

Divine Guidance

The Apostles and Prophets



Divine Guidance for the Apostles and Prophets

- ▶ Its promise (John 14:26; 16:13; Matt. 10:19-20)



John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Matthew 10:18-20

You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

Divine Guidance for the Apostles and Prophets

- ▶ Its promise (John 14:26; 16:13; Matt. 10:19-20)
 - Teach all things
 - Bring all Christ's words to remembrance
 - Guide into all truth
 - Tell things to come
 - Provide every word they spoke in defense of the gospel

Divine Guidance for the Apostles and Prophets

- ▶ Its promise (John 14:26; 16:13; Matt. 10:19-20)
- ▶ Its nature
 - Complete
 - Infallible
 - Miraculous
 - Directly provided by the Holy Spirit

Divine Guidance for the Apostles and Prophets

- ▶ Its promise (John 14:26; 16:13; Matt. 10:19-20)
- ▶ Its nature
- ▶ Its purpose (Heb. 2:3-4; 1 Pet. 1:16-21; Eph. 3:3-5)

Hebrews 2:3-4

how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

2 Peter 1:16-21

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:3-5

how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Divine Guidance for the Apostles and Prophets

- ▶ Its promise (John 14:26; 16:13; Matt. 10:19-20)
- ▶ Its nature
- ▶ Its purpose (Heb. 2:3-4; 1 Pet. 1:16-21; Eph. 3:3-5)
 - To confirm the word of salvation
 - To direct the teaching of the apostles and prophets
 - To reveal all necessary spiritual knowledge

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- ▶ Its nature
- ▶ Its purpose (Heb. 2:3-4; 1 Pet. 1:16-21; Eph. 3:3-5)
- ▶ Its provision (Acts 2:1-4; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3)

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2 Peter 1:3

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

Jude 1:3

- ▶ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Divine Guidance for the Apostles and Prophets

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- ▶ Its nature
- ▶ Its purpose (Heb. 2:3-4; 1 Pet. 1:16-21; Eph. 3:3-5)
- ▶ Its provision (Acts 2:1-4; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3)
 - Began on the day of Pentecost
 - Completed in the lifetime of the apostles

Divine Guidance for Us

► Do we have...?

- All things brought to our remembrance?
- All things taught by Jesus given to us by the Holy Spirit?
- All truth provided without the written word?
- No need to consider what we say in defense of the gospel?
- Our very words provided directly to us by God's Spirit?

Our Divine Guidance is Different

- ▶ We are told that our source of guidance is different - Eph. 3:3-5



Ephesians 3:3-5

how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Our Divine Guidance is Different

- ▶ We are told that our source of guidance is different - Eph. 3:3-5
- ▶ Miraculous knowledge was to cease – 1 Cor. 13:8-10

1 Corinthians 13:8-10

Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

Our Divine Guidance is Different

- ▶ We are told that our source of guidance is different - Eph. 3:3-5
- ▶ Miraculous knowledge was to cease – 1 Cor. 13:8-10
- ▶ The method of receiving miraculous gifts put a limit on their duration - Acts 8:14-18

Acts 8:14-18

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,

The Limited Duration of Miraculous Spiritual Gifts

- ▶ While the apostles lived, the number of Christians with miraculous spiritual gifts increased as the apostles laid their hands on them.
- ▶ When the last apostle died, no additional Christians received miraculous spiritual gifts, however, these gifts continued to be exercised by those Christians who had already received them.
- ▶ When the last Christian died who had received the gift from the apostles, there were no longer miraculous spiritual gifts in the church.
- ▶ That is the circumstance that we are in today.

Confusing the Two?

▶ Apostles' guidance

- Complete
- Infallible
- Miraculous
- Received directly from the Holy Spirit

▶ Our guidance

- Incomplete
- Fallible
- Non-miraculous
- Received indirectly through the inspired Scriptures (1 Pet. 1:22-23)

1 Peter 1:22-23

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

This Confusion Produces Very Serious Errors

- ▶ Assuming that our decisions are from God



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- ▶ Assuming that the opinions of respected Christians or received traditions must be correct

Preamble to a Denominational Creed

[This creed book] is a record of the successive stages of spiritual insight attained by [our denomination] under the grace of Christ. We therefore expect that [this creed book] would be administered, not merely as a legal document, but as a revelation of the Holy Spirit working in and through our people.

Article IX of the Same Creed

“...that we are justified by faith, only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.”

BUT GOD'S WORD SAYS...

“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” - James 2:24

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- ▶ Assuming that our opinions or judgments must be correct
- ▶ Assuming that the opinions of respected Christians or received traditions must be correct
- ▶ Holding our understanding of Scripture over Scripture itself

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- ▶ Holding our understanding of Scripture over Scripture itself
- ▶ Resistant to being corrected
- ▶ Closed to teaching from Scripture

Don't Listen...

- ▶ To the preacher
- ▶ To religious leaders
- ▶ To your heart
- ▶ To your memory
- ▶ To your past judgments
- ▶ To family or friends
- ▶ To religious creed books, catechisms, or magazines
- ▶ To radio or TV evangelists
- ▶ To famous theologians

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- ▶ To radio or TV evangelists
- ▶ To famous theologians
- ▶ They are incomplete
- ▶ They are fallible
- ▶ They are not miraculous
- ▶ They can only provide truth indirectly through sharing God's word

Hear Him!



2 Corinthians 4:5-7

For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.