance! In the modern evangelical community, there is a wide gap between what the religious leaders teach, and what the Bible actually says! In some cases, what some religious leaders teach actually violates the full counsel of Scripture. This Key for discerning guidance from the Holy Spirit makes it of paramount importance that we learn for ourselves what the Scriptures say! We need to search our heart for any false notions, false mind-sets, or false practices that are contrary to Scripture. We need to know the Scriptures as they are, and not twist their meaning to suit our carnal nature! It is important to set aside time daily, for reading and studying the Scriptures, and for secret prayer time, asking Father to help us be more sensitive to His guidance. Knowing and obeying the written Word of God is how we learn to walk with God, and avoid all kinds of deception, misery, and ultimately, damnation See Hosea 4: This is why Father urges us many times in Psalms to seek for His guidance and understanding according to His Word see Psalms ! Thus we will balk at moving forward according to His Scriptural directions. Learning The Word of God An important part of learning the Scriptures is to study a Bible version that has not been corrupted. Today there are many Bible translations from which to choose. For many reasons, the King James Version, along with a Bible concordance, is the best combination for studying and learning the Word of God. Though the language used is somewhat unfamiliar to many today, the King James Version is still the most accurate. For general reading, some of the modern Bible versions may offer further insight into a particular verse, when used with a concordance. But when the King James Version is used as the primary study Bible, the student will gain much spiritual insight from the many identical phrases seen throughout, giving us a good understanding of the Scriptures. One interesting fact is that the King James Version is the only Bible in existence today authorized by a king. And because we are told in Daniel 2: So the written Scriptures, along with the Holy Spirit of Yahuwah, together give us the guidance we need. Little by little, we will grow in our maturity and discernment, when we learn and study for ourselves what Father says in His Word. Always remember what Yahuwah Elohim taught us: But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. The wisdom that is not from the Holy Spirit is earthly, based on the senses, soulish, and ultimately, demonic. Earthly, soulish wisdom is clouded in selfish pride, strife, deception, and confusion, producing fruit that is harmful and corrupt! The wisdom and counsel from the Holy Spirit is pure.

Chapter 4 : 3 Marks of the Spirit's Guidance in Preaching

The Guidance of the Spirit. O. Winslow, D.D. Romans For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Man is a traveller to the eternal.

He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. For the Lord will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage; James 1: Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. I will answer you, for God is greater than man. For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their beds, then he opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings, For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person. Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. Our eyes have seen it! O Lord, be not far from me! Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication, for my cause, my God and my Lord! For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,

Chapter 5 : How can I recognize the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

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Doctrine and Covenants 6: Give students one minute to memorize the phrase and the reference. Then erase the phrase and allow two or three volunteers to quote the phrase and give the reference. Read Doctrine and Covenants Wirthlin, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: He can guide us in every choice and decision and never will deceive or mislead us. What did Elder Wirthlin say about the certainty of the information we can receive from the Holy Ghost? The guidance of the Holy Ghost is available to all worthy members of the Church. Share the following teaching: What is the key to having the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost? What can we do to be worthy of the influence of the Holy Ghost? What did Elder Wirthlin say can hamper the influence of the Holy Ghost in our lives? What have you found that you must do regularly to invite the Spirit? Responses may include such activities as righteous living, scripture study, prayer, following the living prophets, keeping baptismal covenants, charity, and disciplining our thoughts. Invite students to list responses on the board. Encourage them to explain the importance of each suggestion as it is made. Prayer is a means to receive the guidance of the Spirit. If you used the final question of the previous teaching suggestion, you may want to refer students to the list of practices they suggested would invite the Spirit into their lives. What practice did President Faust emphasize in both his third and fourth point? Was prayer on your list of actions that invite the Spirit? Why, or why not? Why is prayer important to one who desires the guidance of the Spirit? Share the following statement from President Ezra Taft Benson regarding the relationship between prayer and the Spirit. Do you let Him know your feelings, your doubts, your insecurities, your joys, your deepest desires—or is prayer merely an habitual expression with the same words and phrases. Do you ponder what you really mean to say? Do you take time to listen to the promptings of the Spirit? Answers to prayer come most often by a still voice and are discerned by our deepest, innermost feelings. Because of its length, it may take the majority of class time. Ask students if they have ever pondered these questions. You may want to divide your class into groups and have each group search for answers to one or more of the questions. Invite the groups to share what they learn with the rest of the class. As you progress through the questions, add them to those already listed on the board. Invite students to ponder how they can invite the Spirit into their lives.

Chapter 6 : Guidance of the Holy Spirit - Marion G. Romney - BYU Speeches

Guidance of the Holy Spirit. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. God The Father will give you another Counselor to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth, He will teach you all things and guide you into all truth.

Yet the Lord has promised that we can turn to Him for help and guidance. The Holy Ghost helps you to choose the right. The Holy Ghost will protect you from evil. He whispers to you in a still, small voice to do right. When you do good, you feel good, and that is the Holy Ghost speaking to you. The Holy Ghost is a wonderful companion. This spiritual guidance is available in all aspects of our lives, including education, employment, and marriage. Principles to Understand The Holy Ghost can bring comfort, peace, and direction to our lives. The guidance of the Holy Ghost is available to all worthy members of the Church. Prayer is a means to receive the guidance of the Spirit. What greater witness can you have than from God? Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: Our young men and women are bombarded with ugly things of the world. Companionship with the Spirit will give them the strength to resist evil and, when necessary, repent and return to the strait and narrow path. None of us are immune from the temptations of the adversary. We all need the fortification available through the Holy Ghost. Mothers and fathers should prayerfully invite the Holy Spirit to dwell in their dedicated homes. Faust, then of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: It can be more mind-expanding and can make us have a better sense of well-being than any chemical or other earthly substance. It will calm nerves; it will breathe peace to our souls. This Comforter can be with us as we seek to improve. It can function as a source of revelation to warn us of impending danger and also help keep us from making mistakes. It can enhance our natural senses so that we can see more clearly, hear more keenly, and remember what we should remember. Faust of the First Presidency: The Holy Ghost bears witness to us of the truth and impresses upon our souls the reality of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, so surely that no earthly power or authority can separate us from that knowledge. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: If you are careful in keeping the commandments, the Holy Ghost will help you learn more about Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. He will enlighten your mind as you ponder and study the scriptures each day. You cannot grow into the [person] you must become unless you first rise above the things of the world that clamor for your attention. Bringing into your body substances forbidden by the Lord in the Word of Wisdom will prevent you from feeling and recognizing the promptings of the Holy Ghost. Take your thoughts to higher levels than the vulgar and immoral. Avoid objectionable television shows and movies, evil Internet sites, and all forms of entertainment that portray or encourage immorality and violence. Shun pornography like a deadly, contagious sin and disease. You cannot afford to become addicted to its bondage and slavery. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: Those answers were most clear when what I wanted was silenced by an overpowering need to know what God wanted. Sometimes we are delayed in receiving revelation, and sometimes we are left to our own judgment and understanding based on study and reason. We cannot force spiritual things. It must be so. We must reach conclusions and make decisions and experience the consequences in order to develop self-reliance and faith. This does not mean our prayers have not been heard. It only means we have prayed about a decision that, for one cause or another, we should make without guidance by revelation. There is not a right and a wrong answer to every question. For many questions, there are only two wrong answers or two right answers. Thus, there are times when we can serve productively in two different fields of labor. Either answer is right. Similarly, the Spirit of the Lord is not likely to give us revelations on matters that are trivial. When someone asked the Prophet Joseph Smith for advice on a particular matter, the Prophet stated: Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: When will God answer our prayers? My prayer is to help you who have similar feelings. It may seem paradoxical, but that is why recognizing answers to prayer can sometimes be very difficult. Some face life with only their own experience and capacity to help them. Others seek, through prayer, divine inspiration to know what to do. When it is required, they qualify for power beyond their own capacity to do it. It is a sacred privilege. It is based on unchanging principles. When we receive help from our Father in Heaven, it is in response to faith, obedience, and the proper use of agency. Some prayers require considerable effort on our

part. True, sometimes impressions come when we have not specifically sought them. They generally concern something we need to know and are not otherwise able to find out. We are given the opportunity to grow, to develop, and to gain spiritual maturity. To do that, we must learn to apply truth. How we face challenges and resolve difficult problems is crucially important to our happiness. Yet what seems most helpful is seeing in my mind a child approaching trustingly a loving, kind, wise, understanding Father, who wants us to succeed. Just talk to your Father. He hears every prayer and answers it in His way. Often He withholds an answer, not for lack of concern, but because He loves us "perfectly. He wants us to apply truths He has given us. For us to grow, we need to trust our ability to make correct decisions. We need to do what we feel is right. In time, He will answer. He will not fail us. There is nothing about us He does not know. He is conscious of our every need and could provide all of the answers. Yet, because His purpose is our eternal happiness, He encourages us to make the correct choices. When communication is strained, how wonderful it is to have a Mediator who works things out when we obey His counsel and repent. Such is our Elder Brother, the Savior. Be careful what you do with an impression from the Lord. Trifle not with these things; do not ask for that which you ought not. Like many of us, Oliver did not recognize the evidence of answers to prayers already given by the Lord. To open his eyes and ours, this revelation was given through Joseph Smith: If it had not been so, thou wouldst not have come to the place where thou art at this time. Why would He do that? He loves us beyond our capacity to understand. He knows what is best for us. He sees the end from the beginning. He wants us to act to gain needed experience. We are expected to assume accountability by acting on a decision that is consistent with His teachings without prior confirmation. We are not to sit passively waiting or to murmur because the Lord has not spoken. We are to act. He will confirm the correctness of our choices His way. That confirmation generally comes through packets of help found along the way. We discover them by being spiritually sensitive. They are like notes from a loving Father as evidence of His approval. If, in trust, we begin something which is not right, He will let us know before we have gone too far. We sense that help by recognizing troubled or uneasy feelings. When the older brethren were asked to go, they murmured and received no help.

Chapter 7 : How To Be Led by the Holy Spirit

"The Guidance of the Spirit," The Gospel and the Productive Life Teacher Manual Religion (), Introduction Because there are many false voices clamoring for our attention, we need to recognize personal revelation from God.

Most Christians believe that God answers prayers, and many believe that the Holy Spirit can guide your life. What is the Orthodox doctrine about the Holy Spirit? Does the Holy Spirit provide personal guidance? How is this guidance provided? Most importantly, how can we be sure of this guidance—how can we tell what is the voice of the Spirit, from our own wishful thinking or pre-conceived thoughts? This is very important to me because I once thought my course of action was guided by the Spirit, and later discovered that it was not. I feel this as a real loss in my life. Answer I will try to provide basic answers, point by point. If you would like me to elaborate further, all you have to do is send another email and I will be happy to do so. We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity, co-eternal and one in essence with the Father and the Son. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides us personally and as a community, the People of God. However, this mystery is imparted within the context of the entire faith community, not apart from it. Hence, while being filled with the Holy Spirit personally, this is done in the midst of the Church—the worshipping and believing community—just as it is impossible to be a Christian apart from the People of God. This is essential, yet it is impossible to acquire the Holy Spirit apart from the Christian community, as some non-Orthodox may teach. The Holy Spirit guides us in various and diverse ways. There are still prophetic voices at work within the Church today, and we can say that in such cases the Holy Spirit continues to make His presence felt through those whom He chooses. Second, we continually call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us in discerning His presence. It is difficult to explain such things in human words, apart from those of Christ, Who says: Here we discover that the Holy Spirit teaches us all things, enlightens us, and commends to our memory the way to salvation revealed by Jesus Christ in discerning the presence and operation of the Holy Spirit, one must not do so apart from that which Christ revealed. Here we may say that discernment involves finding consistency in the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the revelation of Jesus Christ. Here we might make a simple example: Christ teaches us to repent, to shun sin, and to turn to Him and Him alone. This may take time and patience, forcing us—as the Prophet Elijah did—to sit, quietly and patiently, in all stillness, and listen to the voice of the Lord. In discerning the promptings of the Holy Spirit, it is critical to lay aside our own desires, will, and wants, and to listen to what the Lord tells us. On Holy Saturday, as we anticipate the revelation of eternal life through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we sing precisely this reality: What I write is in no way intended to be an exhaustive treatment of the questions you pose but, rather, a springboard or starting point for further reflection, study, prayer, and contemplation.

Chapter 8 : What Does the Bible Say About Guidance?

The Spirit does "not speak from himself;" this is not his office. The truth is embodied in revelation, in the Law, the Gospel, especially in the Lord Jesus, who is "the Truth." If men turn away from the revelation and look to the Spirit alone for illumination, they will mistake their own tastes and prejudices for the truth of God.

At least sometimes we do! The Holy Spirit supports us in the sermon preparation and delivery process. A sermon involves various decisions, beginning with what to preach on, when to preach it, and ultimately, how to preach it. How we want him to guide us! Somewhere along the way, you got disconnected from the guidance of the Spirit. The point here is not ill preparation, but rather that power comes from God and not us. Spirit-guided preaching depends on one thing: Faith in preaching is the confidence that God is there, working with us in the sermon process. At times, we can behave as deists, handling sterile theological concepts with a virtual disregard for the presence of God. Or we can live and prepare and deliver our sermons by faith, sensitively following God in our preaching. God, the Holy Spirit, guides us to the passages we preach, he opens our eyes to understand the meaning of his living Word, he shows us how he wants to apply it to our own lives and to the lives of our hearers. He even assists us in the discovery and selection of illustrations through which he desires to communicate his Word. From beginning to end, we have the ongoing opportunity and compelling assignment to preach by faith, to include God in the process. For power is not rooted in the best of illustrations, nor in our intellect, nor in our skillful delivery, nor even in our command of a passage. All of these things are good, but insufficient for a truly powerful sermon. God, how shall I communicate this? How must this be applied? God, show me a clear illustration. Jesus is the ultimate preacher. We can do nothing, at least nothing that counts, on our own. Sure, we can preach from the flesh, without satisfaction and without power. We must preach out of a connectedness to God. But experience bears out that even in the best of illustrations, the power comes from God and is tapped through faith as we include and obey God in our preaching. And when we do, we and our hearers experience his transforming power. Again, Jesus was emphatic about trusting God in his preaching. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him. The words I have spoken to you they are Spirit and they are life. God grant that we connect by faith with him in the preaching process. He himself is our trainer and can show us how to do this. Originally published on SermonCentral.

Chapter 9 : The Guidance of the Spirit

The guidance of the Holy Ghost is available to all worthy members of the Church. Prayer is a means to receive the guidance of the Spirit. Supporting Scriptures and Statements.

Tell me what I ought to do and command me to do it. I promise to submit to everything that you ask of me and to accept all that you allow to happen to me. Just show me what is your will. Grant that the same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of Your grace and love. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light, and listen to Your voice and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Oh God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, Grant, that by the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. And in our souls take up Thy rest; Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid, To fill the hearts which Thou hast made. To Thee we cry, O highest gift of God most high! O font of life! O fire of love! And sweet anointing from above. Who dost the tongue with power endow. Kindle our senses from above, And make our hearts overflow with love; With patience firm and virtue high The weakness of our flesh supply. Far from us drive the foe we dread, And grant us Thy true peace instead; So shall we not, with Thee for guide, Turn from the path of life aside. Spreading the Word of God Lord, you have enriched me with the strength of your word. You have opened my mind and heart to see the wonders you have created. You have blessed me with the gift of communication to share your divine message. Holy Spirit, help me to understand the power of these gifts, and teach me to use them wisely. Bless all who use their talents to communicate the Gospel.