

Jason Smith

“Led Into Truth: Listening to the Voice of the Holy Spirit”

The Gospel of John

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth... He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:12–14)

The Holy Spirit guides believers into the truth.

Ask the Holy Spirit daily to reveal God’s truth to you.

Introduction: The Problem of Direction

Imagine being blindfolded while trying to walk through an obstacle course. Voices surround you:

“Go left!”

“No, right!”

“Stop!”

“Move!”

Confusion rises. Fear appears. Every step becomes uncertain.

Life often feels exactly like that.

Culture speaks.

Social media speaks.

Fear speaks.

Past wounds speak.

Our emotions speak.

But Jesus promises something extraordinary:

You do not have to navigate life blindfolded.

The Holy Spirit comes as a trustworthy Guide.

Invite a volunteer, blindfold them, and have two people give conflicting instructions while another gives clear directions. Explain:

Wrong voices create confusion.

The Spirit gives clarity.

Context of John 16

Jesus is in the Upper Room before His crucifixion.

His disciples are troubled:

- Jesus is leaving.
- Their world is changing.
- Fear is growing.

Yet Jesus comforts them:

“You are not being abandoned. Someone is coming.”

The Advocate.

The Helper.

The Comforter.

The Holy Spirit.

Greek word:

Paraklētos (παράκλητος)

Meaning:

- One called alongside
- Counselor
- Helper
- Advocate
- Comforter

The Holy Spirit does not merely visit believers occasionally; He comes alongside them.

1: **The Holy Spirit Guides Us Because We Cannot Carry All Truth at Once**

(John 16:12)

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”

Notice Jesus’ compassion.

He knows their capacity.

God often reveals truth progressively.

Example:

Children do not learn advanced mathematics before learning numbers.

Likewise, spiritual maturity unfolds.

Illustration:

A seed cannot become an oak tree overnight.

Growth requires time.

Application:

Some believers become frustrated:

“Why doesn’t God show me everything?”

Because guidance is often **progressive, not instantaneous.**

The Spirit teaches in seasons.

2: **The Holy Spirit Leads Believers Into Truth**

(John 16:13)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...”

The phrase **“guide”** carries the idea of leading someone along a path.

This echoes the Psalms:

- Psalm 25:5:

“Lead me in your truth and teach me...”

- Psalm 43:3:

“Send out your light and your truth...”

Craig Keener notes that John expands this idea into fuller revelation through Jesus. The Spirit deepens believers’ understanding of Christ so intimacy after the cross becomes no less real than before it.

The Spirit does not merely provide information.

He reveals Christ.

Because truth in John is not primarily a concept—

Truth is a Person.

Jesus said:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6)

Therefore:

To be guided into truth is to be guided deeper into Jesus.

Illustration: The Compass

A compass seems simple.

Yet it works because it responds to Earth’s magnetic field.

Without orientation, travelers become lost.

The Holy Spirit functions spiritually like a compass:

Not creating truth—

Pointing toward truth.

And truth has a name:

Jesus Christ.

What voice has been directing your decisions lately? Fear? Culture? Bitterness? Or the Holy Spirit?

3: The Holy Spirit Never Contradicts God

(John 16:13)

“...For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears...”

Leon Morris explains:

The Spirit does not originate something independent of the Father and Son. He acts in perfect harmony with them.

Important truth:

The Spirit never guides contrary to Scripture.

If guidance opposes God’s Word—

It is not the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit:

✓ Convicts

✓ Illuminates

✓ Reminds

✓ Leads

But He always agrees with God’s revealed truth.

Application:

Many ask:

“How do I know whether it is God speaking?”

Ask:

Does it align with Scripture?

Does it glorify Christ?

Does it produce holiness?

4: The Spirit’s Main Mission Is To Glorify Jesus

(John 16:14)

“He will glorify me...”

The Holy Spirit does not seek attention for Himself.

He magnifies Christ.

Edward Klink writes that the Spirit embodies divine reality and reveals what is true about God through Christ.

Therefore:

A Spirit-filled life becomes increasingly Christ-centered.

Signs of spiritual maturity are not merely emotional experiences.

They include:

- Growing obedience
- Growing holiness
- Growing love
- Growing resemblance to Jesus

The Spirit’s work is transformation.

Story Illustration

Imagine walking through dense woods at night with only a flashlight.

The flashlight does not become the destination.

It reveals the path.

The Holy Spirit shines light not so we admire the light—

But so we arrive at Christ.

Practical Applications

How do believers listen to the Holy Spirit?

1. Spend time in Scripture

The Spirit inspired the Word.

He often guides through what He already wrote.

2. Pray specifically

Instead of:

“Lord bless me.”

Pray:

“Holy Spirit, reveal truth I need today.”

3. Obey promptly

Guidance becomes clearer through obedience.

4. Remove competing voices

Constant noise makes hearing difficult.

Silence often becomes sacred space.

Closing Challenge

Some people live like travelers without a compass—

Reacting,
Guessing,
Drifting.

But Jesus promised:

You do not have to wander.

The Spirit of Truth has come.

He guides.

He teaches.

He reveals Christ.

He leads believers into truth.

Ask the congregation:

What truth has God been trying to show you that you have ignored?

Where do you need guidance?

What voice has shaped your decisions?

Then invite prayer:

“Holy Spirit, open my eyes.

Reveal God’s truth.

Expose deception.

Lead me deeper into Jesus.

Teach me to hear and obey Your voice.”

Memorable Conclusion

The Holy Spirit is not merely a companion for difficult moments—He is God’s faithful Guide for every step of life, always leading believers toward the truth found in Christ.