

(Lift: Carried by the Wind of the Spirit — Part VII)

6/7/2009

Read and refer to John 16:5-15 as the basis for answering the questions below.

- Additional passages that Pastor Steve referred to during the sermon.
 - Acts 8 (Phillip)
 - Acts 10 (Peter)
 - Acts 16 (Paul)
 - James 3:13-18 (Scripture reading prior to the sermon)
 - John 14:17
 - John 14:21
 - Acts 13
 - John 14:23
 - John 14:25 & 26
 - John 16:15
 - John 4 (The Woman at the Well)
1. In this sermon several instances of characters from the book of Acts are given: Phillip, Peter, and Paul. These characters are given as examples of the Spirit's straight forward, direct communication in the lives of these individuals specifically guiding them in specific directions. In the book of Acts we see this as the "expected normalcy" in the way that the Spirit guides believers in-and-through their lives. What were some of Pastor Steve's thoughts concerning this dilemma?
 2. The analogy was made of a sighted person giving guidance to a blind person. What is significant in this metaphor and how does it help to illuminate our roles as followers of the Spirit's guiding?
 3. Pastor Steve refers to the Spirit as a mentor in verses 7, 8, and 13, what three mentoring functions does the Spirit perform? What makes a mentor relationship different from the type of guidance that the Spirit gives in the lives of Phillip, Peter, and Paul in Acts?
 4. According to Pastor Steve, what are the three factors that influence most Americans as they make decisions?
 5. "Lost is a condition, not a place." Why is it critical that we understand this?
 6. What is the definition of wisdom?
 7. After Jesus ascended to heaven and the Spirit came at Pentecost, Pastor Steve makes the claim that "Two things powerfully changed for his followers." What were they? How do they change their (our) relationship to God?

8. Pastor Steve employed two metaphors as he spoke about the way in which we navigate the choices in our daily lives: the GPU (Global Positioning Unit) and the lighthouse. How are these similar and how are they different? In the past, has your own thinking been more like one than the other? How may that have affected your ability to understand the guiding of the Spirit in your own life? Can you think of examples?
9. Toward the end of the sermon Pastor spoke of the need for us to “line up what is inside us with what is outside us.” What are the four “lighthouses” to which we should align ourselves in navigating through our critical, decisions.