



Scripture Nugget – Heeding the inspirations of the Holy Spirit

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in My Name - He will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you (John 14:26).

The Holy Spirit is in everyone and guides everyone by His gentle inspirations. The Holy Spirit is only totally withdrawn from a person when God takes his/her life. The mission of the Holy Spirit is our sanctification, to help everyone respond to God's call to holiness for the purpose for which we are born i.e. to be holy so as to live as members of God's family in His glorious Kingdom where eternal gladness never ends. In the account of the Acts of the Apostles, we note that the Apostles were led by the Holy Spirit in every key aspect of their lives. The Holy Spirit emboldened them, empowered them to preach effectively, and directed their movements on where to go or whom to meet for the spreading of the Good News. The Holy Spirit selected the missionaries, prepared them by prayer and fasting, and gave advance warnings of the adversities ahead. Nothing important was done without the inspirations of the Holy Spirit! It is truly amazing how clearly the Apostles can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and how obedient they were to His inspirations! We have much to learn from the Apostles in imitating their faith, their courage, their perseverance and great willingness to go all out and sacrifice their lives for Christ. The more we submit ourselves to God's will and commandments and trust Him, the more we can hear the voice of the Spirit.

Discerning the inspirations of the Holy Spirit from the attractive lies of Satan. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. He is the Spirit of Truth. Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth (cf. John 16:13). The Holy Spirit will never give an inspiration that leads to the violation of God's commandments, no matter what the situation. On the other hand, any inspiration promoting moral relativism would certainly be from the Master of Lies. The inspirations of the Holy Spirit help us to keep God's commandments. The Holy Spirit will help us put others' needs and welfare above our own self-interest in true Christian love of neighbor, and to love God above all. Conversely, the Master of Deception operates on the opposite principle: Love ourselves above others. Satan is always reminding us of our rights and the faults of others. He gives excuses for our own weaknesses. His cunning and deception works on our fallen human nature of pride and inborn selfishness. For those who are very logical in their mindset, he will leverage on logic to promote his deception. For those who are emotional and led by feelings, he will leverage on their sentiments to spread his poison. The Holy Spirit prompts us to be compassionate and forgiving but Satan prompts us to be judgmental and to give others their just desserts. We can uncover the source of the inspirations speaking to us by subjecting the inspirations to these questions: Are these based on obedience to God's commandments of love? What are the consequences of the actions acting on these inspirations? Do they truly promote the welfare of others, forgiveness and compassion or my self-interest? What are the teachings of Christ in such situation? We can reference our Bibles to guide ourselves in every situation in our lives.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, thank You for the priceless gift of the Holy Spirit, my Interior Teacher, Sanctifier and Comforter. Purify my heart of selfishness and pride, and give me the grace to heed the gentle inspirations of the Holy Spirit, which is the shortcut to holiness and prepare me for the glorious destiny God has planned for me. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk