

Session 5: Guidance and Teaching

Series: *Is It So? Reconsidering the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*

Speaker: Dr. Randy White

Date: December 8, 2024

The role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and teaching believers has been a central theme in Christian theology, often raising questions about the extent and nature of His ministry. In this session, we will explore the promises of guidance and teaching made by Jesus to His apostles, examining their historical and theological context. By understanding these promises within their original framework, we can better appreciate the Spirit's unique role in establishing the apostolic foundation of the church, while also addressing contemporary interpretations that extend these promises universally. This session emphasizes the sufficiency of Scripture and the clarity it provides, offering a biblical approach to discerning God's will in our lives today.

1. The Holy Spirit's Promises to the Apostles:

- John 14:26: The Holy Spirit would teach the apostles "all things" and remind them of Christ's teachings.
- John 16:13: The Spirit would guide the apostles into "all truth," providing doctrinal revelation and insight into future events.

2. Contextual Focus:

- These promises were made during the Upper Room Discourse and directed specifically to the apostles, not all believers.
- The apostles' unique role in recalling Christ's teachings and recording the New Testament demonstrates the specific nature of these promises.

3. Dispensational Consideration:

- These promises foreshadow the broader fulfillment of the New Covenant (Ezekiel 36:27), ultimately realized in Israel's future Kingdom.
- For now, the Spirit's work with the apostles provided a foundational foretaste of this redemptive plan.

4. Standard Evangelical View:

- Many evangelicals interpret these promises as applying universally to all believers, suggesting the Spirit offers personal, ongoing guidance and insight into God's Word and life.

5. Critique of Evangelical Pneumatology:

- The evangelical view risks conflating apostolic promises with modern experiences, potentially undermining the sufficiency of Scripture.
- Scriptures like 1 Corinthians 2:12, Romans 8:14, and Galatians 5:16 are often misapplied to support subjective mystical guidance.

6. Sufficiency of Scripture:

- The Bible provides all necessary guidance for teaching, reproof, and living a righteous life (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- Relying on subjective impressions undermines Scripture's clarity and reliability.

7. Mysticism is Unnecessary:

- Mystical experiences, though popular, are not required to discern God's will.

Key Scriptures Cited:

- **Apostolic Promises:** John 14:26, John 16:13, Luke 24:8, Acts 11:16.
- **Biblical Sufficiency:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:105, Hebrews 1:1-2.
- **Evangelical Pneumatology:** 1 Corinthians 2:12, Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:16.

Key Points to Remember:

- **Apostolic Application:**
 - The promises of John 14:26 and 16:13 were specific to the apostles for the purpose of establishing the New Testament and the early church.
- **Scripture Is Complete and Sufficient:**
 - Believers are called to study and obey the Word of God, not seek mystical or subjective experiences for guidance.
- **Walking in the Spirit:**
 - To be led by the Spirit means living in obedience to God's Word, allowing it to shape thoughts and actions.