

John 14:17 highlights how the Spirit is not part of this world the way we are. **Read John 14:17**

As we get to know the Spirit personally, we recognize that He is not like us and doesn't speak the way we do. He speaks the words of God to us. It does not sound like the things of this world or like us.

9) In what ways have you heard the Holy Spirit Speak to you?

10) Do you have trouble hearing/knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit?

To get to know the Holy Spirit – get to know God. Know His Word, know His character, know His work. Knowing God is learning to recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit. His voice is unique from yours. His is the one you hear in stillness and in silence. You hear Him in your heart when your mind races or when other voices are shouting. His voice is distinct.

The Spirit Speaks with Authority.

In a beautiful passage referencing the perfect unity of the Trinity, Jesus explains how the Spirit speaks with authority: **Read John 16:12-15**

All the Spirit makes known to us is what Jesus wants made known to us. Jesus spoke with authority. The Spirit does too.

As you seek to be led by the Spirit, start by submitting to God's authority. Look for confirmation in God's Word. Sort out the sin in your heart that may be interfering. Ask the Lord's help. And listen – though quiet, the Spirit's voice is as unwavering as God's written Word.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

When we begin to recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit and that He speaks on behalf of the Father, it leads us to deeper faith. The Holy Spirit helps us to walk in freedom and power over our sin nature.

- 1) Take time to sit with the Holy Spirit this week and let Him guide you into those areas that need to be healed and restored.
- 2) Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to take next steps towards freedom.
- 3) Spend some time this week reading through Galatians 5:22-23. Which one of these fruits of the Spirit are evident in your life? Which ones are not?
- 4) Thank the Lord for those that are present and ask the Holy Spirit for help with the ones that are not.

When God Speaks

The Holy Spirit

Pastor Craig Sweeney | October 15, 2023

THREAD: The Holy Spirit is powerfully present to accomplish God's written Word for my life.

The Holy Spirit is both the Voice of God and the Presence of God in my life.

I. The work and the presence of the Holy Spirit as the Voice of God.
"If you love me, obey my commandments. 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. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live."

John 14:15 – 19 NLT

- **The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth with His guiding voice.**
"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...For, 'Who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?' But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ." **I Corinthians 2:10–16 NLT**
- **The Holy Spirit is not yelling at us, He is present in us.**
"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. 'I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.'"
John 14:26 – 27 NLT
 - The Holy Spirit is our helper.
 - The Holy Spirit is always speaking on behalf of Jesus.
 - The Holy Spirit gives insight into the written Word.
 - The Holy Spirit reminds me of Jesus' heart from the written Word.
 - The Holy Spirit will never go against the written Word.
 - The Holy Spirit is a true gift of "peace of mind and heart" given to dispel a troubled mind and dispel fear.

II. The Voice of God is powerful to accomplish His Word in our lives.

“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. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.”

Hebrews 4:12 – 13 NLT

- **This is possible because the Holy Spirit brings life to the written Word of God.**

Romans 7:8 – 8:5 NLT

Challenge:

As God comes near to you with the written Word and His Spirit, the real questions are:

- What is He saying?
- What questions am I asking?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to this topic:

When God Speaks — Prepare Your Heart

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/prepare-heart

When God Speaks — Go to The Bible

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/bible-gods-will

When God Speaks — Listen to the Holy Spirit

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/listen-to-holy-spirit

Life Group Homework

When God Speaks

Fall 2023 | Week 5 | Pastor Tim Layfield

Message Date 10/15/2023

MY STORY

- 1) If you could have any animal in the world as a pet without danger, what animal would you choose?
- 2) Would you rather travel back in time to meet your ancestors or to the future to meet your descendants?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Discerning the Voice of the Holy Spirit

The following are four truths that will help you to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit. Often, we can define and attribute different things as, “The Holy Spirit”. Look at the following as a way to check if what you are hearing is the Spirit of God.

The Spirit Always Agrees with Scripture.

Jesus said the Holy Spirit proceeds from God the Father. The Spirit testifies to who God is, who Christ is, and what God's Word says.

Read John 15:26

- 4) What does it mean to “testify” about something? What does that say about the Holy Spirit in relation to God?
- 5) Why is it important to not trust how we “feel” but rather to “trust” in the Word of God?

If what you feel leads you to do something contrary to Scripture, the Spirit is NOT the one leading you. Examine anything you feel as true, including direction for your life, against the entire Word of God.

The Spirit Won't Be Tied to Things of the Flesh (Sin Nature).

Being in the Spirit means we aren't in the flesh (sinful nature). The two are diametrically opposed. The Spirit is even at war with the flesh. However, we are often easily entangled by our flesh – our sinful motives and passions.

Read Romans 8:9

- 6) What does this verse say about what does NOT control us?
- 7) Who controls the follower of Jesus?
- 8) Why then do we struggle?

When discerning if the Holy Spirit is the one directing you, check how “in the flesh” you are. Are you being motivated by trying to please people or for personal gain? If so, the flesh is influencing your direction.

Continue to go before the Lord and continue seeking Him until what's left in your heart is not a human, sin-warped motive, but godly conviction.

The Spirit Doesn't Sound Like You... His Voice is Distinct

Sometimes the Spirit speaks to us in ways we enjoy. Other times, the Spirit convicts us or rebukes us. No matter what the Spirit says, though, the Spirit doesn't sound like you.