

**THE GUIDED LIFE: OR, LIFE
LIVED
UNDER THE GUIDANCE
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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The Guided Life: Or, Life Lived Under the Guidance of the Holy Spirit by George Body

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GEORGE BODY

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UNDER THE GUIDANCE
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The Guided Life.



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The Guided Life;

OR,

LIFE LIVED UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT.

BY THE REV.

GEORGE BODY, D.D.,

CANON MISSIONER OF THE DIOCESE OF DURHAM, CHAPLAIN TO THE BISHOP
OF ST. ANDREW'S, AND WARDEN OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE EPIPHANY.

THIRD EDITION.

London :

SKEFFINGTON & SON, PICCADILLY.

—
1894.

PREFACE.

THE following Meditations were given in substance some years since, as a Lenten Course of Instructions, at the Church of St. Mary Abbott, Kensington. Notes of these Instructions were taken at the time of their delivery by a friend of mine, who embodied them in the form in which they now appear. In this form they have been rather widely privately circulated, and, I am told, have been found helpful by many. The knowledge of this has led me to yield to the request to publish them. But I have thought it best to do so in the form in which they have appeared hitherto. So, although I have revised these Meditations before now publishing them, they are as they appear the composition of my friend.

My great desire is that these Meditations may be helpful in leading some to see how truly our Living Lord is the Director of His people, and to give themselves up to His immediate guidance. I know full well the value of spiritual direction by a true Pastor. But I am as certain that much

pastoral direction to-day is immoral and dangerous. No director can be the mind or will or conscience of another without bringing the directed under a tyranny which is as immoral as it is degrading. Nothing can set each Christian free from personal responsibility for his conduct. All moral decisions must be the act of the individual: they cannot be rightly made for him by any other, be he Priest or Layman. A true spiritual direction is educative. It leads the directed to follow the guidance of the Living Lord by a free and personal conformity with His known Will; it guides to true liberty. But not unfrequently direction, as used to-day, guides to a servile and unintelligent obedience to a fallible director (frequently one whose fallibility is very apparent), in which the surrender of mind and will and conscience is demanded and yielded. From such a tyranny may all God's children be set free, to find in the ever-present ministry of the Living Lord, by His in-dwelling Spirit, that true Direction which is at once wise and free.

GEORGE BODY.

The College, Durham,

July 26th, 1893.

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