

## HOW DO WE KNOW IF SOMETHING IS TRULY FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Many people claim to hear the Holy Spirit speaking to them. Many churches claim to be “Spirit-led.” How do we know if a message really comes from the Spirit?

**John 4:1-3** *Dear friends, 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. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.*

**John 15:26** *When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.*

The Spirit’s job is to create and strengthen faith, and he does this only through the message of the gospel (see “Means of Grace,” p. 36.)

**John 16:13** *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you in all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears.*

The Spirit’s goal is not to connect you with himself, but to connect you with Jesus. This is why he is sometimes called “the shy member of the Trinity.”

**2 Peter 1:21** *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. . . . Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

If we long to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, all we have to do is open up our Bible. After all. . . the Holy Spirit wrote it!