

Gary Ricucci

## SESSION 5: Guidance

*John 16:12* "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. *13* When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. *14* He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. *15* All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

*Ephesians 1:16* do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, *17* that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, *18* having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, *19* and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

*Psalms 143:8* Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

*Psalms 25:4* Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. *5* Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

### I. WHY SEEK the GUIDANCE of the HOLY SPIRIT? (Motive)

#### A. A desire for the glory of God

*1 Corinthians 10:31* So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

*Psalms 37:23* The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way;

#### B. A desire to do the will of God

*Colossians 1:9* And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, *10* so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

#### C. A desire for the good of others

*Philippians 2:4* Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. *5* Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

#### D. The desires of my heart need to be purified by the Spirit

*Galatians 5:16* But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...*25* If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

*James 3:17* But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

**E. A recognition of need**

*Psalm 25:9* He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

## II. WHAT WILL GUIDANCE INCLUDE?

**A. Consistent with Scripture**

**B. Consistent with other guidance God has given**

**C. Going To or Going From  
(It's usually not enough to "leave". Where are you going?)**

## III. HOW WILL THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDE?

**A. God's Word**

*Psalm 119:18* Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

*Psalm 119:105* Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**B. Prayer**

*Proverbs 3:5* Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

*Romans 8:26* Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

*James 1:5* If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

**C. Counsel**

*Proverbs 19: 20* Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. **21** Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

*Proverbs 11:14* Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

**D. Prophecy**

**(Not authoritative; Does not contradict Scripture or other clear guidance; Usually confirms rather than predicts or directs.)**

*1 Thessalonians 5:19* Do not quench the Spirit. **20** Do not despise prophecies, **21** but test everything; hold fast what is good.

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## IV. WHOM WILL THE SPIRIT USE?

### A. To whom has God joined you? (e.g. Relationships, Family, Church)

*1 Corinthians 12: 18* But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

*Ephesians 4:15* Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

### B. Who has responsibility and authority in your life?

*Hebrews 13:17* Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

*1 Thessalonians 5:12* We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

### C. Who do you trust, respect, follow?

*Proverbs 13:20* Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm

## V. WHAT IS MY NEXT STEP?

### A. Confirm your decision with those from whom you've sought counsel

*Luke 11:11* What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; **12** or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

### B. Take a step of faith and obedience

*Hebrews 11:6* And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

*Psalms 32:8* I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

*Psalms 23:3* He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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## BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR DECISION

Over the years, when people have considered a major decision in the midst of a trial, challenge, or crisis – whether it's financial, relational, professional, or geographical – questions such as these can be helpful to get at the heart and wisdom of the decision.

These questions are not designed with the assumption that the decision is wrong. But it is wise to deliberately speak to heart issues when there are specific challenges, or a specific trial, a person is facing. Our distress, disappointment, or dissatisfaction in one or more areas can draw us to seek satisfaction in a totally unrelated area, which provides temporary relief at best.

Some of the questions speak to motives; not as judgments, but simply as questions to be considered when making major, life-changing decisions. Our love for one another compels us to, at times, ask hard questions!

1. What are the major issues, challenges, concerns that you face right now?
    - a. How does the decision under consideration contribute to a solution? Does it address or evade the problem?
    - b. What alternative solutions or responses could you give to these challenges and concerns?
  2. Whom has God placed in your life for spiritual counsel, care and, oversight?
    - a. Have you pursued these people to be involved in the process of considering your decision?
    - b. Have you asked them if they agree with the idea?
    - c. What process would you pursue if they disagree?
  3. What have you communicated to family, friends and others about your biblical values, vision, and the priority of the church?
    - a. Is this decision consistent with those values?
    - b. How will the decision help to fulfill that vision?
  4. Whom or what has influenced you to consider this option?
  5. Life challenges, trials, and crises often necessitate the making of life-changing decisions. Is this decision (made with counsel) a redemptive step toward care, resolution, and fruitfulness? Or is this idea an expression of dissatisfaction, lack of fulfillment, feelings of aimlessness, uncertainty, or unmet desires?
  6. Are there deeper issues that need to be addressed prior to a major decision?
  7. Have you recognized, acknowledged and given yourself to fulfill all God has called you to in your current situation? Are there things you could, and still can, do differently?
  8. Is the decision an expression of your desire to please God, or is it a temptation to be drawn to other things for temporary gratification or satisfaction?
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