



DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Couch – Part 2
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Main Idea – Among the many things the Holy Spirit is to you, He is available to you as a counselor. Miraculous things are available to you if you allow Him to teach you. Practice the qualities of a good student: listen closely, pay attention to what is happening around you, and study.

The power of proximity

- The different types of mass media are nice (books, TV, Internet, etc.) but none of them are as good at communicating and receiving a message in person, face-to-face.
- There is power in proximity.
- Get as close as you can to the Holy Spirit in order to experience all He has to offer you.

The Holy Spirit is your counselor

- **John 15:26 – But I will send you the Counselor the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will tell you all about me. (NLT)**
- In the New Testament, the Greek word for counselor is “parakletos”. Parakletos means “one who pleads another’s cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate. In the widest sense, a helper, succourer, aider, assistant.”
- **Isaiah 9:6 – For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for counselor is ya-ats. Ya ats means “to advise, consult, give counsel, counsel, purpose, devise, plan, to deliberate or resolve”

The Holy Spirit will counsel you on a plan for your purpose

- You have to have a plan at each stage, and for each place you are at, in life.
- **Proverbs 24:6 – Strategic planning is the key to warfare; to win, you need a lot of good counsel. (Message)**
- In order to build a plan for your life right now, you need good advice.
- **Proverbs 15:22 – Refuse good advice and watch your plans fail; take good counsel and watch them succeed. (Message)**
- A psychiatrist’s couch can be conducive to calmly thinking about things and

expressing thoughts.

- In the same way, engaging the Holy Spirit – putting yourself in close proximity to Him – will enable you to make sense of things in your life.

The Holy Spirit counsels by teaching

- **John 14:26 – 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. (NKJV)**
- The Holy Spirit is the teacher. You are the student.
- Good students listen closely to the teacher.
- The Holy Spirit is perfect. However, He often uses imperfect humans through which to teach. Even if a human messenger is imperfect, listen closely to what God is teaching you through that person.
- Get to know the Bible. It is the book through which you can take an “open book test.” It has all the answers to life’s questions.
- But, in order to use a Bible, you need to know where the different information is located. It will take time to learn that, but begin now. Start somewhere, and keep learning more about the Bible.
- God teaches through repetition and the recognition of patterns. The longer you study the Bible, the more you will recognize the important ideas it repeats and patterns in the way things happen in life.
- God will teach you through the patterns of your own life. Pay attention to what is happening around you. The Holy Spirit will show you patterns of things you would not have otherwise noticed.

The Holy Spirit counsels by reminding

- As you learn from the Holy Spirit, He will remind you that you are already victorious. You have already overcome anything life may have tried to throw at you.
- The Holy Spirit will remind you that He has planned out an eternity for you, beginning right now.
- As you learn from the Holy Spirit, focus on learning the details in His Word. The bigger picture (your salvation) is already taken care of.
- Anything Satan might attempt to bring back to your memory is inconsequential. It means nothing. God covered it.

Receive counsel for a purpose

- The Holy Spirit is teaching you things because He is building you up for the good purpose and plan He has for you.
- Regardless of your stage in life, or things that have happened to you, your life has a purpose.

- **Romans 8:38-39 – For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)**
- The Holy Spirit will guide, counsel, and teach you if you are diligent to learn as a good student.
- Listen and learn from the Holy Spirit. Study the Bible. Remain confident you are victorious. God has the big things covered. Enjoy the details of learning more about Him, and helping others, as you realize your purpose for this portion of your life.

Reflective Questions for The Couch – Part 2

1. Think about a time when you received good advice from someone. What was that advice, and why do you feel it was good?
2. The Holy Spirit gives advice to those who ask and know how to listen for His response. What are some different ways the Holy Spirit has guided you in life?
3. Why, do you suppose, the Holy Spirit often uses other people and life's events to teach?
4. Why is reading the Bible important for being a good student of the Holy Spirit? Or, to put it another way, why is *not* reading the Bible the choice of a "bad student"?