



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 into 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 4: The Mind of the Holy Spirit
(focus on Jesus; opens the Bible)**

Canon Phil Ashe

John 15:26-27 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

²⁶ 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.'

Canon Ashe's statements

- "The Holy Spirit is always about illuminating Jesus, turning the light upon Him."

Philippians 2:5-6 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

⁵ 'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,'

- J. I. Packer: "He (the Holy Spirit) is the shy sovereign." "He's the one who takes the attention off of himself and always focuses on Jesus." **NOTES: J. I. Packer (DPhil, Oxford University) serves as the Board of Governors' Professor of Theology at Regent College. He is the author of numerous books, including the classic best-seller [Knowing God](#). Packer served as general editor for the English Standard Version Bible and as theological editor for the ESV Study Bible.**
<https://corechristianity.com/resource-library/articles/j-i-packer-who-is-the-holy-spirit>
- Handley Moule: "Authentic Christianity – power of God that is the Holy Spirit communicating the message of the Son to the glory of God to save the whole world." **NOTES: He served as the Bishop of Durham from 1901-1920. He was an acute scholar and a powerful communicator. He wrote great Bible commentaries, an outline of Christian doctrine, and many sermons and poems.**
- "The criteria of measuring the experience of the Holy Spirit, for it to be valid, it most always be pointing to Jesus."

John 16:13-15 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

Fire in the Fireplace Facilitator Notes

¹³ 'When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

- "The Holy Spirit is always about opening up the Bible and reminding us about the truth of God. Sign of the Spirit's presence in a church: people opening their Bible, light bulbs of understanding and inspiration coming to understand the scriptures in a new way."
 - (Jesus says) "I have given you the Holy Spirit to actually open these scriptures so that you understand them and apply them in a way that is significant and relevant to your situation."
 - "What is the mind of the Holy Spirit? It is to focus on Jesus and to open the Bible."
1. "What does the Holy Spirit think about?"
 2. Canon Ashey stated he was able to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in a church by what actions of the church?
 3. How has the Holy Spirit guided you to scripture that was 'significant and relevant to your situation?'
 4. Why does Canon Ashey describe the Holy Spirit as the 'shy sovereign'?
 5. To what or whom do you turn for answers?

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

Chapter 6 - The Spirit in the Individual

Illumination (Page 117) "For Jesus is God's word to men; and the Spirit illuminates and interprets but does not add to that work."

The Spirit will teach. (Pages 117-118) "He (man) has the heavenly Spirit to be his teacher. And he can safely set down to the Spirit's guidance anything which brings Jesus into sharper focus."

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 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 that the guidance of God is always extraordinary, individualistic and sudden.

Ever erred in either or both of these two common mistakes?

Four strands in guidance (Pages 118-119) “together from the Bible four strands in divine guidance which, taken together, provide a confident basis for action, and avoid excessive recourse to that overworked claim, ‘The Lord told me to do such and such.’

6. **“God guides through circumstances.** (Acts 16:10) God closes some doors and opens others.”

How has God guided you through circumstances?

7. **“God guides through other Christians** as He did in Acts 6 and 13. Personal convictions should be open to testing by the guidance of other Christians.”

How has God guided you through other Christians or used you to guide others?

8. **“God guides us through the Scriptures.** An increasing broad appreciation of the Scriptures (as opposed to cherry picking verses) will give us a developing ability to scent the will of God in any given situation.”

Give examples of scriptures God has used to guide your decisions.

9. **“God guides us in prayer.** Col. 3:15 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.”

Describe how practicing prayer and receiving inner peace have helped you to make choices.