



I Am Guided

*Show me your ways, LORD, teach me
your paths. Guide me in your truth and
teach me, for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.*

PSALM 25:4-5

When I first moved to Texas, I made friends with a girl who didn't know Jesus. She not only didn't know Him but was suspicious of talking about God and doing anything that might make her consider the possibility that He was real. When we first started hanging out, I would feel like I was always supposed to say something to her about God, and I would feel guilty if I didn't get around to it or if the conversation didn't go that way. In the earliest days of our relationship, I felt like it was my responsibility to guide her to God, and I loaded all of the pressure onto myself. It would take a long time, but eventually I would figure out that it was not my job to guide her to Jesus. Instead of feeling like her relationship with Jesus was my responsibility, I gave up that hope and began to simply pray for her and enjoy her for who she was in my life—a good friend.

Wait—what? Give up? Why would you choose to do that?

What I mean is that the best thing to do is *give up your desire to have things your own way*. Tell God, “I’m giving up controlling everything myself. I’m trusting You to show me what to do.” When you pray this prayer and allow God to take control of your life and your friendships, you can focus on being a good example of God’s love with your smile, your words, and your attitude.

When I stopped trying to always win her to Jesus, I began to really hear some of her real struggles in life, and my heart became more broken for the difficult things she was going through. I began to pray for her more, and soon I realized that God had surrounded her with several friends who seemed handpicked for her. They all knew Jesus, and they were all praying for her just like I was. Right before I left Texas I found out she was attending church, and I just knew it would only be a matter of time before Jesus won her heart.

Sometimes the best thing you can do for an unbelieving friend is to simply be their friend. And then pray for them. Sometimes you might even need to admit that Christians aren’t perfect, that they don’t have all the answers. You can tell your friend, “I’m not really sure what to do here, but I know God is going to help me. Would you want to pray together? Or do you mind if I pray about it on my own?” Don’t worry what she thinks about you—just focus on following God’s guidance as you practice loving her.

Dear God,

It can be hard to be know what to do or say as a Christian. And sometimes I struggle with feeling like I'm supposed to be perfect or to always do or say the right thing. But You are the only one who is perfect. I make lots of mistakes! When I'm feeling pressure to be perfect, please help me to give up and allow You to guide me. Make me a girl of prayer who trusts You to tell me just what You want me to do right when You want me to do it.

In Jesus's name—amen.