

Today, we will consider the obstacles that hinders a believer from being spiritual guided. As believers, we have our own will and our God is a gentle man and still gives man the ability to choose. Throughout scripture, we see that God has always advised man to either choose life or death. A man can choose not to obey God. When we say, Lord, lead me daily, we are also saying that we want to obey the Lord. We all made the choice to follow the Lord. Yet, after this, we must choose to continue to follow Him to reap all the benefits of following the Lord. God wants to bring out the best in each of us, but we must follow him to experience this best He has for us.

Obstacles to spiritual guidance.

1. Prayerlessness. Prayer is a very important topic in the church of God today. It's a pity that a lot of people in the church of God today do not understand what prayer entails. Prayer is communication. It includes spending time with God, supplication, worship, intercession, etc. The reason people find themselves in the loop of prayerlessness is because their prayers are self focused as opposed to God focused. If our prayers are all of ourselves and none of God and His Kingdom, we have not prayed. A lot of people have found themselves in this situation where they are dead to the spirit and alive to God. Our Spirit man is fed when we pray. If we make a daily habit where our prayers are self focused, we will not grow. The bible says give us this day our daily bread - does this not mean praying for our needs? Yes, but God also said, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of our lips. Jesus spoke of spiritual sustenance. The right kind of prayer is what enables all of God to be imprinted upon us. It's hard to follow the leading of God if we are not praying the right kind of prayers. Matthew 21:12-13 KJV And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, [13] And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. The temple of the house of God is the church, both individually and corporately. However, in this verse, we see that this temple which was supposed to be God focused had become self focused. When we find ourselves praying self centred prayers, we attract all sorts of things into God's temple. In the church of God we see the Jezebel spirit in manifestation, lying and false prophets all feeding peoples fleshly desires. 1 Kings 18 shows that the spirit of Jezebel is accompanied by manipulation, witchcraft, covetousness, selfishness, etc. This is what happens when we pray the wrong prayers. Being prayerful gets rid of this fleshly nature. Acts 16:16 shows that the spirit of divination was discerned during prayer.

2. Idolatry: If any man is prayerless, he begins to walk by sight. If a man walks by sight, he begins to have idols in his heart. Having Idols in the heart is dangerous for the child of God. Anyone who has idols in his heart, even if God speaks with a megaphone, they will not hear. Idolatry means that something takes the place of God in your heart. Balaam had idols in his heart. His was money. To hear God was not difficult, but the idol had grew so much in his heart that some point, God had to use a donkey to speak to him. Ordinarily, a man seeing a donkey speak may even faint, but Balaam was not moved because of how hardened his heart was. God said, if any man comes to me with idols in his heart, I will speak according to the idols in their heart, Ezekiel 14:4. Numbers 22 shows that Balaam knew the right thing to do. Yet, he chose otherwise. Idols are also very subtle. It blinds the eyes till he was unable to see. Other examples in Scripture of people who had idols were Judas Iscariot John 12:6, Demas in 2 Timothy 4:10, Ananias and Sapphira, etc.

3. Carnality: When someone has idolatry, the next thing that follows is carnality. Carnality means to be ruled by the five senses, living a life consumed by satisfying fleshly desires. Carnality sets in gradually. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. John 16:12. Covetousness, seeking pleasures without boundaries is a sign of carnality. Lack of love is also a sign of carnality. Carnality is making the flesh comfortable rather than doing God's own will. If God asks you for example to lay aside a specific amount for a cause and you're having struggles because of things like food, this is carnality. The way to conquer carnality is Love.

1 Corinthians 13:3-4,13 KJV And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. [4] Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, [13] And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

The reason why we are in the Kingdom today is love. If Jesus did not have love, he could have changed his mind and decided not to die. He got to the point of crucifixion, and he could even see those who he healed and fed shouting, crucify him. Yet, He chose to love and that is what brought us into His Kingdom. Love, by its definition in 1 Corinthians 13, does not seek its own, but the good of others.