



St. John's Congregational Church

40 days of Prayer & Fasting

April 7 - May 16

Devotional - Week 3

Guidance of the Spirit

As we continue on in this season of prayer and fasting, and indeed always, it is important that we be guided by the Holy Spirit. Most of us can probably agree that if we each did a pastoral search based on our own criteria, we would likely come up with several different final candidates for pastor. That is why it is so important that we be guided by God through this process. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Many people in the Bible got themselves into trouble by doing things the way they thought was right instead of the way God told them.

How do we operate as a Spirit-guided church? In order to be guided by the Spirit, we must seek the Spirit through prayer. We must continually pray for God to reveal His will. We also must become familiar with His Word. By reading God's Word, we get to know God better. God's will will never contradict His Word. God will never tell us to do something that contradicts what the Bible says. We must listen for His voice. God speaks to us in different ways, but we must make sure we are hearing God and not ourselves. Finally, we must remember that being Spirit-guided takes time. God does not always speak everything we want, when we want Him to. We must be patient and wait for God and act only after He has told us to act. If we try to do what we think is good but not what God has told us, we will fail. But, if we act through the guidance of the Spirit, we will be the church God has destined us to be!

Daily Prayer

Lord, open my eyes that I may see what You want me to see. Open my ears that I may hear what You want me to hear. Please guide our church family and help us to do what You want us to do. Please guide me today and help me to do Your will. I ask these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus, **Amen**.

Daily Scripture Meditations

Monday

Proverbs 3:5-6; 14:12; 16:1-9: Wisdom of the Spirit

Tuesday

1 Samuel 15: Obeying the Spirit

Wednesday

Romans 7: Life in the Spirit, Part I

Thursday

Romans 8: Life in the Spirit, Part 2

Friday

2 Peter 1: Guidance of the Spirit