



## How to Discern a True Work of the Spirit

The Spirit of Truth . . . He will bear witness of Me+ (John 15:26)

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### How to discern spirits

- **1John 4:1, 2**

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

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### How to discern spirits

- **1John 4:3, 5**

and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.

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The Holy Spirit motivates believers to confess the truth about Christ

■ **1Corinthians 12:3**

Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, %Jesus is accursed+; and no one can say, %Jesus is Lord,+except by the Holy Spirit.

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Testimony about Jesus is the work of the Holy Spirit who inspires all prophecy

■ **Revelation 19:10**

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said to me, %Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.+

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True prophets testified about Christ

■ **1Peter 1:10, 11**

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

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The Holy Spirit inspired true prophets

■ **2Peter 1:20, 21**

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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False prophets deny the Master

■ **2Peter 2:1**

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

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They deny the master by going too far and not abiding in the teaching of Christ

■ **2John 1:9**

Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

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The Holy Spirit testifies of Christ

■ **John 15:26**

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me,

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The Holy Spirit testifies of Christ

■ **Numbers 24:2, 17** (NKJV)

And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him. . . . %see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.+

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Elizabeth testifies about the Lord

■ **Luke 1:41-43**

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice and said, %Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?+

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Zacharias testifies of Messianic  
Salvation

■ **Luke 1:67, 68**

And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:  
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,+

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Zacharias testifies of Messianic  
Salvation

■ **Luke 1:77, 78**

To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins,  
Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,

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Simeon testified of Christ

■ **Luke 2:25, 26**

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

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Simeon testified of Salvation

■ **Luke 2:27 - 30**

And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, %Now Lord, Thou dost let Thy bond-servant depart In peace, according to Thy word; For my eyes have seen Thy salvation,

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John the Baptist testified of Christ

■ **Luke 3:16**

John answered and said to them all, %As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.+

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God testifies as the Holy Spirit descends on the Son

■ **Luke 3:22**

and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, %Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.+

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Jesus testifies about Himself

- **Luke 4:18**  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He anointed Me to preach the  
gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to  
proclaim release to the captives, And  
recovery of sight to the blind, To set free  
those who are downtrodden, +

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To blaspheme the Holy Spirit who  
anoints ~~the~~ Messiah + and who testifies of  
Him is to never be ~~released~~ + from sin.

- **Luke 12:10**  
And everyone who will speak a word against  
the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but  
he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit,  
it shall not be forgiven [lit. ~~released~~] him.

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By the Spirit they will testify of Christ

- **Matthew 10:18 - 20**  
and you shall even be brought before  
governors and kings for My sake, as a  
testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But  
when they deliver you up, do not become  
anxious about how or what you will speak;  
for it shall be given you in that hour what  
you are to speak. For it is not you who  
speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who  
speaks in you.

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### Witnesses in the power of the Spirit

■ **Luke 24:46 - 49**

and He said to them, <sup>26</sup>Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. and behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.<sup>+</sup>

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### The Holy Spirit will empower them to testify of Christ

■ **Acts 1:8**

but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

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### Peter testifies of Christ

■ **Acts 2:22-24a**

<sup>22</sup>Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again,<sup>+</sup>

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**Peter testifies of Christ**

- **Acts 4:8, 10**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead -- by this name this man stands here before you in good health."

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**The Apostles witness to Christ**

- **Acts 4:31, 33**

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness. . . And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

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**Stephen testifies and is martyred**

- **Acts 7:55, 56**

But being full of the Holy Spirit, he [Stephen] gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

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**Paul is filled with the Holy Spirit**

- **Acts 9:17**

And Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, %Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.+

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**Spirit filled Paul immediately proclaims Christ**

- **Acts 9:20**

and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, %he is the Son of God.+

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**Confession and Abiding**

- **1John 4:13 - 15**

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

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Confessing Christ is not merely uttering words

- **Matthew 7:22, 23**

Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.

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Confessing Christ is not merely uttering words

- **Matthew 7:24**

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.

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Overcomers are born of God and believe the truth about Jesus Christ

- **1John 5:4, 5**

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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Overcomers are born of God and believe the truth about Jesus Christ

■ **Revelation 3:5**

Whoever overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.+

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Overcomers are born of God and believe the truth about Jesus Christ

■ **Matthew 10:32, 33**

Whoever therefore shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.+

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