

The Holy Spirit

Pastor David Uth

Passage: 1 John 4:1-3; Ephesians 6:10-20

1Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2**By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **3**and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11**Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13**Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. **14**Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15**and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. **16**In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17**and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **18**praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, **19**and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, **20**for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Background

Today we will finish our summer sermon series on the nature, role and work of the Holy Spirit. Over the course of the last few months, we have explored who the Holy Spirit is, how the Holy Spirit convicts the world and convinces our own heart of our sin, guides us and empowers us toward obedience, and works to make us more like Jesus every day. In today's message, Pastor David will address a few additional questions about the Holy Spirit to help us better discern when the Holy Spirit is speaking and working in our lives and what it look like practically to follow the leading of the Spirit in my daily life.

Service Notes

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- What was your most enjoyable moment this summer? In what ways did you see the Holy Spirit at work in your life this week? How can we pray for you today?

Talk it Over

- What have you learned about the Holy Spirit during this sermon series? What is one of the ways the Holy Spirit *works* in our lives that encourages you the most? In what ways have you become more aware of God’s presence in your life? How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to obey God’s Word more in the last few weeks?
- **Read 1 John 4:1-6.** According to this passage, what should we do to know if something is from the Holy Spirit or ‘another’ spirit? What is the ultimate “test” for the Spirit in these situations (vs. 2-3)? What are some questions or resources you should ask/seek out when trying to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying/guiding in your life? How can our spiritual community (Life Group, Christian friend, church) help us in these moments?
- **Read John 4:16-26; John 8:31-38.** What do you think it means to worship God in “spirit and in truth”? Why is this important? What does this even look like in our daily lives? How does the Holy Spirit “guide us into truth” (John 16:13)? How does the Holy Spirit help us “know the truth,” which can set us free (John 8:31-38)? How does the *truth* set us free as followers of Jesus?
- **Read Ephesians 6:10-20.** In these verses about the “armor of God,” what role does the Holy Spirit play? Why would Paul call God’s word the “sword of the Spirit” (vs. 17)? How should we use God’s Word as a “sword” in our spiritual lives? How did Jesus demonstrate this in his earthly ministry? What would that look like for you? What does it mean to pray “in the Spirit at all times” (vs. 18)? How does this verse connect with the surrounding verses?

Live it Out

- What is the ONE practical step you need to take this week to better listen and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit?