



The Divine Teacher

By MARK A. FINLEY

Have you ever been perplexed about some decision and wished you could talk directly to Jesus? Have you ever longed for personal guidance in some area of your life? Have you ever desired someone to provide counsel or instruction to guide you in the right direction?

Here's some incredibly good news: When Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised to send His Holy Spirit to His followers. One of the functions of the Holy Spirit is to serve as a teacher and guide. The Holy Spirit reveals truth to those whose minds are open.

This lesson will focus on Christ's promise to His church, and how we can receive the guidance the Holy Spirit provides.

1. What is another name for the Holy Spirit? What is one of the most important functions of the Holy Spirit?

"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).

The Holy Spirit is known as the _____ of _____ ;
to _____ us into all _____ .

2. How does the Holy Spirit influence the decisions we make?

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14:26).

The Holy Spirit will _____ you all things, and bring to
your _____ all things, Jesus said.

3. What primary way does the Holy Spirit guide us?

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

The Holy Spirit guides us through _____ .

God guides us through His Word. The Spirit of God never leads us contrary to the Word of God. The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Bible in the first place, leads us back to the teachings of the Bible. The Bible provides the very principles for the best possible decisions in our lives.



4. In addition to through His Word, how else does the Holy Spirit guide us?

“The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17).

“And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth” (1 John 5:6).

The Holy Spirit _____ in each believer, and _____ to the truth.

When Jesus ascended to heaven, He sent His gift of the Holy Spirit to His people to reveal truth. The Holy Spirit dwells in each committed Christian to guide us and illuminate our minds in the decision-making process. The Holy Spirit is our divine Teacher.

5. How can we keep from confusing our own thoughts, ideas, and desires with the convictions God’s Spirit brings to our minds?

“If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority” (John 7:17).

The central issue in receiving guidance from the Holy Spirit is doing _____ will.

The key to not confusing our own desires with the Holy Spirit’s guidance is a mind informed by the Word of God and a heart filled with a sincere desire to do God’s will.

6. What difficult decision did Jesus face at the end of His life? How did He solve the conflict between what He naturally wanted and the right thing to do?

“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will’” (Matt. 26:39).

Jesus prayed: “Not as _____, but as _____.”

7. Where does the Holy Spirit originate? About whom does He testify?

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me” (John 15:26).

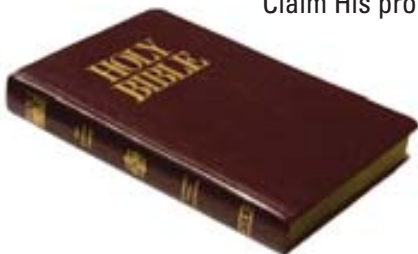
The Holy Spirit originates (proceeds) from the _____.

The Holy Spirit testifies of _____.

The Holy Spirit always leads us to glorify Jesus in each decision. The Spirit proceeding from the Father leads us back to the Father through Jesus Christ. Any so-called Holy Spirit that leads us to focus on ourselves, our gifts, our abilities, or our own experience is an unholy, counterfeit manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

When we kneel before God’s throne, looking to the principles of His Word, claiming Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit, desiring to glorify Him and do His will, we can have absolute assurance of His guidance. He will fulfill His Word and “guide us into all truth.” He will “teach” us in the critical decisions of our lives. He will “instruct” us in the way to go.

Why not open your heart to this divine teacher? Are you facing some critical decision? Claim His promises, meet their conditions, and you will receive divine guidance.



Our next study about the Holy Spirit will focus on **“Receiving the Promised Gift.”**