(Holy) Ghost Stories

Small Group Questions: Part 4: Holy Spirit Guidance

Read

John 16:7; Exodus 13:21; Acts 2:16–17 and 21:10–15; 1 Corinthians 14:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21

Reflect

In Acts 21, a prophet named Agabus prophesies that Paul will be bound and delivered into the hands of the Gentiles if he goes to Jerusalem. Paul goes anyway. Those close to Paul misapply what God revealed. What is the promise of the Holy Spirit and why is it so important?

Pastor Darrin Patrick describes myths about prophecy:

1. It is only done by <u>prophets</u>.
    a. Who can prophesy? Why is prophesying so important a gift?
    b. When have you heard someone prophesy? What was your reaction?

2. It is mainly <u>foretelling</u>.
    a. How might you be limiting the true definition of prophesying?

3. It is equivalent to <u>preaching</u>.
    a. How is NOT just preaching?

4. It shouldn't be <u>questioned</u>.
    a. Why should you question a prophecy?

Questions we need to ask about prophecy:

- <u>Revelation</u>: What did God <u>say</u>?
    o When have you experienced a revelation?

- <u>Interpretation</u>: What does it <u>mean</u>?
    o How did you interpret your revelation?
    o What do you need to test it against? Are you too trusting of your own heart?

- <u>Application</u>: What should I <u>do</u>?
    o How did you respond to a revelation? How did others respond?
    o In Acts 21, how was prophecy misapplied?

Guidance of the Holy Spirit:

1. God's lack of guidance can be <u>merciful</u>.
    a. In the Bible, how has God shown that direct guidance can actually be more painful? Why?
    b. Why does God often only show us bits at a time?

2. God's guidance requires us to give up <u>control</u>.
    a. In what ways are you trying to control God? Are you asking God to bless your plans?

3. God guidance starts with trusting God <u>right now</u>.
    a. How are you trusting God in the middle of your struggles? What do you need to surrender to him? The outcomes? How hard is to pray: "What you will, when you will, and how you will?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?