



Recap

Parents

Scripture

The Church

The Holy Spirit

Prayer

6. Spiritual Father

One who climbs a mountain for the first time needs to follow a known route; and he needs to have with him, as companion and guide, someone who has been up before and is familiar with the way. To serve as such a companion and guide is precisely the role of the "Abba" or spiritual father. (Bishop Kallistos Ware)





6. Spiritual Father

• "I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel." (1 Cor. 4:14-15)

7. The Gift of Reason

- It is a gift given to all humanity
- Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Gen. 1:26)
- The human intellect is fallible



8. Experiences/Circumstances

- God can guide us through natural positive experiences
- He can also guide us through our difficult experiences and failures
- God can use the example of goldy people to influence my life

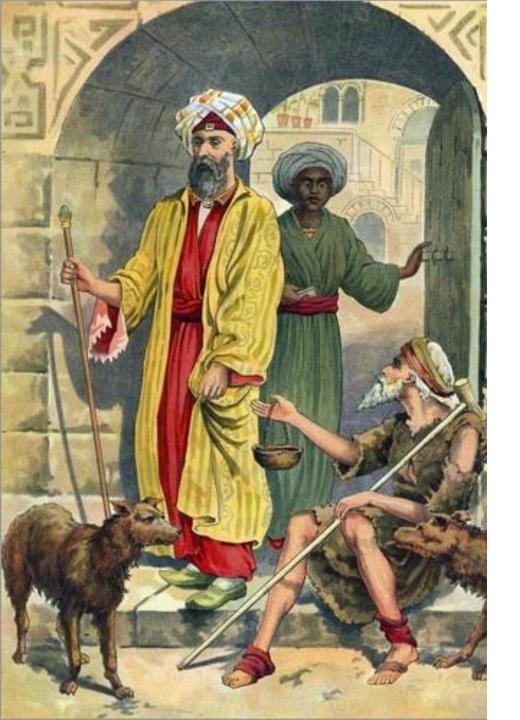


8.

Experiences/Circumstances

- This is the way the church is called to evangelize
- EX: St. Paul
- EX: Practicing the Christian life
- "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed." (1 Pet. 3:15-16)





9. Direct Revelation

- The is by far the rarest of all the ways God guides us
- Our faith and relationship with God be based on direct revelation.
 - EX: Rich Man and Lazarus
 - And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'
 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead."
 (Lk. 16:30-31)

How does God guide us?

Parents Church Scripture The Holy Spirit Prayer Spiritual Father The Gift of Reason **Experiences/Circumstances Direct Revelation**