

Week 11: Guidance

“God does guide the individual richly and profoundly, but he also guides groups of people and can instruct the individual through the group experience” Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, pg 176

“Biblical discernment involves more than good judgment, open doors and decision-making skills. Right discernment arises out of a relationship with God in prayer. It is founded on the reality of the Holy Spirit’s presence within us. Jesus makes it clear the Holy Spirit is our Counselor and Guide into God’s will and ways” Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, pg 110

“Spiritual direction is a relationship that allows one to assist another in discerning God’s activity and presence in his or her life. This relationship assumes that we all need help to listen to God and live out his call” Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, pg 133.

Try one or more of these (taken/adapted from Foster and Calhoun):

Seek Wisdom from Others

Invite spiritually mature and trusted individuals to join you in praying for and seeking God’s guidance in matters. Meet together to pray and discuss as many times as is necessary.

Join a Community Group

The support, wisdom, and fellowship formed in a community group provides an excellent system for seeking guidance from Holy Spirit corporately. Groups should be spending time seeking guidance from God as a group and for each other individually.

Seek a Spiritual Director

Seeking a spiritual director is not a decision that should be taken lightly. To learn more about spiritual direction, [visit this site](#). If you choose to pursue spiritual direction, that site can also help you get connected to a spiritual director or there are many other sites that include directories of spiritual directors as well. Take your time to prayerfully consider which spiritual director would be the right fit for you.

If you’d like to learn more about spiritual transformation and various ways to invite Holy Spirit to work in and through you, these are great places to start:

[Sacred Pathways: Nine Ways to Connect with God](#) by Gary Thomas

[Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation](#) by Ruth Haley Barton

[Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth](#) by Richard J. Foster

[*Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us*](#) by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun

[*Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus. Become Like Him. Do as He Did*](#) by John Mark Comer