

*The Holy Spirit*  
**The Christian's Guide**

Lesson #9 for May 27, 2006

Scriptures: Luke 2:25-30; John 14:26; John 15:26; 16:12-14; Romans 8:4; 1 Corinthians 12:10.

1. How do you know that the Holy Spirit is guiding you? What methods does the Holy Spirit use in our day to guide us? Are they tangible? When you have a very important life-changing decision to make wouldn't you like to hear a voice from God to guide you?
2. How does God guide us? Through Providence, through nature, somehow? Through impressions? David, and others, and Jesus seemed to have moment-by-moment, hour-by-hour guidance from God. What about us?
3. Do we get only principles to go by? What is the role of the kingly power of reason? If you ask God for guidance and then you use your best judgment, is that really different than what everybody in the world does?
4. If you are doing your best to study and pray and to stay close to God would it be correct to say that making your very best learned decision is the same as doing God's will? What role does God play in big decisions like choosing the President of the United States? Does God have anything to do with decisions about going to war?
5. If we have developed a close working relationship with the Holy Spirit by reading, praying, and Bible study will He guide us through the proper impression?
6. What are the chances of getting impressions from the wrong source? Could you get an impression that was the result of indigestion?
7. Does God leave some decisions for us to make on our own and hope that for other more important decisions we will ask for guidance? Could we be sure that God was guiding us?
8. Does God ever guide us to make a mistake? God apparently did not reveal to the people in Old Testament times that there was going to be more than one coming of the Messiah. In New Testament times no one until the end of the book of Revelation knew about a third coming. What about 1844 or Loma Linda deciding to move to the LA campus! Why didn't William Miller accept the Sabbath?
9. Does God ever intentionally "mislead" his children? Outside of the garden tomb were Mary's eyes blinded until Jesus chose to reveal Himself to her? Did God prevent the two men on the road to Emmaus from "seeing" and identifying Jesus until they had learned the necessary lessons?
10. Does God do things like this when He has a very specific reason? Does God want all the saints to belong to one church? Is God hoping that Billy Graham will become a Seventh-day Adventist? Would God be happy if Congress and the entire US government became Seventh-day Adventists?
11. Does God perhaps leave us to our own devices and then help us to pick up the pieces when we make mistakes? Does God have one standard way of communicating with all human beings?
12. Does God guide only through circumstances? Have you ever observed a case where a mistake turned out to be the biggest blessing of all? Did it perhaps lead us to change directions in our life? Does God ever take responsibility for flunking someone out of a university course because he wants them to do something different?
13. **To what extent does our free will limit God?**
14. What would we do with a Urim and Thummim (the words mean "lights" and "perfections") if we had them available today? (Exodus 28:30; Lev. 8:8; Num. 27:21; Deut. 33:8; 1 Samuel 14:3-37; 30:7,8) Why isn't there more talk of the use of the Urim and Thummim in the Old Testament? Why hasn't God given us one today? [Joseph Smith claimed that he used the Urim and Thummim to help him translate the "golden plates" into the book of Mormon] What would happen if the General Conference had a working Urim and Thummim at the General conference offices? What would happen if we knew the we could go there and get a guaranteed answer from God? Does God ever get involved in our day-by-day decisions such as whether to buy a house or car etc.?
15. "At the right and left of the breastplate [worn by the High Priest] were two large stones of great

brilliance. These were known as the Urim and Thummim. By them the will of God was made known through the high priest. When questions were brought for decision before the Lord, a halo of light encircling the precious stone at the right was a token of the divine consent or approval, while a cloud shadowing the stone at the left was an evidence of denial or disapprobation." {PP 351.2}

16. What about a Ouija board? Do we need to learn how to "cast lots" in the proper way so God will guide us?
17. How does God guide all the committees in the Seventh-day Adventist Church? If a committee forms and takes a vote is that the voice of God? If you have a call from a committee is that suggesting that since there are more people involved and therefore more channels for God to work through they are more likely to get it right?
18. If every action taken by every committee in the Seventh-day Adventist Church was directly and fully guided by the Holy Spirit would it take us straight into the kingdom of God?
19. If church committees are God's chosen method of communicating His will to his people here on earth does that mean that Loma Linda University was established by mistake? (John Burden put a down payment on the property following the advice of Ellen White, but against the advice of the General Conference!)
20. Why all the talk about delay after 1844? And what happened in 1888? Was God's guidance active there? Was the delay following 1844 intended by God to make us look bad?
21. **To what extent do we tend to see things as we are instead of as they are really or perhaps even as we would like them to be? Do we create the world after our own image?** Animals don't have a way of thinking about the future. They react to whatever physical or emotional stimuli are most pressing right now. Do we sometimes act in this way?
22. **Would it be fair to say that we can't even make good free moral decisions unless we are born again?** What is implied by the scriptures that say our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked who can know it? Would you dare to tell a nonreligious person how you feel about this issue?
23. If we choose a specific sign that we want God to use are we putting God in a box? Does God allow himself to be forced by us to give guidance? What about Eli's sons? Some have tried to get guidance by opening their Bibles and putting a finger down on the text without looking and expecting God to give them the right answer through that text. One man tried the Bible trick to solve his financial problems and his finger landed on the words "Chapter 11"! (Chapter 11 is the name for one of the bankruptcy codes in the U.S.!)
24. "It was not until after Christ's ascension to His Father, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the believers, that the disciples fully appreciated the Saviour's character and mission. After they had received the baptism of the Spirit, they began to realize that they had been in the very presence of the Lord of glory. As the sayings of Christ were brought to their remembrance, their minds were opened to comprehend the prophecies, and to understand the miracles which He had wrought. The wonders of His life passed before them, and they were as men awakened from a dream. They realized that "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14. Christ had actually come from God to a sinful world to save the fallen sons and daughters of Adam. The disciples now seemed, to themselves, of much less importance than before they realized this. They never wearied of rehearsing His words and works. His lessons, which they had but dimly understood, now came to them as a fresh revelation. The Scriptures became to them a new book." {DA 506.4}
25. Jesus made it very clear in his last evening with his disciples that one of his primary purposes was to teach us about the Father. Why do you think it was necessary for Jesus to say there is much more I would like to tell you? (John 16:12) What was that much more?
26. How is it possible that God Himself wasn't able to teach them what they needed to know? What could the Spirit do that Jesus didn't do for His disciples who were right there? What kept Jesus from telling these most important truths to his disciples?
27. How do we go about testing everything by the Scriptures? Who gave us the Scriptures?
28. Some Christian groups claim the power within their church organization to proclaim new truths that

overrule past truths. Is this consistent with your understanding of the use of Scriptures? Will the Holy Spirit ever speak a new truth that is inconsistent, when properly understood, with old truth?

29. The Holy Spirit wishes to speak to us constantly through God's Word. He was the one who inspired that word. But he never uses force. Force is an instrument of the devil.
30. True Christians recognize the truth as truth. They realize that living believing and practicing the truth leads to the greatest good and the highest happiness.
31. Why isn't the Spirit given to everyone who asks for it? What hindrances are still in the way of many?
32. "It is the Spirit's power that we need. This can do more for us in one minute than we can ever accomplish by talking. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. **The power of God awaits their demand and reception.** This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. {*My Life Today* 47.6}
33. **If you're not sure if the General conference is making good decisions, should you leave the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Do I know for sure that I am completely cooperating with God's Spirit? How does God judge us in such matters? Is there some way of knowing for sure what God's ultimate goal is for our lives?**
34. **If God knows that He can lead certain groups of people to make better moral choices and it will result in a better world for us here will He automatically do that? If we allow Him? Is it nice to know that God is ultimately in charge of things here on planet Earth? Will God always take full charge of everything here on planet earth right up to the end of this world's history?**
35. Don't we know exactly what God's ultimate goal is for us? Doesn't He want us to become more and more like Him? Would it be safe then to say that anything that diverts us from this goal would be contrary to God's will? How should we then go about deciding what God's will is?
36. **There are two major problems with asking for a tangible sign from God. It could remove some of our freedom. And Satan will definitely demand equal time!**
37. God has given you free choice and he will instruct and teach you through the use of that free choice if you seek his guidance.
38. God has used fleeces and other physical signs to guide people who were in certain difficult situations when that was the best they could deal with at the time. It is not God's plan to give us a weekly appointment with an angel to tell us every step to make!
39. The Scriptures speak frequently about the warfare between flesh and spirit. How would you define flesh as used in such passages in your own words? How would you define spirit? (See Romans 8:4; Romans 13:14; Galatians 5:22-24.).
40. How does a sinful human being stop living according to the flesh and start living according to the spirit? How would you define the passions and desires of human nature?
41. Our Bible Study Guide suggests that the battle against human inclination and sin will require real suffering on our part. What is this suffering? Why does the struggle against sin cause suffering? Can thinking a certain thought cause suffering? How does that work?
42. How would you define the victory that can be gained? How can we arm ourselves by thinking like Jesus?
43. While some pagan groups in the past have suggested that everything material is inherently evil including human bodies, Christians do not accept this philosophy. God says that our bodies are to become the temples of the Holy Spirit. (See 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; 2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1).
44. The Holy Spirit by providing us scripture has given us the most effective weapon against falsehood and evil. How can we use this weapon to test the spirits?
45. Considering the fact that we all have more or less the same Bible why are there so many Christian denominations? Is the teaching of the Holy Spirit really that difficult to follow? If some Christian groups and other religious groups are led by falsehood and deceit how can we best test so that we are not among them?

46. The name of the Bereans has had a noble place in Christian history. They went home every evening after hearing the message and carefully studied scripture to see if what they heard was consistent with what they were reading. Is this a safe and worthwhile technique in our day?
47. What other spirits are out there trying to guide us? Is it easy to distinguish between good spiritual guidance and evil spiritual guidance?
48. What kind of help is available to guide us in distinguishing good from evil and in carrying out God's plan? "Heavenly intelligences are waiting to co-operate with human instrumentalities, that they may reveal to the world what human beings may become, and what, through union with the Divine, may be accomplished for the saving of souls that are ready to perish. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to His service will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in mind and heart. Through the grace given us we may achieve victories that because of our own erroneous and preconceived opinions, our defects of character, our smallness of faith, have seemed impossible." *The Ministry of Healing* p. 159
49. The Adult Teacher's Bible study guide suggests that faith is experiential and belief is intellectual. Would you agree with this distinction?
50. Are we living the Christian life being guided by the Holy Spirit and bearing fruit? How could we tell if someone else is doing this or even if we ourselves are?
51. Prayer is the breath of the soul but communion with God takes place through Bible study as well as prayer. Is your spiritual life choking? Is it gasping for breath?
52. If God wins the great controversy by using some apparently unfair methods Satan will immediately cry foul! God chooses to win the great controversy simply by working with people who are attracted by His character, His government and His law. He cannot use forceful means To overwhelm them!
53. A miracle is nothing more than an action by God that we don't yet understand.
54. Was the Holy Spirit guiding Rahab? (Joshua 2) Did he help Rahab to lie well? (Joshua 2:4-6) Think of the woman who believed superstitiously that just touching Jesus' garment would heal her. (Mark 5:25-34)
55. Can we give some practical examples of real people who were guided by the Holy Spirit? (See 2 Samuel 2; Luke 2:25-30; 1 Kings 19). Did each of these individuals hear actual voices? Is that the Holy Spirit's preferred way of communicating with human beings?
56. "Even the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart is to be tested by the Word of God. The Spirit which inspired the Scriptures, always leads to the Scriptures." *GC Daily Bulletin*, Apr. 13, 1891 (1SM 43); *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, p. 901
57. **Learning to do things in a loving way allows you to see perspectives beyond your selfishness and makes it possible for you to make much wiser decisions than others. The Holy Spirit would like to put us in touch with all of the correct information so we can make very intelligent decisions. Ultimately this would lead us to have the mind of Jesus at this mind be in you. (Philippians 2:5). Each person then would be able to make intelligent moral decisions based on their own individuality and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that might be different than the decisions made by others but would be the right decisions for them.**  
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