



FIRST BAPTIST
— CHURCH —
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 31: You Guide Me with Your Counsel

Psalm 73:23–26 *I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

Asaph, the psalmist, wrote this after a season of difficulty that challenged his faith. Earlier in Psalm 73 he confessed that he almost stumbled; he looked at the prosperity of the wicked, felt the unfairness of it all, and grew bitter and envious. But then he “went into the sanctuary of God” (verse 17), and everything changed. From that place of renewed worship comes this honest confession of the abiding life and it centers on one of the great gifts of God’s presence: His counsel.

“You guide me with your counsel.” The Hebrew word for “counsel” is *etsah* meaning advice, wisdom, or purposeful direction. This is a promise every *abiding* believer can claim; the God we dwell with does not leave us to navigate life by guesswork. He guides, counsels and directs our steps through His Word and His Spirit. Warren Wiersbe reminds believers that God’s guidance is not a mystical voice in the air but a whisper that comes through a heart saturated in Scripture. The Lord directs those who are living close to Him and yielded to His Word. The one who abides is the one who is guided.

Notice the reason for Asaph’s confidence as it stretches from now all the way to eternal life. “I am continually with you... you hold my right hand... you guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.” Here is the full picture of the abiding life: God holds us now, guides us through daily living, and will one day receive us to our forever home. The presence we enjoy today is the beginning of a nearness that death itself cannot break. That is why the passage can say, “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Catch how abiding purifies our desires: “There is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.” When God becomes your portion, your appetite for lesser things quietly reorders itself. Asaph, a few verses earlier, was consumed with envy over others success and ease of circumstance, now discovers that nothing on earth can compare with God Himself. That is what the abiding presence does to a heart — it doesn’t just restrain wrong desires; it replaces them. The soul that has God for its portion has stopped envying the world’s counterfeit treasures, because it holds the real thing.

TAKE AWAY

The God you abide with doesn’t leave you to guess your way through life. He guides with His counsel and as He becomes your portion, the world’s counterfeits lose their pull.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to guide you today by His counsel through His Word, and to become so fully your portion that lesser desires fade.