

Navigation – Accurately Following the Navigator

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John 16:5-15

I have been speaking on the basic issues of being a Christian in a series I am calling Basic Christianity. Here I want to lay out the basic principles for the Christian life. I have said it begins with a conversion. It is not merely the changing of religion, but a new birth. It is being saved from sin in a life-changing experience in the Lord. Then I said this conversion is to bring a life-change in you. God's purpose is to conform you to heaven. It is to bring heaven into you as much as getting you to heaven in the end.

So as believer, when you are saved, you are set out onto a journey of life. It is a journey in this life that is walking in a world still full of darkness. Even though you are saved, there are many dangers out there that can hurt you. We have never been expected to navigate the path of following Jesus alone. God has given us a guide, an expert navigator to help direct us on our path.

The Christian life is one of navigation. God has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us as an expert navigator. Jesus gave these instructions to his disciples before he was crucified.

⁵ "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief.

⁷ But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰ in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and

making it known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. (Jn. 16:5-15 NIVO)

Jesus said he would send the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. Jesus was going away. For three years Jesus had been guiding his disciples into God's truths. Now he would be gone. Even though he would be raised from the dead, he knew he would be leaving them to return to the Father. So, he was going to send the Holy Spirit to take over as their guide. The Holy Spirit would be their navigator through life.

If the Christian life is one of navigating the paths of light in a world of darkness, we need to talk about navigation.

1. Navigation is accurately following the Navigator.

For the Christian, the Navigator is the Holy Spirit.

⁷ Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.

¹⁵The Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

Jesus told the disciples he would send a counselor who would guide them into all truth. The counselor speaks in behalf of Jesus. He takes the Word from Christ and gives it to the disciples. Jesus, in his physical nature could only be one place at a time. He could only speak to those around him. However, in his absence, the Holy Spirit will be able to indwell every believer. He can speak to disciples everywhere and to each one, wherever they are. The Holy Spirit is the Navigator – God's voice of truth to guide us on our journey.

Navigation – what is the definition? Navigation is accurately following the right path through a course. It may be a river, or an inland port. Ships require an official navigator or pilot when coming into an inland port that has hazards.

I have seen a video of two men standing alongside an ice pack with a sled. A channel has been cut into the ice and a ship is slowly approaching them along the edge of the ice pack. One of the men has a backpack on him. As the ship slowly begins to pass by, they slide the sled out to the edge of the ship along the icy water. A hatch is opened on the lower section of the ship as it slides along. The man with the backpack walks across the sled and when the opening reaches him, he quickly gets onboard. The sled is pulled away and the hatch is closed. The man who got onboard is a pilot, an official navigator to guide the ship into the passage until it reaches its port.

Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit to be our navigator to safely guide us through life until we reach our final destination of heaven. He is the expert Navigator. You could say that Christianity is the art of accurately following the Navigator whom God has sent to guide us through the darkness until we reach heaven.

2. With the Navigator always with us we are never alone.

¹⁰because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer.

⁷ but if I go, I will send him to you.

God never expected disciples to do Christianity on their own. We are given commands like pray, give, make disciples, etc. We are told to live by the Spirit not the flesh. These commands are not easy. Our flesh nature lives inside us and often wages war with the Spirit. Neither is it easy to seek to live godly lives when a culture is strongly influenced by rebellion against God. The good news is we are not alone in our struggle. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He is in our lives. He is also in the world. He makes Jesus real and present to us. Although Jesus cannot be physically here with us, He is made personally real by the presence of the Holy Spirit. He is especially close to those who are oppressed.

Lauren Daigle, has a song called *Rescue*. She sings about girls who have been victimized by abuse. She has a phrase that says,

“You are not alone. I will rescue you.”

Jesus told his disciples they would not be alone. He did not promise to rescue them from trouble. He never promised them they would be kept from hardship, persecution or death. They knew if it happened to the

Master, it would happen to His servants. Yet, one thing they did know. They were not alone. They were never cut off from God.

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit a counselor, advocate. The Greek word is a *paraclete*, one who comes alongside. He is one who comes alongside us to help us, guide us, give us wisdom, instruction, revelation, understanding, and friendship.

The Holy Spirit is the presence of Christ with us. Jesus is physically away. Yet, the comforter makes Jesus close to us.

3. The Navigator (Holy Spirit) convicts and reveals Christ's Word of truth.

He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰ in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Jesus speaks of two roles of the Holy Spirit. One is of conviction. The other is of revelation.

Conviction

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. What is the role of conviction? Conviction exposes to the heart the shame or error of sin. Jesus mentions three areas of conviction: sin, righteousness and judgment. These particularly spoke to the unbelieving Jews who refused to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah. Yet, the Holy Spirit may speak to many greater issues. When you have strayed away from the Lord, the Holy Spirit is still there wading through the sewage of your sin to speak with you about the ugliness of being where you are in sin.

The work of conviction can come to the believer and the unbeliever. I remember once when I was in college. I had turned away from being a preacher to pursue an engineering degree. I had joined a fraternity. One day I came down the stairs of the frat house, and in walked a young lady I knew from my church youth group. She said, “I thought you were going to be a

preacher.” That struck me like a sword to my spirit. I was guilty. It was a word the Lord would use as well as the gentle word of His Spirit that would eventually lead me to change my major and pursue preaching.

Yet, conviction is also a work Jesus uses for the lost. He speaks to the lost to reveal Jesus to them. He speaks to them with the Holy Spirit when we as believers pray for them. It is the conviction of the Holy Spirit that leads them to repentance and salvation.

Revelation

Jesus also said the Spirit would bring revelation. He said the Holy Spirit would reveal things to come.

¹³He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus’ words to us. When He speaks to us it is revelation, because all God’s Word is revelation. He makes known God’s truth to us. Jesus says this includes words of the future.

When I was praying for the world to know Jesus as Savior, I was uncertain how to pray for the Muslim nations. There was a pause as I prayed. It was likely the Holy Spirit getting me ready for a revelation. I asked God how I should pray for Muslims. I cannot tell you how I heard the voice of God. It was not by my ears, but somehow in my mind I knew what was said. I could ask for dreams and visions just as God often used those means in the Old Testament. So I began to ask for the Lord to send dreams and visions of Jesus to the Muslim nations. This happened to me when I was alone in prayer. Two years later, while we had a revival here with Jonathan Hewett preaching I received confirmation of what God was doing. Hewett was an evangelist at the time. He had been around the world preaching. He said everywhere, Muslims were coming to Christ. They were having dreams and visions of Jesus. He would appear to them in the night and tell them to go and meet someone to get a Bible or hear about Jesus. My prayer happened two years before any confirmation of what God was doing. God was already working. He just revealed to me what He was doing. The revelation came before confirmation, thus it revealed a future Word to me. Since then, I

have read books, articles and watched videos of people testifying of these dreams and visions.

The Holy Spirit can lead you into God’s revelation. Yet, the revelation is to forward the Kingdom work of Christ, not for personal boasting or exploitation. Paying people to read your future is witchcraft, demonic and forbidden by God. If you want to hear God’s revelation, you have to pray and you have to be involved in God’s kingdom work.

God sent the Holy Spirit to help us navigate this dark place until Christ returns or we die and return to Christ. He is the presence of Jesus in us because he reveals Jesus’ Words to us.

4. The Navigator (Holy Spirit) is not a showman.

The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to himself. He speaks of the Son. He does not act on his own. He reveals Jesus. Some in Pentecostalism seek to magnify the manifestations of the Spirit as proof of the Spirit’s work. This seems contrary to Jesus’ teaching.

¹³He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears

¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

The Holy Spirit is humble. He is never boastful or seeking attention. Notice the humility of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Jesus sought to bring glory to the Father. He never spoke of His own, but only what he heard the Father saying. He lived in humility being submissive to the Father. In the same way, the Holy Spirit serves in humility toward Christ. He does not speak on his own. He says what he hears from Jesus. He does not seek attention to himself by talking about himself.

If you want to be like Christ and the Holy Spirit don’t take the stage to talk about yourself. Talk about the Lord.

The Holy Spirit is God's presence to guide us along our journey of life. In that sense, He is the expert Navigator. Our job as Christians is to follow the Navigator.