

How do you know if your choices are consistent with the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Again, it's not always easy to know. The Holy Spirit guides you to choose peace and fairness; you will be able to answer *yes* to all of the following questions if the Holy Spirit is providing the guidance.

- *Is your choice consistent with God's Word? Is it consistent with love and God's commandments?* Because God works within you through the Holy Spirit, guidance will be consistent with Scripture. This is the greatest test of all.
- *Are you comfortable with your choices?* Incorrect choices create discomfort. Pay attention to inner turmoil. It may indicate you are on the wrong path and need to find a better solution. Granted, the right choices are sometimes uncomfortable, but you should feel a quiet conviction about your choices, even during times of conflict.
- *Does your choice lead toward peace?* The Holy Spirit guides you toward peace, kindness, love, and conflict resolution. Choices are based in love, not fear. Behavior shifts toward peace and away from arguing, gossip, judgment, putting on airs (success, money, status, power), having to prove you are right, excessive competitiveness, seeking the approval of others, maintaining a hectic lifestyle, and living without meaning or purpose.
- *Does your choice account for the best interest of everyone involved?* The Holy Spirit will guide you to be kind, but firm, and choose what is right. The Holy Spirit will not guide you in a manner that is self-destructive or insensitive toward others. Sometimes we promote our own interests and neglect the other person's. Other times, we respect the other person's best interest but neglect our own. Sometimes we are nice—not for altruistic reasons—but because we are afraid of saying no. The Holy Spirit accounts for the best interest of everyone involved.
- *Are the consequences fair?* Evaluate the consequences. Are they acceptable? Are they necessary? Are they fair? If not, work to find an alternative solution. Consequences are not always pleasant, but they should be just.