

Instruct, Teach, and Guide

*I will **instruct** thee and **teach** thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will **guide** thee with mine eye. –Psalm 32:8*

At first glance, the words instruct and teach may seem to be the same; however, to a teacher they involve different behaviors. You probably have made a purchase and received an instruction booklet. This is a list of directions. Step by step instructions are important in learning but a master teacher gives more than just a list of directions. Teaching involves modeling for the student and guiding the student's behaviors.

Christ gave us instructions on how to live the Christian life and He modeled it for us. We can follow Jesus' life and find out how He wants us to behave in the situations we face. In Psalm 32:8, God also states that He will guide us. Guidance goes beyond modeling. As the student tries to complete the task, the teacher helps him do it correctly. The Holy Spirit guides us (helps us) follow the instruction in the Bible correctly and guides us in applying the model of Jesus Christ.

Verse 9 of Psalm 32 tells us not to be void of understanding. This understanding comes when we respond appropriately to God's instruction, teaching, and guidance. Verse 10 gives us the result of understanding and following God's guidance.

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.