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THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES BELIEVERS

How do you know what God wants you to do? In what you believe, in how you live? How do you know you DO what God wants? What if you're wrong? Before His ascension, the disciples of Jesus would simply have asked Him. And this points to the great reason He gives the Holy Spirit to every believer.

In John 16:13 Jesus says, "*When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak. He will glorify Me.*" In all He does, the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus - but particularly in exposing the truth and enabling your obedience. Let's consider three key points about the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your daily life.

1- The Holy Spirit ILLUMINATES the Bible so you comprehend Truth. The floodlight ministry of the Holy Spirit not only glorifies Christ, it also lights up God's truth as written in the Bible. 1 Corinthians 2:12 tells believers, "*We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God*" - because they are spiritually discerned.

The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible in real human history, TO others and FOR you. 1 Corinthians 10:11 says, "*these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction.*" He is the divine author who communicates eternal truth, writing what is true for all peoples in all places in all times.

The Bible is the primary way God speaks truth to His people. But you are constantly bombarded with lies from the world, the flesh, and the devil. The fallen nature of humanity distorts truth. Satan twists God's Word. How do you know what you're hearing and thinking is what God wants?

2- The Holy Spirit MEASURES everything against the standard of God's Word. 1 John 4:1 says, "*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*" The only reliable way is to take whatever seeks to influence you and compare it to God's written Word. How does what people do and say compare to the truth of the Bible? That's God's yardstick, lit up by the Holy Spirit. He glorifies Christ and declares God's truth.

The Spirit of God never tells you to do or believe anything that is contrary to the clear testimony of what He has already written in the Bible. That's God's revealed will. He will never lead you to sin, no matter how you want to rationalize your behavior. He will not lead you to worship idols, to blaspheme God's name, to break the Sabbath, to dishonor parents, or to murder, including abortion and euthanasia.

The Holy Spirit will never lead you to commit adultery or indulge in pornography or any form of immorality. He will not lead you to steal, to bear false witness, or to covet. This includes iPad or Amazon or internet addiction - the list goes on. When you say "*God arranged this and that in my life*" it had better be in line with God's Word or it wasn't the Holy Spirit who did it. God is not mocked. You can't blame God when you rationalize your sinful behavior. No "*new truth*" can in any way overshadow God's already written truth.

And the Holy Spirit will never guide you to anything that goes against the character of God, in whose image Christians are being re-created as new creations in Christ, empowered by the Spirit of truth. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says God provides the way of escape from every temptation. Just as verse 11 says, that's the Word of God's truth, written down. And it's the Holy Spirit who lights your way to obedience.

3- The Holy Spirit EMPOWERS God's truth to transform your life. The Bible is the Spirit's book, which transforms your thinking and your living. Truth changes your beliefs, which change your behavior. "*The Spirit of God works the Word of God so the people of God become like the Son of God*" is an operative principle of the Christian life. It's the how and why of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to believers.

As light overcomes darkness, so the Holy Spirit indwells believers, guiding you into God's truth through His written Word. As you engage the Bible, He guides you to understand and obey it. You put it into action in your life, by His power, as the Holy Spirit transforms your heart and mind and will.

ASK yourself: how does what I believe, how I live and what I do - how does this truly glorify Christ? Only as you engage God's Word through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, will God declare and guide you into His truth. Then you can live it out by His power, to the everlasting glory of the Lord Jesus Christ!