

# Hearing from the Holy Spirit

## **Purpose:**

This study aims to provide believers with a deeper understanding of how to hear from the Holy Spirit. It will cover the prerequisites for hearing from God, scriptural foundations, discerning God's voice from our thoughts, and practical steps to nurture this relationship.

Prerequisites for Hearing from God _____	2
The Promise of the Holy Spirit _____	5
Continuing in Faith and Growth _____	8
Discerning God's Voice from Your Thoughts _____	11
Bonus Scripture _____	15
Knowing God's Voice _____	16
Sensitivity to the Spirit's Guidance _____	19
The Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit _____	22
The Spirit of Truth _____	23
Praying in the Spirit _____	25
Testing the Spirits/Discernment _____	27
The Fruit of the Spirit as Evidence _____	39
Walking in Step with the Spirit _____	42
Avoiding Grieving the Holy Spirit _____	44
God's Will _____	46
Understanding the Seven Spirits of God _____	48
The Word (Jesus), the Word (Scripture), and the Holy Spirit: How They Work Together__	51

## Prerequisites for Hearing from God

Before you can hear from God, you must belong to Him.

### A. Admit Your Need for Salvation

- **Romans 3:23 (AMP):** "Since all have sinned and continually fall short of the glory of God."
  - **Context & Notes:** All humanity is under the curse of sin. Recognizing our sinful nature is the first step toward receiving God's grace.
- **Romans 6:23 (AMP):** "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God [that is, His remarkable, overwhelming gift of grace to believers] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
  - **Context & Notes:** Sin leads to spiritual death, but God offers eternal life through Jesus Christ. Acceptance of this gift is essential to belonging to God.
- **Acts 3:19 (AMP):** "So repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins] and return [to God—seek His purpose for your life], so that your sins may be wiped away [blotted out, completely erased], so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord [restoring you like a cool wind on a hot day]."
  - **Context & Notes:** Repentance is a turning away from sin and a turning toward God, leading to spiritual renewal and the ability to hear from Him.
- **1 John 1:9 (AMP):** "If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us continually from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose]."
  - **Context & Notes:** Confession of sin is vital for maintaining fellowship with God, allowing us to hear from Him clearly.

### B. Believe in Jesus Christ

- **John 3:16 (AMP):** "For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life."
  - **Context & Notes:** Faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of our relationship with God and the prerequisite for receiving the Holy Spirit.
- **John 14:6 (AMP):** "Jesus said to him, 'I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'"
  - **Context & Notes:** Jesus is the exclusive path to God. Belief in Him is necessary to access the Father and hear from the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 4:12 (AMP):** "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among people by which we must be saved [for God has provided the world no alternative for salvation]."

- **Context & Notes:** Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ. Acceptance of this truth is critical for hearing from God.
- **Romans 5:8 (AMP):** "But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
  - **Context & Notes:** God's love is demonstrated through Christ's sacrifice, making a way for us to be reconciled with God and hear from Him.
- **Ephesians 2:8-9 (AMP):** "For it is by grace [God's remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God; not as a result of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast or take credit in any way [for his salvation]."
- **Context & Notes:** Salvation is a gift from God, received through faith. This faith opens the door to hearing from the Holy Spirit.
- **John 1:11-13 (AMP):** "He came to that which was His own [that which belonged to Him—His world, His creation, His possession], and those who were His own [people—the Jewish nation] did not receive and welcome Him. But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, that is, to those who believe in [adhere to, trust in, and rely on] His name—who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical impulse], nor of the will of man [that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified]."
- **Context & Notes:** Belief in Christ grants us the right to become children of God, which is essential for receiving the Holy Spirit and hearing from God.

### C. Confess Jesus as Lord

- **Romans 10:9-10, 13 (AMP):** "Because if you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God], and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes [in Christ as Savior] resulting in his justification [that is, being made righteous—being freed of the guilt of sin and made acceptable to God]; and with the mouth he acknowledges and confesses [his faith openly], resulting in and confirming [his] salvation. ... For 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord [in prayer] will be saved.'"
- **Context & Notes:** Confession of Jesus as Lord is a public declaration of faith, solidifying our relationship with God and enabling us to hear from the Holy Spirit.

**Outcome:** By receiving Jesus Christ, you are born again, have eternal life, and receive the Holy Spirit.

- **1 John 5:11-12 (AMP):** "And the testimony is this: God has given us eternal life [we already possess it], and this life is in His Son [resulting in our spiritual completeness and eternal companionship with Him]. He who has the Son [by accepting Him as Lord and Savior] has the life [that is, eternal life]; he who does not have the Son of God [by personal faith] does not have the life."

- **Context & Notes:** Eternal life and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit are inseparable from faith in Christ.



## The Promise of the Holy Spirit

**John 14:26 (AMP):** "But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you."

- Context: Jesus promises the Holy Spirit as a Helper and Teacher for all believers. This lists the different roles of the Holy Spirit, emphasizing that He will teach and remind us of the truths Jesus spoke. To hear from the Holy Spirit, it's essential to be in a position of learning, as He constantly leads and instructs according to God's Word.

**John 14:16-17 (NLT)** "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you."

- Context: This promise was given by Jesus to His disciples during His farewell discourse before His crucifixion. Jesus knew He would soon leave them physically, but He promised the coming of the Holy Spirit, referred to here as the "Advocate" (or Helper, Comforter, Counselor). The Holy Spirit would dwell in believers, guiding them into all truth and providing continuous presence, which would replace Jesus' physical absence.

**Acts 1:8 (NLT):** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- Context: After Jesus' resurrection, He spent 40 days with His disciples, preparing them for their mission to spread the Gospel. Before His ascension into heaven, He promised that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses. This verse connects the coming of the Holy Spirit with empowerment for the mission of spreading the Gospel to the world.

**Joel 2:28-29 (NLT):** "Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike."

- Context: This is a prophetic promise given by the prophet Joel, foretelling the future outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all people, regardless of age, gender, or status. This prophecy was fulfilled in the New Testament, specifically in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the early believers. It indicates the universal availability of the Holy Spirit to all who believe in Christ.

**John 16:7 (NLT):** "But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you."

- Context: Jesus is preparing His disciples for His departure. He explains that His leaving is actually beneficial for them because only then will the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) come to them. The Holy

Spirit's role is to guide, teach, and comfort believers. This highlights the transition from Jesus' physical presence on earth to the indwelling of the Spirit in each believer.

**Acts 2:38 (NLT):** "Peter replied, 'Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

- Context: This promise was declared by Peter during his sermon on the Day of Pentecost. After the Holy Spirit had come upon the apostles, they began speaking in different tongues, and Peter preached to the crowd about the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. He urged them to repent, be baptized, and receive forgiveness, with the accompanying promise of the Holy Spirit. This verse shows that receiving the Holy Spirit is connected to repentance and faith in Christ.

**Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NLT):** "And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."

- Context: This is a prophetic promise given by God through the prophet Ezekiel to the people of Israel, who were in exile because of their disobedience. God promises to restore them, not only physically to their land but also spiritually by placing His Spirit within them to guide them in obedience. This foreshadows the new covenant, where the Holy Spirit would be given to all believers to transform their hearts and enable them to follow God's ways.

**Romans 8:9 (NLT):** "But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)"

- Context: Paul, writing to the believers in Rome, emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is what distinguishes believers from non-believers. The indwelling Spirit empowers believers to live a life that pleases God, free from the control of the sinful nature. This verse underscores the importance of the Holy Spirit's presence in the life of every true follower of Christ.

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT):** "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"

- Context: In this letter, Paul contrasts the works of the flesh (our sinful nature) with the fruit of the Spirit. He explains that when the Holy Spirit dwells in a believer, it produces godly character traits in them. This passage shows the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, making His presence in the believer evident by the way they live.

**Titus 3:5-6 (NLT):** "He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior."

- Context: Paul writes to Titus about God's grace and mercy in salvation, which is not based on our works but solely on His mercy. This salvation includes a spiritual renewal brought about by the

Holy Spirit, who gives new life to believers. The generous pouring out of the Holy Spirit signifies a complete transformation that comes through Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NLT):** "It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us."

- Context: Paul encourages the believers in Corinth by reminding them that God has established and commissioned them, and the Holy Spirit is a "guarantee" or "seal" of their future inheritance in Christ. The presence of the Holy Spirit in believers' hearts serves as both a sign of ownership by God and a foretaste of the eternal life to come. This emphasizes the security and assurance provided by the Holy Spirit.

## Continuing in Faith and Growth

### Walk in Christ

- **Colossians 2:6-7 (AMP):** "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in [union with] Him [reflecting His character in the things you do and say—living lives that lead others away from sin], having been deeply rooted [in Him] and now being continually built up in Him and [becoming increasingly more] established in your faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in it with gratitude."
  - **Context & Notes:** Continuation in Christ is vital for hearing from the Holy Spirit. As we are rooted in Him, our spiritual senses are sharpened.

**Galatians 3:3 (NLT):** "How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?"

- **Context:** Paul is addressing the Galatians, who began their Christian journey by the power of the Holy Spirit but were being misled into thinking they could reach spiritual maturity through their own human efforts by following the law. He reminds them that just as their new life in Christ started by faith and through the Spirit, their continued growth and perfection can only come through the Holy Spirit's work, not by their own strength. This verse highlights the importance of relying on the Holy Spirit for ongoing spiritual growth.

**Colossians 1:9-10 (NLT)** "So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better."

- **Context:** In this letter, Paul prays for the believers in Colossae, asking that they be filled with spiritual wisdom and understanding through the Holy Spirit. He prays that this knowledge will lead them to live lives that are pleasing to God, producing good fruit, and continually growing in their relationship with Him. This shows that spiritual growth comes from a deepening knowledge of God, enabled by the Holy Spirit.

**Philippians 1:6 (NLT)** "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

- **Context:** Paul encourages the believers in Philippi by assuring them that God, who started the good work in them through the Holy Spirit, will be faithful to continue that work until it is completed. This verse emphasizes that our spiritual growth is an ongoing process guided by the Holy Spirit, who leads us toward maturity until the return of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)** "So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."

- Context: Paul contrasts the old covenant, which had a veil over the people's hearts, with the new covenant in Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, believers have the veil removed and can see and reflect God's glory. The Holy Spirit transforms believers, making them more like Christ in an ongoing process of spiritual growth and sanctification. This passage highlights the Spirit's role in transforming believers into the image of Christ as they continue in their faith.

**Romans 8:14 (NLT)** "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

- Context: In Romans 8, Paul teaches about living by the Spirit rather than by the flesh. Being led by the Spirit is a mark of a true child of God. This verse emphasizes that continued growth in faith and spiritual maturity is not achieved through human effort but through living a life led by the Holy Spirit. This guidance leads believers deeper into their identity as God's children, resulting in growth and transformation.

**Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT)** "Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

- Context: Paul is writing about the importance of unity and maturity in the body of Christ (the Church). Growth in Christ is a community effort, and the Holy Spirit works within each member of the body to contribute to the overall maturity and love of the Church. The passage shows that spiritual growth, both individually and corporately, happens as believers speak truth in love and continue to grow under the leadership of Christ, empowered by the Spirit.

**1 Thessalonians 5:19 (NLT)** "Do not stifle the Holy Spirit."

- Context: Paul instructs the Thessalonians on various aspects of Christian living, including how to remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit. He warns them not to "quench" or "stifle" the Spirit, which would hinder their spiritual growth. This verse highlights the importance of allowing the Holy Spirit to have freedom in our lives to continue the work of sanctification and growth in faith.

**Galatians 5:16 (NLT)** "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves."

- Context: In Galatians 5, Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. He encourages believers to walk by the Spirit, which will enable them to overcome the desires of their sinful nature. Continuing in faith and growing spiritually requires surrendering daily to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This passage teaches that the key to spiritual growth and victory over sin is being continually led by the Spirit.

**2 Peter 1:5-8 (NLT)** "In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The

more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- Context: Peter is writing to encourage believers to grow in their faith. He lists several qualities, such as moral excellence, knowledge, and self-control, that should be cultivated as part of their spiritual growth. While believers must make an effort to grow, this growth is enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit. As believers continue in faith, growing in these qualities makes them more effective and productive in their knowledge of Christ.

**Jude 1:20 (NLT)** "But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit."

- Context: Jude writes to encourage believers to persevere in their faith, despite the presence of false teachers and ungodly influences. He instructs them to build each other up in their faith and to pray in the Holy Spirit. This verse emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is central to strengthening one's faith and spiritual growth, both individually and within the community of believers.

Summary:

Spiritual growth and continuing in faith are deeply connected to the work of the Holy Spirit. These scriptures highlight that growth comes not through human effort alone, but through surrendering to the guidance, power, and presence of the Holy Spirit. By being led by the Spirit, believers are transformed, equipped, and matured in their walk with Christ. The process of sanctification continues throughout the believer's life, with the Holy Spirit working to conform them more and more into the image of Christ.



## Discerning God's Voice from Your Thoughts

**1 Kings 19:11-12 (AMP):** "So He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' And behold, the Lord was passing by, and a great and powerful wind was tearing out the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire [there was] the sound of a gentle blowing."

- **Context & Notes:** God's voice can be a still, small voice, gentle and clear, requiring discernment to hear amidst life's noise.

**John 10:27 (NLT)** *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*

- **Context:** In this chapter, Jesus speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep intimately. He contrasts this with strangers or hired hands, who the sheep won't follow. Jesus is saying that those who truly belong to Him will recognize His voice over all others, just as sheep instinctively follow their shepherd. This teaches us that knowing Jesus deeply leads to a clearer discernment of His voice above our own thoughts or external voices.

**1 John 4:1 (NLT)** *"Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world."*

- **Context:** The Apostle John wrote this letter to warn believers about false teachers who were misleading people about the true nature of Christ. He urged them to test every spirit—whether it was aligned with the truth of Christ—so they would not be deceived. This reminds us to compare what we feel or hear with Scripture to discern if it is truly from God or just our own imagination or external influences.

**Romans 12:2 (NLT)** *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."*

- **Context:** Paul writes to the Roman believers, urging them not to be shaped by worldly thinking, but to allow God's Word to renew their minds. When we allow this transformation, we can better discern God's will and hear His voice clearly, rather than being misled by our thoughts shaped by the world.

**Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)** *"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."*

- **Context:** This verse emphasizes the power of God's Word to penetrate our hearts and reveal truth. The Bible can separate our human thoughts and desires from the divine, exposing whether what we are thinking is from God or from ourselves. The Word acts as a guide for discernment in hearing God's voice.

**Isaiah 30:21 (NLT)** *"Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, 'This is the way you should go,' whether to the right or to the left."*

- **Context:** In this chapter, God promises to guide the people of Israel as they return to Him after a period of rebellion. This promise of guidance is given to those who seek to follow God's will. It reassures believers today that when we seek God's voice, He is faithful to give clear direction, distinguishing His leading from our own wandering thoughts.

**James 1:5 (NLT)** *"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."*

- **Context:** James is encouraging believers facing trials and challenges. He instructs them to ask God for wisdom when they are unsure of what to do, promising that God will provide it generously. When we are confused between our thoughts and God's guidance, this verse reminds us to simply ask Him for clarity, and He will provide wisdom that leads to truth.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)** *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."*

- **Context:** This proverb advises complete trust in God's wisdom rather than relying on our limited human understanding. It speaks to how our own thoughts can lead us astray, but when we seek God in every decision, He will make our path clear. It emphasizes trusting His voice over our own reasoning.

**Jeremiah 33:3 (NLT)** *"Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come."*

- **Context:** In this chapter, God speaks to the prophet Jeremiah while the Israelites are in captivity. Despite their situation, God promises to reveal great and unsearchable things. For believers today, this verse is a reminder that God is willing to reveal His plans and guidance if we ask, helping us discern His voice from our own ideas or fears.

**John 16:13 (NLT)** *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future."*

- **Context:** Jesus, in His final moments with the disciples, promises them the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of truth) who will guide them into all truth after His departure. This verse highlights the role of the Holy Spirit in discerning God's voice, teaching that the Spirit speaks what He hears from God. When our thoughts are confusing, we can rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance for clarity and truth.

**Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)** *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."*



- **Context:** Paul writes this letter from prison, encouraging the believers in Philippi to not be anxious but to pray and trust God. When we bring our thoughts and concerns to God, He gives us peace that surpasses understanding, helping us discern His voice from our anxious or restless thoughts. God's peace often acts as a sign of His guidance.

**Jeremiah 29:12 (AMP):** "Then you will call on Me and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear [your voice] and I will listen to you."

- **Context:** This verse is part of a letter from the prophet Jeremiah to the Israelites who had been exiled to Babylon. In the preceding verse, God promises that after 70 years of captivity, He will bring them back to their homeland. **Jeremiah 29:11**, a well-known verse, expresses God's plans for the exiles' future: plans for good, not disaster, and for hope. **Verses 12-14** follow this promise, assuring the Israelites that when they seek God with their whole hearts, He will listen, and they will find Him. God is telling His people that though they are in exile, He has not abandoned them, and He will restore them when the time is right.

## Fleece

The concept of "laying out a fleece" comes from the story of **Gideon** in the Book of Judges, where Gideon sought confirmation from God about His will.

**Judges 6:36-40 (NLT):** In this passage, Gideon, a judge of Israel, was called by God to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites. Gideon, uncertain and needing reassurance that God was truly with him, asked for a sign. He laid out a fleece (a woolen fleece) on the ground and asked God to make the fleece wet with dew while keeping the ground around it dry. God fulfilled this request. The next night, Gideon asked for the reverse—for the fleece to remain dry while the ground was wet. Again, God answered.

### Context & Notes:

- **Gideon's Doubt:** Gideon wasn't initially confident in his calling. He needed multiple confirmations that God was speaking to him, reflecting human insecurity when faced with a daunting task.
- **Fleece as a Sign:** The fleece became a symbol of Gideon asking God for a clear, tangible sign to confirm His will. This story is often referenced when believers seek clear guidance or confirmation from God about something they feel called to do.
- **God's Patience:** Despite Gideon's repeated requests, God answered both times, showing His patience in reassuring Gideon.
- **Caution:** While God granted Gideon's requests, laying out a fleece is not necessarily a recommended practice for modern believers, as we have clearer revelation through Scripture and the Holy Spirit. It can sometimes reflect doubt or a lack of faith, but God was gracious with Gideon.

In discerning God's voice from our thoughts, we are encouraged to renew our minds through Scripture, test what we hear, and rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom and truth. This emphasize the importance of seeking God's will, trusting Him, and recognizing that He is faithful to guide us when we ask for discernment.

## Bonus Scripture

Matthew 11:28 (AMP): "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavily burdened [by religious rituals that provide no peace], and I will give you rest [refreshing your souls with salvation]."

- Context: Jesus is addressing those who are burdened by the heavy weight of religious laws and man-made traditions. He offers rest and peace to all who come to Him in faith, exchanging the burdens of life for the light yoke of His grace and truth. This invitation is for those who are weary and need spiritual renewal.

Psalms 62:1 (AMP): "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation."

- Context: This psalm of David reflects his deep trust and dependence on God as his source of salvation and refuge. In this verse, David declares that his soul finds rest and peace only in God, not in worldly solutions or distractions. The psalm speaks to the security and hope found in waiting patiently for God's deliverance.

Psalms 32:8 (AMP): "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you [who are willing to learn] with My eye upon you."

- Context: In Psalm 32, David reflects on the joy of forgiveness after confession. Here, God speaks, promising guidance and instruction to those who are willing to follow His ways. The verse assures believers that God watches over them and leads them along the path of righteousness, offering wisdom and counsel.

Proverbs 4:11 (AMP): "I have instructed you in the way of [skillful and godly] wisdom; I have led you in upright paths."

- Context: In this passage, Solomon is imparting wisdom to his son, urging him to embrace the teachings that lead to a life of righteousness. Wisdom is portrayed as a guide that ensures one walks on a straight and secure path, avoiding the pitfalls of wickedness and foolishness. The verse underscores the importance of godly wisdom in making right decisions.

Psalms 31:3 (AMP): "Yes, You are my rock and my fortress; for Your name's sake You will lead me and guide me."

- Context: This psalm is a prayer of trust and deliverance by David. He is facing distress and seeks refuge in God, acknowledging God as his steadfast rock and fortress. In this verse, David expresses confidence in God's leadership and protection, believing that God will guide him for the sake of His name and reputation. The imagery of a "rock" and "fortress" emphasizes God's strength and reliability in times of trouble.

Jeremiah 29:12 (AMP): "Then you will call on Me and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear [your voice] and I will listen to you."

- Context: Jeremiah 29 contains a letter from the prophet to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. In the previous verse, God assures them of His plans for their future—plans for hope and prosperity. In verse 12, God promises that when the people call on Him and pray to Him, He will listen. This promise of God hearing their prayers comes with the encouragement to seek Him wholeheartedly, which is followed by His commitment to bring them out of exile and restore them to their land.

1 John 2:27 (AMP): "As for you, the anointing [the special gift, the preparation] which you received from Him remains permanently in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you. But just as His anointing teaches you [giving you insight] about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as His anointing has taught you, you must remain in Him [being rooted in Him, knit to Him]."

- Context: In this passage, the apostle John is addressing believers who are facing false teachings about Christ. He reassures them that the anointing they have received from the Holy Spirit empowers them to discern truth from deception. The "anointing" refers to the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence, which teaches believers all things and leads them into truth. John encourages believers to continue abiding in Christ and rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance, rather than false teachers.



## Knowing God's Voice

- **Relationship:** A close relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is essential. The more we know Him, the more we recognize His voice.
  - **Jeremiah 29:12-13 (AMP):** "Then you will call on Me and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear your voice and I will listen to you. Then [with a deep longing] you will seek Me and require Me [as a vital necessity] and [you will] find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."
    - **Insight:** This scripture emphasizes that a close relationship with God involves actively seeking Him with all our heart. In that deep relationship, we find Him and become attuned to hearing His voice.
  - **John 15:4-5 (AMP):** "Remain in Me, and I [will remain] in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you [bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith] unless you remain in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing."
    - **Insight:** Jesus teaches the importance of remaining closely connected to Him. Through this intimate relationship, we not only bear spiritual fruit but also grow more capable of hearing and understanding His voice.
- **Attentiveness:** Hearing God's voice requires us to be attentive and still. His voice is often gentle, and the noise of life can easily distract us and prevent us from hearing Him.
  - **Psalms 46:10 (AMP):** "Be still and know [recognize, understand] that I am God."
    - **Insight:** In a world full of distractions, creating intentional moments of stillness in God's presence allows us to hear Him more clearly. Quieting the chaos around us helps us tune in to His gentle guidance.
- **Scripture:** God's voice is most clearly revealed through His Word, the Bible. Studying scripture regularly aligns our hearts to hear Him speak, as His written Word is His voice to all believers.
  - **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (AMP):** "All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; so that the man of God may be complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work."
    - **Insight:** The Bible, as the inspired voice of God, offers wisdom, guidance, and instruction. When we engage with scripture consistently, we become more attuned to hearing God's voice, understanding His will, and discerning His plans for our lives.
- **Obedience:** Hearing God's voice is only complete when followed by action. We must respond to what God speaks to us, as obedience is a demonstration of our faith and trust in Him. Hearing alone is insufficient; acting on His Word strengthens our ability to hear Him more clearly over time.

- **James 1:22 (AMP):** "But prove yourselves doers of the word [actively and continually obeying God's precepts], and not merely listeners..."
  - **Insight:** Obedience strengthens our ability to hear Him more clearly over time. James urges believers to not just hear God's Word, but to actively obey it. Listening without action leads to self-deception. Genuine faith is demonstrated through obedience, as it reflects trust in God's instructions
- **Faith and Hearing:** Faith comes through hearing God's Word. Engaging with His Word builds trust and confidence in Him, as faith and hearing are intertwined.
  - **Romans 10:17 (AMP):** "So faith comes from hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the [preaching of the] message concerning Christ."
    - **Context & Notes:** In Romans, Paul explains that faith is developed by hearing the Word of God, specifically the message of Christ. This highlights the importance of regularly engaging with Scripture, as it builds the foundation for both faith and obedience. Faith and hearing from God are closely connected, and Scripture is key to recognizing His voice.
- **Belonging to God and Hearing His Voice:** Those who are in fellowship with God recognize His voice. Struggling to hear Him may indicate a need for deeper connection with Him.
  - **John 8:47 (AMP):** "Whoever is of God and belongs to Him hears [the truth of] God's words; for this reason you do not hear them: because you are not of God and you are not in fellowship with Him."
    - **Context & Notes:** Belonging to God is essential for hearing His voice. If we struggle to hear, it may be a sign to deepen our fellowship with Him.
- **Direct Communication:** God spoke directly to individuals in the Bible. While this was sometimes through an audible voice, He also communicated in more subtle ways.
  - 1 Samuel 3:10 (AMP): "Then the Lord came and stood and called as at the previous times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Then Samuel answered, 'Speak, for Your servant is listening.'"
  - **Insight:** God called out to young Samuel audibly, and Samuel responded, signaling his readiness to listen. This story shows the importance of being spiritually attuned and willing to hear God's voice. A key element of hearing God is having a heart willing to listen and obey.
- **Through the Holy Spirit:** After Jesus' ascension, the Holy Spirit became the primary way God speaks to believers. The Holy Spirit guides, instructs, and reveals truth to those who are sensitive to His leading.
  - John 16:13 (AMP): "But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth]. For He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father—the message regarding the Son], and He will disclose to you what is to come [in the future]."
  - **Insight:** The Holy Spirit speaks on behalf of God, revealing truths and guiding believers into God's will. To hear the voice of God, it is essential to cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit, who communicates God's desires and plans to our hearts.

- **The Still, Small Voice/God's Voice As Guidance:** God's voice is often not loud or dramatic but gentle and subtle, requiring us to quiet our minds and spirit to hear Him. Hearing God's voice gives us guidance and direction in our daily lives, helping us walk in His will.
  - 1 Kings 19:12 (AMP): "After the earthquake, a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire [a sound of] a gentle blowing."
  - Insight: Elijah experienced God not in the powerful forces of nature but in a still, small voice. This shows that God's communication is often quiet and can be easily missed if we are distracted by the noise of life. It requires stillness and attentiveness.
  - Psalm 32:8 (AMP): "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you [who are willing to learn] with My eye upon you."
  - Insight: God's voice is often experienced as gentle guidance, showing us the path we should take. Being open to His instruction helps us avoid missteps and align with His purposes.
- **Through Prayer and Meditation:** God speaks to believers during times of prayer and meditation, as they focus on Him and wait for His response.
  - Jeremiah 33:3 (AMP): "Call to Me and I will answer you, and tell you [and even show you] great and mighty things, things which have been confined and hidden, which you do not know and understand and cannot distinguish."
  - Insight: God invites us to call on Him in prayer, promising to answer and reveal things beyond our understanding. Listening in prayer is just as important as speaking, allowing space for God to speak to our hearts.
- **Through Jesus, the Good Shepherd:** Jesus presents Himself as the Shepherd, whose sheep (followers) recognize and respond to His voice.
  - **John 10:2-4 (AMP):** "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep [the protector and provider]. The doorkeeper opens [the gate] for this man, and the sheep hear his voice and pay attention to it. And knowing that they listen, he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out [to pasture]. When he has brought all his own sheep outside, he walks on ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice and recognize his call."
  - **John 10:27 (AMP):** "The sheep that are My own hear My voice and listen to Me; I know them, and they follow Me."
  - Insight: This scripture shows that an intimate relationship with Jesus is key to hearing His voice. His followers are familiar with His voice, which allows them to distinguish it from other voices and follow His lead. Trusting in Jesus deepens our ability to hear and recognize when He speaks to us.

## Sensitivity to the Spirit's Guidance

**Led By The Spirit:** believers should allow themselves to be led by the Holy Spirit

- **Romans 8:14 (AMP):** "For all who are allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."
- **Context:** The need for "allowing" this guidance, meaning that it is an act of willful submission to God's direction. Being led by the Holy Spirit requires tuning into His voice and discerning His prompting in everyday situations.

**Spending Time in Prayer:** Regular time in prayer builds awareness of the Spirit's presence and helps tune your spiritual "ears" to His voice.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (AMP):** "Be unceasing and persistent in prayer."
  - **Context:** This encourages believers to have an ongoing conversation with God, which helps to stay attuned to His Spirit's guidance.
- **Psalms 46:10 (AMP):** "Be still and know (recognize, understand) that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth."
  - **Context:** This verse calls believers to stillness, a state of inner quietness where God's voice can be recognized. Hearing the Holy Spirit requires moments of stillness, where distractions are set aside, and the heart is open to receiving His voice.

**Walking in Obedience:** Obedience in small things prepares us to hear the Spirit in bigger areas of life. The more we obey, the more attuned we become.

- **Galatians 5:16 (AMP):** "But I say, walk habitually in the Holy Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature."
  - **Context:** When we regularly "walk by the Spirit," we become more sensitive to His leading and less drawn by distractions or fleshly desires.
- **Galatians 5:25 (AMP):** "If we claim to live by the [Holy] Spirit, we must also walk by the Spirit [with personal integrity, godly character, and moral courage—our conduct empowered by the Holy Spirit]."
  - **Context:** Paul teaches that if we live by the Spirit, we must also "walk" by the Spirit, meaning our daily lives should be aligned with the Holy Spirit's leading. Terms like "personal integrity" and "godly character," showing that hearing from the Holy Spirit requires a lifestyle of obedience. We must make a conscious decision to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit, no matter how small. You must reflect on how your daily life aligns with the Spirit's leading, making adjustments where necessary.

**Developing a Heart of Humility:** Sensitivity to the Spirit requires humility, acknowledging our need for His guidance and wisdom.

- **Isaiah 66:2 (AMP):** "For My hand made all these things, and so all these things came into being [by and for Me], declares the Lord. But to this one I will look [graciously], to him who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who [reverently] trembles at My word and honors My commands."
- **Context:** Humility opens the heart to receive direction from the Holy Spirit, as God honors those who are humble and attentive to His Word.

**Regularly Meditating on God's Word:** The Word of God works in tandem with the Holy Spirit. The more we meditate on scripture, the clearer His guidance becomes.

- **Psalms 119:105 (AMP):** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- **Context:** The Word of God illuminates our way and helps us discern the direction the Holy Spirit is leading us.

**Cultivating a Spirit of Discernment:** Pray for discernment to differentiate between your own thoughts, external influences, and the Holy Spirit's voice.

- **1 John 4:1 (AMP):** "Beloved, do not believe every spirit [speaking through a self-proclaimed prophet]; instead test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets and teachers have gone out into the world."
- **Context:** Sensitivity to the Spirit includes the ability to test and discern what is truly from God versus what is not.

**Yielding to the Holy Spirit:** Be willing to yield when the Holy Spirit guides you in a different direction. Trust that the Holy Spirit's guidance, even when it redirects you, is for a greater purpose.

- **Acts 16:6-7 (AMP):** "They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in [the west coast province of] Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them."
- **Context:** In this passage, Paul and his companions experienced direct guidance from the Holy Spirit, who prevented them from traveling to certain places. This emphasizes the yielding nature of their response—they did not resist but allowed the Spirit to direct their mission. This example shows that hearing from the Holy Spirit sometimes involves being redirected or stopped from certain actions.

**Waiting On The Lord:** means actively trusting in God's timing, guidance, and provision with an attitude of faith and expectation. It involves seeking His presence, listening for His direction, and being still during uncertain times or while waiting for answers. Waiting on the Holy Spirit is not a passive act—it requires faith, prayer, and reliance on God's promises. It takes courage, patience, and a peaceful stillness, combined with a confident hope that God will come through at the right time.

- **Isaiah 40:31 (AMP):** "But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] will gain new strength and renew their power; they will lift up their wings [and rise up close to God] like



eagles [rising toward the sun]; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not grow tired."

- **Context:** In this passage, Isaiah addresses the weary and those who feel powerless. He assures them that those who wait on the Lord—trusting in Him with expectant hope—will experience renewal and divine strength. The imagery of soaring like eagles signifies freedom and strength that comes from depending on God. Waiting on the Holy Spirit here implies actively placing your hope in God's power, knowing He will sustain you.
- **Psalm 27:14 (AMP):** "Wait for and confidently expect the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for and confidently expect the Lord."
  - **Context:** David encourages believers to be patient and courageous while waiting on God. Waiting on the Lord here requires bravery because it often involves trusting God through difficult or uncertain times. By confidently expecting God's deliverance, we demonstrate faith that He will come through. This waiting involves being strengthened in faith and not losing heart while anticipating His guidance or answers.
- **Lamentations 3:25 (AMP):** "The Lord is good to those who wait [confidently] for Him, to those who seek Him [on the authority of God's word]."
  - **Context:** Jeremiah wrote Lamentations in a time of great sorrow and suffering. In this verse, he affirms that God is good to those who patiently wait and actively seek Him. Waiting on the Holy Spirit means searching for God's will and presence in difficult seasons, trusting that His goodness will be revealed in His perfect timing. Those who patiently seek God in faith will experience His faithfulness.
- **Psalm 37:7 (AMP):** "Be still before the Lord; wait patiently for Him and entrust yourself to Him; do not fret [whine, agonize] because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes."
  - **Context:** David contrasts the peace of waiting on God with the temptation to worry about the success of the wicked. Being still and waiting patiently for the Lord involves trusting in God's justice and timing, rather than getting caught up in the apparent prosperity of those who do wrong. Waiting on the Holy Spirit here calls for a calm and trusting posture, knowing that God's plan will prevail over evil.
- **Micah 7:7 (AMP):** "But as for me, I will look expectantly for the Lord and with confidence in Him I will keep watch; I will wait [with confident expectation] for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me."
  - **Context:** In the midst of moral corruption and societal decline, Micah expresses his unwavering hope in God's salvation. He chooses to wait confidently for God's intervention, trusting that God will hear and deliver him. Waiting on the Holy Spirit, in this sense, means confidently expecting God's help, even when everything around you seems bleak. It is a faith-filled stance that God will respond to those who seek Him.

## The Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit

**Romans 8:16 (AMP):** "The Spirit Himself testifies and confirms together with our spirit [assuring us] that we [believers] are children of God."

- **Context:** The Holy Spirit bears witness to our identity as children of God. This highlights that the Spirit "testifies and confirms," showing that the Holy Spirit communicates by giving us inner assurance of God's truths. Often, hearing from the Holy Spirit begins with this inner witness—a sense of peace, conviction, or confirmation deep within.

### **Application:**

- Pay attention to the inner peace or unrest you feel, as the Holy Spirit often speaks through these emotions to guide you.
- Trust that the Spirit's testimony will align with God's truth, confirming your path as a child of God.
- IF YOU HAVE TO ALTER GOD'S WORD YOU ARE IN DANGER. IF YOU HAVE TO QUESTION THE CLEAR TEACHING OF SCRIPTURES TO MAKE YOUR OPINIONS HEARD OR BEND CLEAR FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS TO MAKE YOURSELF MORE COMFORTABLE IN YOUR OPINION, THEN IT'S NOT GOD YOU TRUST BUT YOURSELF

## The Spirit of Truth

The "Spirit of Truth" in the Bible refers to the Holy Spirit, who is described as the one who guides believers into all truth. This concept appears primarily in the New Testament, particularly in the Gospel of John.

**John 16:13 (AMP):** "But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth]. For He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father—the message regarding the Son], and He will disclose to you what is to come [in the future]."

- **Context:** Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as the "Spirit of Truth," guides believers into full understanding. The Holy Spirit does not speak independently but communicates what He hears from the Father and IS ALWAYS aligned with the will/message of God.

**John 14:16-17 (AMP) –** *"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive [and take to its heart] because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He (the Holy Spirit) remains with you continually and will be in you."*

- **Context:** Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to His disciples before His departure, calling Him the Spirit of Truth who will remain with believers.

**John 15:26 (AMP) –** *"But when the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of Truth who comes from the Father, He will testify and bear witness about Me."*

- **Context:** The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to Jesus and His works.

### Application:

- The term "Helper" in This translates from the Greek word "Parakletos," which means one who comes alongside to assist, comfort, advocate, and guide. The term "Spirit of Truth" does not appear in OT, but in Isa 11:2 the Spirit is resting upon the Lord, some believe these are the 7 spirits of the Lord and is a foreshadowing of the Holy Spirit.
- The Spirit of Truth does not speak on His own but only communicates what He hears from God the Father, ensuring that believers are led in accordance with God's will.
- Cultivate a habit of seeking the truth of God in Scripture and prayer. The Holy Spirit always confirms God's Word.
- Be mindful that the Holy Spirit will lead you into God's plan for your life and not into confusion or contradiction.
- **Guides into All Truth:** The Spirit of Truth reveals and clarifies God's truth to believers, helping them to understand the teachings of Jesus.
- **Convicts the World:** The Holy Spirit convicts people concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).

- **Bears Witness to Christ:** He testifies about Jesus and glorifies Him by revealing more about who He is and what He has done.

## Praying in the Spirit

Praying in the Spirit is a phrase used in the Bible that refers to praying under the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It is considered a deeper form of prayer where a believer allows the Holy Spirit to inspire and direct their prayers. This can occur in various forms, including praying in tongues or simply being led by the Holy Spirit in their native language.

**Ephesians 6:18 (AMP):** "With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding] in prayer for all God's people."

- **Context:** Paul encourages believers to pray "in the Spirit" on all occasions. This emphasizes praying with specific requests, while also remaining alert and persistent. Praying in the Spirit is a way to align your prayers with God's will, and as you do this, you can be more attuned to hearing from the Holy Spirit.

**Jude 1:20 (AMP)** – *"But you, beloved, build yourselves up on [the foundation of] your most holy faith [continually progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], pray in the Holy Spirit."*

- **Context:** Jude encourages believers to pray in the Holy Spirit as a way of building themselves up in their faith, helping them stay strong and growing spiritually.

**Romans 8:26-27 (AMP)** – *"In the same way the Spirit [comes to us and] helps us in our weakness. We do not know what prayer to offer or how to offer it as we should, but the Spirit Himself [knows our need and at the right time] intercedes on our behalf with sighs and groanings too deep for words. And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes [before God] on behalf of God's people in accordance with God's will."*

- **Context:** This passage describes how the Holy Spirit helps believers when they don't know what to pray. The Spirit intercedes with "groanings" and prays according to God's will, suggesting a supernatural aspect to prayer.

## Understanding Praying in the Spirit:

- **Led by the Holy Spirit:** Praying in the Spirit means praying with the guidance, power, and influence of the Holy Spirit. It involves being sensitive to His prompting, whether in the form of words, direction, or even silence, allowing Him to direct the flow of your prayer life.
- **Praying in Tongues:** In some traditions, praying in the Spirit is closely associated with the gift of speaking in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14-15). When believers pray in tongues, they are often described as bypassing the limitations of the mind and speaking mysteries directly to God, as the Holy Spirit gives utterance.
  - **1 Corinthians 14:14-15 (AMP)** – *"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unproductive [because it does not understand what my spirit is praying]. Then what am I to do? I will pray with the spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], and I will pray with the*



*mind [using words I understand]; I will sing with the spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], and I will sing with the mind [using words I understand]."*

- **Praying According to God's Will:** Romans 8:26-27 emphasizes that the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf in accordance with God's will. Praying in the Spirit aligns our prayers with God's purposes, ensuring that we pray not just from our limited perspective, but from His.
- **Praying with Power and Effectiveness:** Praying in the Spirit is not just about the form of prayer (such as tongues or specific words) but about its effectiveness and power.

### Ways to Pray in the Spirit:

- **Praying in Tongues:** This is the most common understanding of praying in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives believers a supernatural language to speak directly to God (1 Corinthians 14:2).
- **Praying with Deep Groanings:** Sometimes, praying in the Spirit involves deep, unspoken emotions or groans, which the Holy Spirit interprets before God, as seen in Romans 8:26.
- **Praying with the Guidance of the Spirit:** Even when praying in one's native language, believers can pray in the Spirit by asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance and allowing Him to shape their prayers according to God's will.

### Application:

- Make time to pray in the Spirit (both with your understanding and spiritually).
- Expect that as you pray, the Holy Spirit will reveal things to your heart and guide your prayers.

## Testing the Spirits/Discernment

Testing the spirits and discerning whether you are being guided by the Holy Spirit in your personal relationship with God or even with others, especially in the body. We need to be spiritually aware we are not being led astray. Scripture provides clear guidelines on how to test the spirits and recognize the Holy Spirit's leading. However, in my experience people still tend to struggle with knowing who is or who isn't or use phrases like 'my Holy Spirit' told me.

### Command

The Bible instructs believers to "test the spirits" to determine whether they are from God.

**1 John 4:1 (AMP):** "Beloved, do not believe every spirit [speaking through a self-proclaimed prophet]; instead test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets and teachers have gone out into the world."

- **Context:** John warns believers that not all spiritual influences or messages are from God. Some are deceptive and come from false prophets or evil spirits, so we must be discerning, ensuring that any spiritual impression aligns with the truth of God's Word. This is why you **MUST** know the Word. If someone tells you their spirit is telling, leading, guiding etc and it does not align with the Word, this is very dangerous spiritually.

### The Spirit Must Acknowledge Jesus Christ

One of the first tests is whether the spirit acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. The Holy Spirit will always point to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

- **1 John 4:2-3 (AMP)** – *"By this you know and recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges and confesses [the fact] that Jesus Christ has [actually] come in the flesh is from God [God is its source]; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus [acknowledging that He has come in the flesh, but would deny any of the Son's true nature] is not of God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and is now already in the world."*
  - **Context:** If the guidance you are receiving denies or diminishes the truth of Jesus Christ, His divinity, or His work on the cross, it is not from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit always glorifies Christ (John 16:13-14).

### 3. Align with the Word of God

- The Holy Spirit will never contradict the Bible, as He is the Spirit of Truth (John 16:13). Any guidance or message that contradicts Scripture is not from God.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (AMP)** – *"All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving*

*honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; so that the man of God may be complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

- **Test:** Compare any spiritual guidance to the written Word of God. The Holy Spirit will lead you in ways that are consistent with the Bible. For example, if a spirit tells you something that encourages sin, selfishness, or rebellion against God's commands, that guidance is not from the Holy Spirit.

## 4. The Fruit of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit produces fruit in the lives of believers. If you are being guided by the Holy Spirit, your actions, thoughts, and attitudes will align with these qualities:

- **Galatians 5:22-23 (AMP)** – *"But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law."*
  - **Context:** If the spirit leading you is producing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc.—you can have confidence that this is the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, if the guidance results in confusion, bitterness, jealousy, or any works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), it is not from the Holy Spirit.

## 5. Confirmation Through Peace

The Holy Spirit often leads believers through an inner sense of peace, even in difficult circumstances. If a decision or action aligns with God's will, the Holy Spirit will bring peace into your heart.

- **Philippians 4:6-7 (AMP)** – *"Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours]."*
  - **Test:** When you are making decisions or discerning the guidance of a spirit, pray and seek God's peace. If the Holy Spirit is leading you, you will often experience peace in your heart. If you feel persistent anxiety or unease, it may be a sign that the guidance is not from the Holy Spirit.

## 6. Consult Wise Counsel and Community

The Holy Spirit works within the body of Christ. Seeking the counsel of spiritually mature believers can help confirm whether you are being guided by the Holy Spirit. You must take it to God first. I am not saying suggesting here, because that would be wrong of me to recommend such things. I understand you may be curious if you are in a bible study and you have questions. I still say take it to God before others.



- **Proverbs 11:14 (AMP)** – *"Where there is no [wise, intelligent] guidance, the people fall [and go off course like a ship without a helm], but in the abundance of [wise and godly] counselors there is victory."*
  - **Context:** Wise and godly counsel will often confirm the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If spiritually mature believers express concern or sense that something is off, it is worth re-evaluating the direction or spirit you are testing.

## 7. The Holy Spirit Glorifies Jesus

The Holy Spirit will always point you toward Jesus, glorify Him, and remind you of His teachings.

- **John 16:13-14 (AMP)** – *"But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth]. For He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father—the message regarding the Son], and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify and honor Me, because He (the Holy Spirit) will take from what is Mine and will disclose it to you."*
  - **Test:** The Holy Spirit will never lead you in ways that diminish or contradict the glory of Christ. If the guidance you are receiving does not bring honor to Jesus or denies His central role in your life, it is not from the Holy Spirit.

## 8. Pray for Discernment

God desires for believers to walk in truth and offers discernment through the Holy Spirit. Asking God for wisdom and discernment is key in determining whether the guidance is from Him.

- **James 1:5 (AMP)** – *"If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him."*
  - **Context:** In prayer, ask God for wisdom to discern whether a spirit is from Him. He will generously give wisdom to those who seek it in faith.

## What Is Discernment?

**Discernment** is the ability to judge well, especially in spiritual matters, to perceive or recognize the truth from falsehood. In the Bible, discernment is essential for understanding God's will, distinguishing between right and wrong, and recognizing spiritual influences.

## Discernment in the Old Testament:

In the Old Testament, discernment is often tied to wisdom and understanding, gifts that come from God. The Hebrew word used for discernment is **בִּין** (*bin*), which means to understand, perceive, or distinguish.

### Key Hebrew Meanings:

- **בִּין (bin):** To separate mentally, to understand or distinguish.
- **Strong's Concordance (995):** Refers to perceiving or comprehending the nature of something.

### Old Testament Verses on Discernment:

- **1 Kings 3:9 (AMP)** – *"So give Your servant an understanding mind and a hearing heart [with which] to judge Your people, so that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge and rule this great people of Yours?"*
  - **Context:** Solomon asks God for discernment to judge the people rightly, distinguishing between good and evil.
  - **Hebrew word:** *bin* (995) – understanding or discernment between right and wrong.
- **Proverbs 2:3-5 (AMP)** – *"Yes, if you cry out for insight, and lift up your voice for understanding; If you seek skillful and godly wisdom as you would silver and search for her as you would hidden treasures; Then you will understand the [reverent] fear of the Lord [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome], and discover the knowledge of God."*
  - **Context:** Discernment is sought after like treasure, and it is closely linked to the fear of the Lord and wisdom.
  - **Hebrew word:** *bin* (995) – understanding, discernment, insight.
- **Psalms 119:125 (AMP)** – *"I am Your servant; give me understanding [the ability to learn and a teachable heart] that I may know Your testimonies."*
  - **Context:** The psalmist seeks discernment from God to understand His word.
  - **Hebrew word:** *bin* (995) – understanding or discernment.

In the New Testament, discernment is more explicitly connected with distinguishing between spirits, doctrines, and truth. The Greek word used is **διάκρισις (diakrisis)**, which means to distinguish, judge, or decide.

### Key Greek Meanings:

- **διάκρισις (diakrisis):** To judge through, to distinguish, or to separate mentally.
- **Strong's Concordance (1253):** Refers to discerning or distinguishing between things, particularly spirits or teachings.

### New Testament Verses on Discernment:

- **1 Corinthians 12:10 (AMP)** – *"And to another [the ability to distinguish] between [the true] spirits and [false ones], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, and to another the ability to interpret tongues."*
  - **Context:** Discernment of spirits is listed as one of the spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit.
  - **Greek word:** *diakrisis* (1253) – distinguishing, discerning between spirits.



- **Hebrews 5:14 (AMP)** – *"But solid food is for the spiritually mature, whose senses are trained by practice to distinguish between what is morally good and what is evil."*
  - **Context:** Discernment is a mark of spiritual maturity, developed through practice and application of God's Word.
  - **Greek word:** *diakrisis* (1253) – discerning or distinguishing.
- **Philippians 1:9-10 (AMP)** – *"And this I pray, that your love may abound more and more [displaying itself] in greater depth in real knowledge and in practical insight, so that you may learn to recognize and treasure what is excellent [identifying the best, and distinguishing moral differences], and that you may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ [actually living lives that lead others away from sin]."*
  - **Context:** Paul prays for discernment in love and moral choices, so believers can identify what is best.
  - **Greek word:** *aisthesis* (144) – perception, discernment.

## Tips for Discerning:

- **Know the Word of God:** The more familiar you are with Scripture, the better you'll be able to discern truth from falsehood. The Holy Spirit uses the Word to give clarity.
  - **Hebrews 4:12 (AMP)** – *"For the word of God is living and active and full of power [...]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [...], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart."*
- **Pray for Wisdom and Discernment:** God invites believers to ask for wisdom, and He will generously give it to those who ask in faith.
  - **James 1:5 (AMP)** – *"If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him."*
- **Develop Spiritual Maturity:** Spiritual maturity comes with consistent application of God's Word and experience in following the Holy Spirit's leading.
  - **Hebrews 5:14 (AMP)** – *"But solid food is for the mature, whose senses are trained by practice to distinguish between good and evil."*
  - **Tip:** The more you practice discerning based on God's Word, the more spiritually mature you become.
- **Follow the Holy Spirit's Guidance:** The Holy Spirit provides discernment to believers, revealing truth and helping them understand God's will.
  - **John 16:13 (AMP)** – *"But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth]; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father], and He will disclose to you what is to come."*
- **Test the Spirits:** Scripture instructs believers to test all spiritual influences to see whether they align with God's truth.
  - **1 John 4:1 (AMP)** – *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit [speaking through a self-proclaimed prophet]; instead test the spirits to see whether they are from God."*

- **Tip:** Check whether spiritual messages align with the truth of Scripture and bring glory to Christ.

## Difference Between Judging and Discernment

In the Bible, **judgment** and **discernment** are two distinct but closely related concepts. **Discernment** involves perceiving, understanding, and distinguishing between truth and falsehood, good and evil, while **judgment** often involves making a decision or pronouncement based on that discernment. The key difference is that **discernment** is an internal process guided by wisdom and the Holy Spirit, whereas **judgment** is an outward expression that can involve condemnation, correction, or approval.

## Key Hebrew and Greek Words:

- **Discernment:**
  - **Hebrew (Old Testament):** בִּין (*bin*) – to understand, perceive, or distinguish.
  - **Greek (New Testament):** διάκρισις (*diakrisis*) – distinguishing, separating mentally, or discerning.
- **Judgment:**
  - **Hebrew (Old Testament):** שָׁפַט (*shaphat*) – to judge, govern, or make a legal decision.
  - **Greek (New Testament):** κρίνω (*krinō*) – to judge, to decide, or to condemn.

## Old Testament Examples of Judgment vs. Discernment

### 1. Judgment:

- **1 Samuel 16:7 (AMP)** – *"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"*
  - **Context:** Here, Samuel was about to make a judgment based on outward appearances, but God shows that true judgment comes from discerning the heart.
  - **Hebrew Word:** *shaphat* is not directly used here, but the idea of judgment based on outward appearance is challenged.

### 2. Discernment:

- **1 Kings 3:9 (AMP)** – *"So give Your servant an understanding mind and a hearing heart [with which] to judge Your people, so that I may discern between good and evil."*
  - **Context:** Solomon requests discernment to rule wisely and judge the people. Here, discernment is asked for to make righteous judgments.
  - **Hebrew Word:** *bin* (discernment) used in connection with judgment (*shaphat*).

### 3. Judgment and Discernment Together:

- **Psalm 72:1-2 (AMP)** – *"Give the king knowledge of Your judgments, O God, And [the spirit of] Your righteousness to the king's son [to guide all his ways]. May he judge Your people with righteousness, and Your afflicted with justice."*
  - **Context:** The psalmist prays for righteous judgment, which would naturally require discernment to distinguish between good and evil, justice and injustice.
  - **Hebrew Word:** *shaphat* for judgment, implying the need for discernment in making decisions.

### New Testament Scriptures on Judgment and Discernment

#### Discernment:

- **1 Corinthians 2:14-15 (AMP)** – *"But the natural [unbelieving] man does not accept the things [the teachings and revelations] of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness [absurd and illogical] to him; and he is incapable of understanding them, because they are spiritually discerned and appreciated, [and he is unqualified to judge spiritual matters]. But the spiritual man [the spiritually mature Christian] judges all things [questions, examines and applies what the Holy Spirit reveals], yet is himself judged by no one [the unbeliever cannot judge and understand the believer's spiritual nature]."*
  - **Greek Word:** *diakrisis* (discernment) and *krinō* (judgment).
  - **Key Insight:** Discernment here is about understanding spiritual truths, and the spiritual man uses discernment to make judgments, but not in a condemning way.

#### Judgment:

- **Matthew 7:1-2 (AMP)** – *"Do not judge and criticize and condemn others [unfairly with an attitude of self-righteous superiority], so that you will not be judged [unfairly]. For just as you judge others [unfairly], you will be judged; and in accordance with your standard of measure [used to pass out judgment], judgment will be measured to you."*
  - **Greek Word:** *krinō* (to judge).
  - **Context:** Jesus warns against hypocritical judgment, particularly judgments based on outward appearances or self-righteous standards.
  - **Key Insight:** This type of judgment is outward, condemning, and based on human standards, which Jesus advises against.

#### Outward Judgment vs. Spiritual Discernment:

- **John 7:24 (AMP)** – *"Do not judge by appearance [superficially and arrogantly], but judge fairly and righteously."*
  - **Greek Word:** *krinō* (judge).



- **Key Insight:** Jesus encourages righteous judgment, which requires discernment to go beyond outward appearances and understand deeper truths.

### **Judgment with Discernment:**

- **1 Corinthians 5:12 (AMP)** – *"For what business is it of mine to judge outsiders (non-believers)? Do you not judge those who are within the church [to protect the church as the situation requires]?"*
  - **Greek Word:** *krinō* (judge).
  - **Context:** Paul instructs the church to make judgments within the body of Christ, using discernment to correct and maintain order.

### **Discernment:**

- **Philippians 1:9-10 (AMP)** – *"And this I pray, that your love may abound more and more [displaying itself] in greater depth in real knowledge and in practical insight, so that you may learn to recognize and treasure what is excellent [identifying the best, and distinguishing moral differences], and that you may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ."*
  - **Greek Word:** *aisthesis* (discernment, perception).
  - **Key Insight:** Paul prays for the believers to grow in discernment, distinguishing between good and evil in love and moral choices.

### **Discernment vs. Judgment:**

- **James 4:11-12 (AMP)** – *"Do not speak against or slander one another, believers. He who speaks [self-righteously] against a brother or judges his brother [hypocritically] speaks against the law and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy [the One God, who has the absolute power of life and death]; but who are you to [hypocritically or self-righteously] pass judgment on your neighbor?"*
  - **Greek Word:** *krinō* (judge).
  - **Key Insight:** This passage highlights the difference between hypocritical judgment and God's righteous judgment. We are not to condemn others, as only God has the right to judge their heart.

### **Key Differences Between Judgment and Discernment:**

- **Judgment** (*krinō* in Greek, *shaphat* in Hebrew):
  - Involves passing a verdict, deciding between right and wrong, and often carries a legal or moral decision.
  - Can be used negatively when it becomes condemning or self-righteous (e.g., judging based on outward appearance or hypocritically, as in Matthew 7:1-5).

- Positive judgment, however, is necessary in some contexts, like within the church for correction (1 Corinthians 5:12).
- **Discernment** (*diakrisis* in Greek, *bin* in Hebrew):
  - Is the process of understanding, distinguishing, or perceiving truth, especially in spiritual matters.
  - Involves a deeper level of wisdom and insight that allows believers to navigate complex moral and spiritual situations.
  - Discernment is a gift from the Holy Spirit that allows believers to make judgments based on God's truth rather than appearances (1 Corinthians 2:14-15).

## Tips for Discerning Without Condemning:

- **Focus on Spiritual Truths, Not Outward Appearances:** As Jesus teaches in John 7:24, discernment and judgment should be based on righteous principles, not on superficial observations.
- **Use God's Word as the Standard:** Scripture is the foundation for discernment. When making decisions or judgments, align them with biblical truths (Hebrews 4:12).
- **Pray for Wisdom:** Discernment comes from God (James 1:5). Asking for guidance through the Holy Spirit will lead you to judge situations rightly.
- **Avoid Hypocrisy:** Judgment becomes problematic when it is done self-righteously or hypocritically (Matthew 7:1-2, James 4:11-12).

## Deep Dive into the Greek Word κρίνω (krinō)

The Greek word κρίνω (**krinō**) is used extensively in the New Testament, and it generally means "to judge." However, its meaning varies depending on the context in which it appears. It can refer to making a legal decision, discerning right from wrong, or even condemning someone. To make it easy to understand, let's break it down step by step, considering its definitions, usage, and implications.

### Definition and Meaning of κρίνω (krinō)

**κρίνω (krinō)** carries several related meanings, but it fundamentally refers to the act of making a judgment. The word can be used positively, neutrally, or negatively, depending on the context:

- **To Separate or Decide:** At its core, *krinō* means to make a decision between two or more things. It involves separating or distinguishing in order to come to a conclusion.
- **To Judge Legally:** In a legal sense, *krinō* means to make a formal judgment or decision, often in a court of law, where a judge issues a verdict.
- **To Condemn:** In many instances in the New Testament, *krinō* is used to describe condemnation, particularly when someone passes judgment on another in a critical or harsh manner.
- **To Discern or Evaluate:** It can also refer to evaluating or assessing a situation, where the person uses their understanding to decide what is right or wrong, good or bad.

**κρίνω (krinō)** involves making decisions, judgments, or pronouncements, but it can range from legal judgments to personal evaluations, and even to condemnation. The word's meaning is flexible depending on the context, but at its core, it emphasizes the act of separating and deciding between different options. True, righteous judgment—whether human or divine—requires discernment, avoiding outward appearances, and aligning with the truth of God's Word.

## Key Usages of κρίνω (krinō) in the New Testament

### *Judging Others (Condemnation)*

In some contexts, *krinō* refers to condemning others, which is often warned against in the Bible. This type of judgment involves being critical or hypocritical, and Jesus especially cautions His followers about this.

- **Matthew 7:1 (AMP)** – *"Do not judge and criticize and condemn others [unfairly with an attitude of self-righteous superiority], so that you will not be judged [unfairly]."*
  - **Context:** Jesus is telling His disciples not to condemn or pass harsh, hypocritical judgments on others, as they themselves will be held to the same standard.
  - **Key Insight:** This kind of judgment is wrong because it often involves self-righteousness and lacks mercy or understanding.

### *Judging Actions or Situations (Discernment)*

*krinō* can also refer to making thoughtful judgments about actions or situations without condemning the person. This involves careful evaluation and discernment.

- **John 7:24 (AMP)** – *"Do not judge by appearance [superficially and arrogantly], but judge fairly and righteously."*
  - **Context:** Jesus is encouraging His listeners to judge based on truth and righteousness, not on superficial appearances.
  - **Key Insight:** This is an example of *krinō* used in a positive sense, where discerning what is right is necessary, but it should be done justly and without prejudice.

### *Legal Judgment*

*krinō* is also used in the context of legal judgment, where a formal decision or verdict is made.

- **Luke 19:22 (AMP)** – *"[Jesus said to him,] 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you [really] know that I was a stern man, picking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow?'"*
  - **Context:** Jesus uses the word *krinō* here to describe a legal-like judgment, where the person is judged based on their own statements or actions.
  - **Key Insight:** This kind of judgment is based on evidence and the truth of the situation, akin to how a judge would weigh facts in a courtroom.



## God's Judgment

Throughout the New Testament, *krinō* is frequently used to describe the judgment of God. This form of judgment is final and righteous because God's judgments are based on His perfect knowledge and justice.

- **John 5:22 (AMP)** – *"For the Father judges no one, but He has given all judgment [that is, the prerogative of judging] to the Son [placing it entirely into His hands]."*
  - **Context:** Here, *krinō* refers to the authority given to Jesus to judge humanity. God's judgment is just and final.
  - **Key Insight:** When *krinō* is used in reference to God's judgment, it is always righteous, fair, and aligned with His perfect will.

## Differences Between Human and Divine Judgment

- **Human Judgment (Negative):** Often when humans use *krinō* to judge, it leads to condemnation or hypocritical standards (Matthew 7:1). Humans are limited in their understanding and prone to errors or biases, which is why Jesus warns against quick or harsh judgments.
- **Divine Judgment (Positive):** God's use of *krinō* in judgment is different. His judgment is based on truth, righteousness, and perfect understanding (John 5:22). God's judgment does not rely on outward appearances or limited knowledge.

## Greek Concept of Judgment vs. Discernment

- **κρίνω (krinō)** – Judgment: As discussed, *krinō* involves deciding, condemning, or evaluating something or someone. It often implies a final decision or verdict.
  - Judgment can be negative, such as when it is used to condemn others without understanding or mercy (Matthew 7:1-2), or positive, when it is used to discern righteous actions (John 7:24).
- **διακρίσις (diakrisis)** – Discernment: While *krinō* involves making a decision, *diakrisis* is the process of discerning or distinguishing between what is true and false, good and evil. Discernment is more about understanding and perceiving the truth, and it leads to wise judgments without the need for condemnation.

## Judgment Not Based on Outward Appearances:

One of the most important distinctions Jesus makes is that judgment should not be based on outward appearances. This teaching is found in:

- **John 7:24 (AMP)** – *"Do not judge by appearance [superficially and arrogantly], but judge fairly and righteously."*

- **Explanation:** Here, Jesus distinguishes between superficial judgment, which is based on external factors, and righteous judgment, which is grounded in truth. This kind of righteous judgment requires discernment, not a quick decision based on what one can see.

## Key Insights for Understanding κρίνω (krinō):

- **Context Matters:** The meaning of *krinō* depends heavily on the context. It can range from condemning someone to simply making a decision. Always consider the surrounding verses to understand what kind of judgment is being referred to.
- **Discernment Leads to Righteous Judgment:** While *krinō* can be used to describe judgment, discernment (*diakrisis*) is necessary for making wise and fair judgments. Without discernment, human judgment is often flawed.
- **Avoid Hypocritical Judgment:** Jesus teaches us not to judge hypocritically or with a self-righteous attitude. We are called to examine ourselves before we pass judgment on others (Matthew 7:1-5).
- **God's Judgment is Final:** God's use of *krinō* is always righteous and just. His judgments are perfect because they are based on His infinite knowledge and wisdom, unlike human judgments, which are limited and often biased.

## Application:

- Always compare what you hear or feel with Scripture.
- Seek confirmation from godly counsel and the inner witness of peace.
- **Examine whether the spirit acknowledges Jesus Christ** (1 John 4:2-3).
- **Ensure the guidance aligns with Scripture** (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- **Look for the fruit of the Spirit in your life** (Galatians 5:22-23).
- **Seek confirmation through inner peace** (Philippians 4:6-7).
- **Consult wise and mature believers for counsel** (Proverbs 11:14).
- **Ensure the guidance glorifies Jesus Christ** (John 16:13-14).
- **Pray for discernment and wisdom from God** (James 1:5).



## The Fruit of the Spirit as Evidence

**Galatians 5:22-23 (AMP):** "But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things, there is no law."

- **Context:** The presence of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life produces specific characteristics, known as the fruit of the Spirit and are the result of the Holy Spirit's influence. As you listen to the Holy Spirit, these traits should become increasingly evident in your life, serving as confirmation that you are hearing and walking by the Spirit.

## The Role of the Holy Spirit in Empowering Believers

While the Fruit of the Spirit provides evidence of His presence, the Holy Spirit also empowers believers for specific tasks, helping them in their daily walk.

- **Romans 8:14 (AMP)** – *"For all who are allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."*
  - **Context:** Make sure you are being led by the Spirit is not just about exhibiting fruit but also about following His direction in specific moments of decision-making or action.
  - **Application:** Make sure you are seeking and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your decisions and actions in daily life, beyond just the character traits developed.

## The Holy Spirit's Role in Conviction and Guidance

Hearing from the Holy Spirit also includes conviction, as He reveals areas where we need growth, correction, or encouragement.

- **John 16:8 (AMP)** – *"And He, when He comes, will convict the world about [the guilt of] sin and [the need for] righteousness and about judgment [about the certainty of it]."*
  - **Context:** The Holy Spirit helps believers stay aligned with God's righteousness through conviction, steering them away from sin.
  - **Application:** Along with the evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit, be mindful of the Holy Spirit's gentle conviction, guiding you toward righteousness and away from error.

## The Holy Spirit Speaks through Scripture

The Holy Spirit often uses Scripture to speak to us, bringing verses to mind that guide us, correct us, or encourage us.

- **John 14:26 (AMP)** – *"But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you."*
  - **Context:** The Holy Spirit reminds us of God's Word and teaches us through it.
  - **Application:** As you listen to the Holy Spirit, stay connected to the Word of God. The Spirit will often confirm His guidance by aligning it with Scripture.

## Listening in Stillness and Prayer

Hearing the Holy Spirit also requires stillness and attentiveness in prayer.

- **Psalms 46:10 (AMP)** – *"Be still and know (recognize, understand) that I am God."*
  - **Application:** Carve out time to be still in prayer and listen for the Holy Spirit. Often, we hear His guidance in moments of quiet reflection and intimacy with God.

## The Peace of God as Guidance

One way the Holy Spirit leads is through giving peace as confirmation that a decision is in line with God's will.

- **Colossians 3:15 (AMP)** – *"Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise]."*
  - **Context:** The Holy Spirit brings peace when you are walking in God's will, and this peace serves as a marker that you are hearing from Him.
  - **Application:** Pay attention to the peace or unrest in your spirit when making decisions or evaluating situations. The Holy Spirit often speaks through this inner peace.

### Application:

- As you grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit, look for the fruit of the Spirit in your life as evidence of His work.
- Examine whether the choices and actions you take while listening to the Holy Spirit lead to the development of these fruits.
- **Empowerment for Daily Walk:** The Holy Spirit leads and empowers for specific tasks and decisions (Romans 8:14).
- **Conviction and Guidance:** The Holy Spirit convicts believers of righteousness and guides them away from sin (John 16:8).

- **Scriptural Confirmation:** The Holy Spirit often speaks through reminding you of God's Word (John 14:26).
- **Stillness and Prayer:** Listening requires moments of stillness and attentiveness in prayer (Psalm 46:10).
- **Peace as Confirmation:** The peace of the Holy Spirit confirms that you are walking in line with God's will (Colossians 3:15).

## Walking in Step with the Spirit

**Galatians 5:16 (AMP):** "But I say, walk habitually in the Holy Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts]."

**Context:** Paul instructs believers to "walk habitually" in the Holy Spirit. This expands on this by suggesting an intentional seeking of the Spirit's guidance. To hear from the Holy Spirit, it requires making a daily habit of responding to His promptings, rather than giving in to the desires of the flesh.

## Walking in the Spirit Requires Continuous Surrender

Walking habitually with the Spirit isn't a one-time act but a continuous choice to surrender your own desires to God's will.

- **Romans 8:5 (AMP)** – *"For those who are living according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh [which gratify the body], but those who are living according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit [His will and purpose]."*
  - **Context:** This verse emphasizes the importance of setting your mind on spiritual things in order to walk in the Spirit.
  - **Application:** Develop a mindset of surrender, continually yielding your will and desires to align with the Spirit's leading.

## Dependence on the Spirit's Power

Walking in the Spirit requires acknowledging that you need His power to overcome the flesh and live a life that pleases God.

- **Ephesians 3:16 (AMP)** – *"[May God] grant you [out of the riches of His glory], to be strengthened and spiritually energized with power through His Spirit in your inner self [indwelling your innermost being and personality]."*
  - **Context:** Walking in the Spirit is empowered by His strength, not your own effort.
  - **Application:** As you seek to walk in step with the Spirit, rely on His strength to guide your decisions and actions, especially in moments of weakness.

## Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's Promptings

Paul's instruction to "walk" with the Spirit implies an ongoing relationship, where you become sensitive to the Spirit's promptings in your daily life.

- **Isaiah 30:21 (AMP)** – *"Your ears will hear a word behind you, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right or to the left."*
  - **Context:** This verse shows how the Spirit guides us, often quietly and subtly.



- **Application:** Cultivate a sensitivity to those internal nudges or impressions that come from the Holy Spirit, especially when making decisions.

## Walking in the Spirit Fosters Spiritual Growth

When you walk in step with the Spirit, you also grow in spiritual maturity, as the Spirit helps you reflect more of Christ in your daily life.

- **2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMP)** – *"And we all, with unveiled face, continually seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are progressively being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to even more glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit."*
  - **Context:** Walking in the Spirit brings about transformation, helping believers grow more like Christ.
  - **Application:** Recognize that walking with the Holy Spirit isn't just about avoiding sin but also about growing in your Christ-likeness, allowing the Spirit to transform your character.

### Application:

- **Make a daily commitment to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance before making decisions:** This is crucial for habitually walking with Him, but it also means maintaining a spirit of surrender throughout the day.
- **Practice obedience and attentiveness, forming a habit of responding to the Holy Spirit's leading:** Add an emphasis on relying on the Spirit's power and strength, not just your own effort.
- **Be sensitive to the Spirit's gentle promptings:** Being in tune with the Spirit means being open to subtle guidance, not just obvious signs.



## Avoiding Grieving the Holy Spirit

The **conviction of the Holy Spirit** is a critical part of avoiding grieving Him. Conviction is the way the Holy Spirit lovingly guides us back on the right path when we start to stray into sin or harmful attitudes.

Ignoring the Holy Spirit's conviction can lead to grieving Him, making it harder to hear from Him.

**Ephesians 4:30 (AMP):** "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [but seek to please Him], by whom you were sealed and marked [branded as God's own] for the day of redemption [the final deliverance from the consequences of sin]."

- **Context:** Paul warns against grieving the Holy Spirit, which happens when we resist His guidance or engage in sin. This explains that grieving the Spirit involves actions or attitudes that go against His nature. If we want to hear clearly from the Holy Spirit, we must strive to live in ways that please Him, avoiding sin and disobedience.

### Application:

- Regularly examine your life to ensure you are not harboring attitudes or actions that grieve the Holy Spirit.
- Seek to live a life that honors the Spirit, keeping your heart open to His voice.

## The Role of Conviction in Drawing Us Closer to God:

When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, it's not to condemn but to lovingly correct and restore us into fellowship with God. Conviction brings us closer to God by leading us to repentance, which renews our relationship with Him. Far from pushing us away, conviction is an invitation to return to God's embrace.

- **Hebrews 12:5-6 (AMP)** – *"And you have forgotten the divine word of encouragement which is addressed to you as sons, 'My son, do not make light of the discipline of the Lord, and do not lose heart and give up when you are corrected by Him; for the Lord disciplines and corrects those whom He loves, and He punishes every son whom He receives and welcomes [to His heart].'"*
  - **Context:** Conviction is a form of discipline, meant to correct us out of love and bring us back into closer fellowship with God.
  - **Insight:** The Holy Spirit's conviction is a sign of God's love and care, drawing us back to Him and restoring our relationship when we stray.
- **James 4:8 (AMP)** – *"Come close to God [with a contrite heart] and He will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."*
  - **Context:** Conviction leads us to repent, cleanse ourselves of sin, and ultimately draw nearer to God.
  - **Insight:** As we respond to the Holy Spirit's conviction and repent, we come closer to God, and He responds by drawing even closer to us.
- **1 John 1:9 (AMP)** – *"If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us continually"*

*from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose]."*

- **Context:** Conviction leads to confession and repentance, which results in forgiveness and restoration, drawing us nearer to God.
- **Insight:** When the Holy Spirit convicts us and we confess, it strengthens our fellowship with God, as He faithfully forgives and cleanses us.

### **Practical Application:**

1. **Examine Your Heart for Conviction:** Pay attention to moments of conviction where the Holy Spirit might be pointing out sin or disobedience. Recognize that this is God lovingly drawing you back to Him, offering an opportunity to repent and restore your relationship with Him.
2. **Respond to Conviction with Repentance:** When you sense the Holy Spirit convicting you, respond with confession and repentance. This brings you closer to God, aligning your life with His will and keeping your heart open to His voice.
3. **Rejoice in Restoration:** Realize that conviction is a pathway to a deeper relationship with God. As you repent, He forgives, restores, and strengthens your fellowship with Him.

### **Summary Additions:**

- **Conviction draws you closer to God:** The Holy Spirit's conviction is not condemnation but a call to repent and return to God's loving presence.
- **Responding to conviction deepens your relationship with God:** Every time you respond to the Spirit's conviction with repentance, you restore and strengthen your connection with God.

## God's Will

The Bible provides numerous scriptures that speak about seeking, understanding, and living out God's will. These passages encourage believers to trust God's plan, seek His guidance, and align their lives with His purposes. Here are some key scriptures about God's will:

Romans 12:2 (NLT): "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

- Context: This verse teaches that through transformation in our thinking, we can discern God's will, which is always good, pleasing, and perfect. It encourages believers to avoid worldly patterns and allow God to change them from within.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NLT): "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

- Context: Paul reveals that part of God's will for believers includes living with joy, continual prayer, and a thankful heart, regardless of circumstances. This teaches that God's will involves our attitude and response to life.

1 Peter 2:15 (NLT): "It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you."

- Context: This verse emphasizes that God's will is for believers to live honorably so that their actions reflect well on their faith and silence false accusations. It shows that God's will often involves our conduct and testimony before others.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT): "So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do."

- Context: Paul urges believers to live wisely and seek to understand God's will, making the most of their time and opportunities. This passage highlights the importance of living with purpose and intentionality, in alignment with God's desires.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT): "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."

- Context: This teaches that trusting in God and seeking His will in all things will lead to clear direction and guidance in life. It emphasizes the importance of relying on God's wisdom rather than our own understanding.

Matthew 6:10 (NLT): "May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

- Context: In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches believers to pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. This expresses a desire for God's purposes and plans to be fulfilled in our lives and in the world around us.

James 4:13-15 (NLT): “Look here, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.’ How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone. What you ought to say is, ‘If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.’”

- Context: James warns against presumptuously making plans without considering God’s will. Instead, he encourages believers to acknowledge that their plans should be subject to God’s desires and control, as life is uncertain.

Colossians 1:9-10 (NLT): “So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of His will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.”

- Context: Paul prays that believers will be filled with the knowledge of God’s will, which leads to a life that honors God and produces good fruit. This shows that understanding God’s will is tied to spiritual growth and wisdom.

Micah 6:8 (NLT): “No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

- Context: This verse simplifies God’s will into three key actions: doing what is right, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. It highlights the moral and relational aspects of living according to God’s will.

1 John 2:17 (NLT): “And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.”

- Context: This passage emphasizes that the desires of the world are temporary, but those who do God’s will (pleasing Him) will have eternal life. It encourages believers to prioritize God’s will over worldly pursuits.



# Understanding the Seven Spirits of God

## Seven Spirits of God

Revelation 1:4 (NLT): "John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne."

Revelation 3:1 (NLT): "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: 'I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.'"

Revelation 4:5 (NLT): "From the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. And in front of the throne were seven torches with burning flames. This is the sevenfold Spirit of God."

Revelation 5:6 (NLT): "Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth."

The Seven Spirits of God are often interpreted as the **fullness or completeness of the Holy Spirit**. Isaiah 11:2 is frequently referenced as describing seven aspects of the Spirit of God:

- **Isaiah 11:2 (NLT)** "And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."

Here are the seven attributes of the Holy Spirit from Isaiah 11:2:

1. **The Spirit of the Lord**
2. **The Spirit of Wisdom**
3. **The Spirit of Understanding**
4. **The Spirit of Counsel**
5. **The Spirit of Might (Power)**
6. **The Spirit of Knowledge**
7. **The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord**

These attributes reflect the fullness of God's Spirit, encompassing His wisdom, understanding, power, and reverence.

This interpretation portrays the sevenfold nature of God's Spirit, representing His divine completeness and omnipresence.

Here are scriptures that align with each of the seven attributes of the Spirit as described in **Isaiah 11:2**:

### The Spirit of the Lord

Luke 4:18 (NLT): "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free."

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NLT): "For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

### **The Spirit of Wisdom**

Ephesians 1:17 (NLT): "Asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God."

James 1:5 (NLT): "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

### **The Spirit of Understanding**

Proverbs 2:6 (NLT): "For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Colossians 1:9 (NLT): "So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding."

### **The Spirit of Counsel**

Psalms 16:7 (NLT): "I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me."

John 14:26 (NLT): "But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you."

### **The Spirit of Might (Power)**

Acts 1:8 (NLT): "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Ephesians 3:16 (NLT): "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit."

### **The Spirit of Knowledge**

Proverbs 1:7 (NLT): "Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NLT): "But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit."

### **The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord**

Proverbs 9:10 (NLT): "Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment."

Acts 9:31 (NLT): "The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers."

These scriptures give a deeper understanding of the sevenfold nature of the Holy Spirit as described in Isaiah 11:2, encompassing His fullness, wisdom, power, and reverence for God.

# The Word (Jesus), the Word (Scripture), and the Holy Spirit: How They Work Together

**In relationship of Jesus (the Living Word), Scripture (the Written Word), and the Holy Spirit** (7 spirits) are interconnected, consistent, and holy in their purpose of revealing God, guiding believers, and bringing spiritual transformation. Each plays a distinct role, yet they function together in complete harmony to accomplish God's will.

## The Word (Jesus) – The Living Word

Jesus Christ is referred to as the **Word** (Greek: **Λόγος, Logos**), meaning the divine expression of God in human form. He is the full revelation of God's character and will.

- **John 1:1 (AMP)** – *"In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself."*
  - **Greek Word: Logos** – In this context, it refers to Jesus as the eternal, divine communication of God.
- **John 1:14 (AMP)** – *"And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us..."*
  - **Key Insight:** Jesus is the *Logos*, God's living Word, manifest in human form. He reveals the character, nature, and purpose of God.
- **Hebrews 1:2-3 (AMP)** – *"But in these last days, He has spoken to us in [the person of] a Son, whom He appointed heir and lawful owner of all things, through whom also He created the universe."*
  - **Key Insight:** Jesus as the *Logos* is the final and complete revelation of God to humanity.

## Transition to Scripture:

The **Word of God (Jesus)** is revealed and testified about in **Scripture**, which serves as the written record of God's revelation. Jesus fulfilled what was written in the Scriptures, and He used them to teach about Himself.

## The Word (Scripture) – The Written Word

The **Scriptures** (Greek: **γράμμα, gramma**) are the inspired, written Word of God. They testify to Jesus, reveal God's plan of salvation, and are a key tool for teaching, correcting, and guiding believers.

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (AMP)** – *"All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error], and for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will]."*
  - **Greek Word: Gramma** – This refers to the written words or letters in Scripture.
- **John 5:39 (AMP)** – *"You search and keep on searching and examining the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and yet it is those [very Scriptures] that testify about Me."*



- **Key Insight:** The Scriptures point to Jesus, the Living Word, and their ultimate purpose is to reveal Him and the salvation He brings.
- **Psalm 119:105 (AMP)** – *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*
  - **Key Insight:** The written Word of God provides guidance, wisdom, and correction. It is consistent with the living Word (Jesus) and testifies to the truth of who He is.

## Transition to the Holy Spirit:

The **Holy Spirit** inspired the writing of Scripture and works through it to guide and teach believers. He brings understanding and helps apply the truths of Scripture to our lives.

## The Holy Spirit – The Divine Teacher and Guide

The **Holy Spirit** (Greek: πνεῦμα, **pneuma**) is the Spirit of God who dwells within believers, guiding them into all truth, helping them understand Scripture, and applying the Word (Jesus) in their lives.

- **John 16:13 (AMP)** – *"But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth]; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father], and He will disclose to you what is to come."*
  - **Greek Word: Pneuma** – Refers to the breath or spirit of God, who leads and empowers believers.
- **1 Corinthians 2:10-12 (AMP)** – *"For God has unveiled them and revealed them to us through the [Holy] Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things [diligently], even [sounding and measuring] the profound depths of God [the divine counsels and things far beyond human understanding]."*
  - **Key Insight:** The Holy Spirit helps believers understand the deep truths of God, revealed through Scripture and Jesus.
- **John 14:26 (AMP)** – *"But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you."*
  - **Key Insight:** The Holy Spirit brings to remembrance the teachings of Jesus and helps believers understand Scripture, making it alive and applicable in their daily walk.

## Transition Back to Jesus:

The **Holy Spirit** glorifies and points to **Jesus** (John 16:14), helping believers live in a way that reflects Him. He also empowers believers to walk in step with **the Living Word**.

## How They Work Together:

- **Jesus (The Living Word):**
  - Reveals the fullness of God's character and will.
  - Fulfills the Scriptures and teaches from them.

- Is the final and complete revelation of God to humanity.
- **Scripture (The Written Word):**
  - Testifies about Jesus and points to Him as the Savior.
  - Provides the written guide for life, instruction, and correction.
  - Was inspired by the Holy Spirit and remains relevant because of His ongoing work.
- **The Holy Spirit:**
  - Inspired the writing of Scripture and works through it to reveal the truth of Jesus.
  - Helps believers understand and apply the teachings of Jesus and Scripture.
  - Points to Jesus, glorifies Him, and empowers believers to live according to God's will.

### Summary of Key Points:

- **Jesus is the Living Word** (*Logos*), revealing God's nature and fulfilling the Scriptures.
- **Scripture is the Written Word** (*Gramma*), testifying to Jesus and providing guidance for life.
- **The Holy Spirit** (*Pneuma*) inspired Scripture, teaches believers, and points them to Jesus, ensuring they understand and apply the Word in their lives.

These three—Jesus, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit—work in perfect unity, revealing God's will, guiding believers, and empowering them to live holy lives that reflect God's glory.