**John 14:25-27 and John 16:12-15**

Introduction

I. The Holy Spirit is our “guide”

Guide = someone who leads another along a path

II. We experience a tension with the idea of being guided

 A. On the one hand, we want guidance for life decisions

B. On the other hand, we like to lead our own lives and have trouble giving up control and direction to someone else

 C. The key question is: are we willing to be led?

The Passage

I. The Spirit guides us by giving us the Scriptures

A. John 14 and 16

1. He is the “Spirit of truth”

2. He guides in “all truth”

= all truth concerning Jesus and salvation (= he speaks what he hears from Jesus, he takes the things of Jesus and makes them known to us)

3. He carries on Jesus’ guidance ministry in Jesus’ stead (16:12)

B. The Scripture is the ultimate fulfillment of Jesus’ promise to guide the disciples

1. After Jesus returned to heaven, the Spirit reminds them of what Jesus had said, and they end up writing down these remembrances which become Scripture

 2. Scripture is the primary way the Holy Spirit guides us today

C. The Spirit’s Inspiration and Illumination of Scripture

1. Inspiration

a. The Spirit spoke through human authors so that He is the ultimate author of Scripture (see 2 Pt 1:20-21, Hb 3:7)

b. Scripture is God-breathed (2 Tim 3:16)

 = the “expiration” of Scripture

 c. The Bible is therefore uniquely God’s Word

2. Illumination

a. The Spirit takes the Scriptures and speaks through them to our hearts and minds, so that we become convinced of their truthfulness and respond obediently

 b. Most of us have experienced this in profound ways

 D. We should not disconnect the Spirit with the Word

1. Sometimes, when we think of a Spirit-inspired person we don’t naturally think of someone reading the Word

2. Sometimes, when we are seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance, we forget to read the Word

 E. Our response should be to pursue Bible meditation

 = prayerful, Spirit-dependent reading and meditating and obeying God’s Word

II. The Spirit guides us in our daily decisions

 A. The Spirit clearly guided the early church in Acts

 1. He guided individuals (Acts 8:27-31 and Acts 20:22-23)

2. He guided groups (Acts 13:1-4 and Acts 15:28)

B. The Spirit has guided/prompted Christians throughout the history of the church

C. Our response should be to pursue a daily openness to the Holy Spirit where we are sensitive to His promptings and willing to go where He leads

D. Listening for the Spirit’s leading can bring up some difficult issues

1. Some Christians claim God speaks to them all the time, and others claim God never speaks in that way today

 2. How do we discern the Spirit’s leading in big decisions?

a. Analogy: helping our children with homework: we’re not just interested in giving them the right answer. We want them to become the kinds of students who can figure out the answer. The Spirit doesn’t just want to give us the right answers when we need them. Rather, He wants to daily guide and shape our character so that we become the kinds of people who can make courageous, wise, loving decisions.

b. While he might not give us a clear answer to the crisis at hand, he will often remind us of core spiritual realities during that time (e.g. his love for us, his hand on our lives, our need to repent of something, etc)

c. This means that following the Spirit is a long-term, daily exercise rather than simply crying out to him when we reach a crisis.

Conclusion

I. Are we willing to be led?

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. ﻿Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

II. Pursue core practices

 A. Bible meditation

 B. A daily openness to the Holy Spirit’s guidance and direction

**Discussion Questions**

1. On Sunday we discussed the tension we feel regarding being led (on the one hand we want guidance and on the other hand we like to lead our own lives). Where do you feel that tension in your own life?

2. On Sunday it was argued that the Spirit’s primary way of guiding us is through the Scriptures. As you consider your life right now, what would it look like specifically to pursue Bible meditation in a consistent and faithful way? What have been the most fruitful ways you’ve found to be investing your life in Scripture?

3. Consider the examples of the Holy Spirit guiding the early church in Acts. Should we expect to receive that same kind of explicit guidance today? What level of explicit guidance should we expect from the Spirit in our daily lives?

4. How did you respond to the analogy of the Spirit’s role as being like a parent helping their child with homework? Where do you agree and where do you disagree? What would you want to add to that idea?