



# How God Guides Us

---

## Through Jesus' Words in Scripture

---

One of the most concrete ways that God will guide us is through the Scriptures. It is amazing to know that God speaks directly to us through this incredible gift of His revealed Word in the Bible.

We want to enter the time of prayer by focusing on God's words in a Scriptural passage. We desire to open our hearts and follow His direction as we come to understand His guidance. God *will* guide us. He cares about every minute detail in our lives. We want to bring to Him what may seem like trivial matters, but to Him and to us are important, such as, "What shirt should I wear for this occasion?" And an obviously more important one, "Do I need to apologize to this person?" It is comforting to know that the Lord will guide us in all aspects of our life.

To prayerfully read the Bible, we need to ask the Holy Spirit for help in understanding what is being read and how it applies to our life. Sometimes as we are reading, the Lord will "quicken" or "highlight" a verse or passage in our heart – it will speak to us personally and help us to know our next step in His way for us. When we receive these very personal words from God, we will be energized, encouraged and strengthened by them.

One example of God highlighting a

verse from Scripture is illustrated in what a friend related to me. She was experiencing discouragement, and was needing to know that Jesus knew her and cared about her personal situation. She was reading the Scripture, which included the phrase "oh you of little **faith**" (Mt 14:22-33). Why did this simple phrase encourage her and move her so deeply? She comes from a small town called **Faith**, South Dakota. For her, through that personal word, God was telling her that He knows everything about her and He cares deeply for her.

When we pray with a Scripture passage, we offer the Holy Spirit the opportunity in our heart to make a connection between the passage and a personal situation in our own life. This could be encouragement as was given to my friend, a challenge, or specific guidance that we might be seeking. Importantly, when reading the Scripture, we are continually receiving overall direction for life.

How do I make God's Word a part of my daily prayer? The best way to begin reading the Bible is by starting with 5 minutes a day. A good place to begin is the Gospel of Luke, prayerfully reading one short passage of Chapter One, so that it can be read over a second time in the same sitting. The next passage of Chapter One may be prayerfully read

and pondered the following day and so on, until reading that book straight through. It is also beneficial to follow a set schedule, reading Scripture at the same time each day so it will not become just a "hit or miss" commitment.

God's Word is always *alive* and new for us and it has the power to be "spot on" to what is happening in our life at that moment. Receiving guidance in answer to a specific request will not happen every time. Our faithfulness is what is important and when we *need* to hear from God, He knows how to get through to us.

We don't want to seek God's guidance through the Bible *just* during times of crisis. God is always speaking to us through His Word of Truth, to each person individually. Therefore, we need to read God's Word on a daily basis, first and foremost, to get to know **Jesus**. Even more importantly than discovering His guidance, we want to know the Guide.

Life becomes exciting and peaceful when we know that the God of the universe cares and that He will guide us through His Word in Scripture. To read two, real-life stories go to [diolc.org/insert](http://diolc.org/insert).

By Ann and Carol Lankford



DIOCESE of LA CROSSE