

God's Inner Guidance System

*The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.
Proverbs 20:27*

The Bible says that your spirit, the real you, is the "candle" of the Lord. We could say that man's spirit is the "flood light" of the Lord. God wants to give light, or answers to our many questions, through our spirits, deep down inside.

God doesn't talk to humans through the human mind because God doesn't live in the realm of the human mind.

God doesn't talk to humans through the human body because God doesn't live in the physical realm either.

God talks to His human creation through their human spirits. After all, God is a Spirit and He lives in the spirit realm. (John 4:24)

It only makes sense for God to talk to Born Again human beings through their human spirits because their human spirits are in union with Him.

"And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts (deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds) ..." (Colossians 3:15)

The Bible says that we are to let peace guide us, or act as umpire concerning all decisions we have to make in life. If we have a creamy "peace" about doing something, as long as it's legal, moral and Scriptural, God is saying to do it.

On the other hand, if we have a knot of "unrest" down on the inside about doing something, it is because God is saying to not do that. Simply remember, a "knot" means to "not".

This is why Paul referred to the Holy Spirit within as God's "umpire." The Inner Umpire of the Holy Spirit is constantly telling the Born Again child of God whether they are "safe" or "out", "right" or "wrong" when it comes to decision making.

This is why we always put God in position to where He only has to answer us "Yes" or "No". We try to make the proper decisions in life and then we go to the Father to ask if we have made a right decision or not. We then give Him a few days to give us that "peace" or "unrest," His "yes" or His "No".

Sometimes we do something and have a "gut feeling" telling us not to do it. We do it anyway and later regret it. Something on the inside was telling me not to do that.

That "something" was actually "Someone". That "Someone" was the Holy Spirit leading you. If you had followed Him, you would have not gotten into trouble. This is the primary way the Holy Spirit guides the Believer today. Remember, "peace" is His "Yes," "unrest" is His "No." **Trust the Holy Spirit's Red Light or Green Light—No Matter What.** A "red light" deep down in your belly (spirit) is a "Stop" signal. A "green light" deep down in your belly is a "Go" signal. The more determined you are to follow God, the better you get at it.

3 WAYS CHRISTIANITY IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER RELIGIONS

Everyone puts their faith in something. Some people put their faith in scientific theories. Others put their faith in family, politics, careers, or celebrity. We are all searching for something to believe in. For me, that's Jesus. Many people think all religions are all the same, but I would argue that Christianity is different from the rest.

What Separates Christianity from Other Religions?

1. Every other religion teaches us to earn our way to God.

Christianity is the only religion that teaches that God came to us. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus died for us before we did a thing for Him. God didn't wait for us to get things right before He sent His Son to die. In fact, God sent his Son because He knew we could never get things right apart from Jesus!

2. Other religions have systems of rules to appease their god. Christianity is a relationship with God.

Other religions give us a list of things to do and not do. Some religions call them laws or pillars. These are things that you do in hopes of getting into heaven.

Psalms 145:18-19 tells us, "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them." We don't have to appease God to receive His favor. He already showed us His love for us by sending Jesus to die on a cross in our place, for our sins. The separation between us and God was appeased, and we didn't have to do a thing except believe.

The separation between us and God was appeased, and we didn't have to do a thing except believe. Christians go to church, read the Bible and obey God's commands, not because we have to but because we want to. We want to learn about this God who would go to such great lengths for us. We want to show our thankfulness for His grace by representing Him well with our lives. And we choose to follow His plan, knowing that a God who loves us enough to sacrifice His Son for us has our best interest at heart.

3. No other religion has an empty tomb.

We're the only people who follow a leader who died and came back to life. Every other major religious leader is dead. People have been looking for Jesus' body for thousands of years, and they still haven't found Him! With all of the advancements in scientific technology, no one has been able to solve this "mystery" in the world of science. The tomb is empty, and the body is not hidden and will never be found because Jesus rose from the dead. In Matthew 28:6, we are reminded of this truth: "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." We all have faith in something. Put your faith in Jesus Christ today.

To walk out of God's will, is to step into nowhere.



Pinches if you aren't wearing green. Corned beef and cabbage. Three-leaf clovers. We recognize the Irish-themed decorations every March, but what is St. Patrick's Day really about? Most St. Patrick's Day traditions are less about the person and more about celebrations of Irish-American immigrants in the late 1700's. St. Patrick was a real man who lived around AD 400, but the folklore we hear doesn't tell the whole story. His life wasn't about green beer or driving snakes from Ireland, but radical love and faith. Moving past the modern traditions, we can see what really happened in St. Patrick's life and why it matters to us today.

Four Unexpected Lessons From The Real St. Patrick

1. We can make it through hard times.

Even when we face the most difficult times, we can survive because we're never separated from God's love (Romans 8:38-39). When St. Patrick was 16, he was kidnapped by pirates and became a slave to Druids, a violent tribal cult in Ireland. Rather than fighting back, he learned to pray and his faith grew, even while tending sheep in the rugged cold. Records of St. Patrick's life show that he chose to trust God every day instead of seeking revenge against his captors.

2. God invites us to do risky, uncomfortable things.

One day, after six years of captivity in Ireland, God told St. Patrick about a way off the island. St. Patrick boarded a ship and returned home. Years later, after learning more about the Bible and becoming a leader in the church, St. Patrick heard God tell him to return to Ireland and tell people about Jesus. Just like Patrick listened to God leading him to different places and different tasks, we can listen to God and do what He says (James 1:22). When God calls us to something He walks alongside us, no matter how uncomfortable or impossible it seems (Micah 6:8).

"Jesus' love is so radical that it forgives offenders and welcomes the enemies."

3. Grace changes enemies into opportunities for radical love.

St. Patrick escaped the oppressive slavery of the Druids, but he chose to return to Ireland to share the message of Jesus with them. When God brings us through a difficult experience, we learn to accept His incredible love and extend that same love to everyone. We were all enemies of God because of our sins, but Jesus loves us even when we rebel against Him (Romans 5:10). Jesus' love is so radical that it forgives offenders and welcomes enemies.

4. God can use anyone—even you.

St. Patrick wasn't born a Christian superhero who rose to fame and changed his country. He wasn't even Irish. He grew up in a wealthy British family and had no interest in Christianity until he was older. No matter where you're from or what you have or haven't done, God can work through you to do something amazing (Philippians 2:13). God changes unlikely people into unexpected leaders.

Who needs the luck of the Irish when we have a God who can use anybody to continue a movement that affects everybody?



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Beacon

March 2018

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

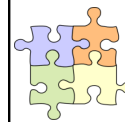
Matthew 5:16



Grief Share Recovery Support Group

Wednesdays 2 PM

Your Journey from Mourning to Joy



**Trade your pieces
for God's peace.**

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8

*The Lord opened
the understanding of
my unbelieving heart,
so that I should
recall my sins.*

Saint Patrick



Upcoming Concerts!

New Horizon's Concert
March 4, 6 PM

For Calvary/Dave Taylor's Group
April 29, 6 PM

Joseph Habedank & Erwins Concert
June 10, 6 PM

Lore Family
August 5, 6 PM

Jones Family Singers
September 9, 6 PM

Brian Free & Assurance
October 19, 7 PM

POWER of PRAYER

God cannot answer prayers that are not prayed. Prayer activates God's workings in your life.

*You ask and do not receive,
because you ask amiss, that you may
spend it on your pleasures.*

James 4:3

*The earnest prayer of a righteous man
has great power and wonderful results.*

James 5:16