



The American Anglican Council's "Anglican Traditions" videos are free for anyone to use. These facilitator notes are meant to act as an aid to getting the most out of the "Fire in the Fireplace" videos and are designed for small group use. The series is divided in to a prologue and 17 lessons with each having its own study guide and facilitator notes. Many thanks to Dolly McLemore of Christ Church Montgomery, AL, whose work forms the basis for these study guides. Find other videos at www.AnglicanTraditions.com.

These facilitator notes are for Lesson 17: How Does the Holy Spirit Guide Believers?

Reference: David Watson's *One in the Holy Spirit*.

How does the Holy Spirit help and guide us as believers? Sanctified common sense? Supernatural visitations?

A. Circumstance

Acts 6:6-10 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA) "The beginning of western civilization."

⁶They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; ⁸so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

B. The voices of other people

Acts 13:2 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA) A prophetic word? An interpreted tongue?

²While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'

Acts 15:28 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA) Deliberation of councils?

²⁸For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials:

C. The Word of God Takes the word of God and brings it our remembrance.

Colossians 3:16 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

D. Prayer – A loud thought

Colossians 3:15 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA) Not just my sanctified common sense. Brings us to a place of conviction and joyful assurance.

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Canon Ashey says the one test is to come to “a place of conviction and joyful assurance.”

1. How has the Holy Spirit guided you?
2. On what do you base your decisions?
3. How do you know what is God’s will for you in any given circumstance?
4. What have you learned throughout the study of *Fire in the Fireplace* about the Holy Spirit?
5. What have you heard the Holy Spirit speak to you personally?
6. What will you do differently in your journey with the Lord Jesus Christ?

Optional: *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*, Michael Green

Chapter 6 – The Spirit in the Individual

The Spirit in the Life of the Believer – The Spirit guides believers – Two common mistakes (Page 118) “The problem of how the Spirit of God guides us is one which confronts every humble Christian. There is no easy answer for the Spirit blows where he wills, and man can neither prescribe to him nor control him. In practice, two tendencies are discernible in the Church. The first is to suppose that God always guides by the majority vote, by the reasonable thing, by sanctified common sense. This can easily deteriorate into prudential judgment, worldly planning and manipulation of voting procedures. The second is to suppose the guidance of God is always extraordinary, individualistic and sudden.”

Four Strands in Guidance (Pages 118-119)

- A. **“God guides through circumstances** (Acts 16:10).” “God closes some doors and opens others; our responsibility is to be sensitive to his leading, and to follow through the doors when they open.”
- B. **“God guides through other Christians**, as he did in Acts 6, when the whole multitude chose the Seven, or in Acts 13 when the Spirit spoke to the Church at Antioch about the need for Paul and Barnabus to go abroad.” “But at least we must be willing in principle to receive guidance through other members of the Body of Christ.”
- C. **“God guides through the scriptures.”** “An increasingly broad appreciation of the Scriptures will give us a developing ability to scent the will of God in any given situation.”
- D. **“God guides us in prayer.”** There is such a thing as praying a situation through until one is virtually sure of the will of God on the matter. One has a deep inner peace about it; not absolute intellectual certainty, but practical confidence, which allows one to proceed to action with joyful assurance.”

58. For Guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light *riseth* up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what *thou wouldst* have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in *thy* light we may see light, and in *thy* straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Guidance

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.