

Are you **SURE** you have God's Holy Spirit?

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May 2026

SUMMARY: *Many get baptized but then wonder later if they ever truly received God's spirit. They're not sure. How can you tell? Are there times to consider being rebaptized? We explore that in depth today.*

Greetings everyone. Thanks for coming to our website.

**Are you sure you ever received and have God's Holy Spirit?
Don't you ever wonder if you received and have God's spirit?**

WHY do we need to know this for sure? Let these sink in!

- **If you do not have the spirit of Christ, you are not his (Romans 8:9). He guides us through His spirit. The Holy Spirit makes us the first fruits of God's calling and literally part of the body of Christ himself.**
- **If you do not have the Holy Spirit, you are not yet a child of God (Romans 8:14). Holy Spirit gives us God's "seed" and begettal into His family. Without it, no begettal.**
- **If we're not in Christ or a part of God's family, what future do we have?**
- **By having God's spirit, He can talk to us, lead us, guide us, teach us, help us with his gifts of the Spirit, and help us bear the fruit of his spirit.**
- **Having the Holy Spirit guarantees our salvation (Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:21-22). Please look those up.**
- **I doubt anyone without God's spirit will even be in the first resurrection. On the other hand, God's spirit SEALS us for salvation and is our guarantee, as I'll show soon.**

SO YES, we MUST have God's spirit if we want to be in the first resurrection and being led by God today and bearing fruit of the spirit. And certainly remember **Luke 11:13 to ASK for more of God's spirit. He wants to give more of the spirit to you.**

Having God's spirit is not based on which church we attend, or how good you feel during the song service, or how godly you appear to other believers. Either our Father sent His Spirit, or He did not.

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And the **Bible actually says, "Holy *SPIRIT*". Never except in the KJV does it say "Holy Ghost." So here in LOTR we always say "Holy Spirit".** God's presence is not a ghost or apparition, but is the presence of Jesus himself. "Ghost" in Greek and Hebrew is an entirely different word than "Spirit." The Hebrew for Holy Spirit is "**Ruach (Spirit) HaKodesh**" (the Holy). In Greek it is "pneuma hagios".

As I continue, please look up and study all the scriptures, especially those I'll just cite. Or try just hovering over the verse with your mouse.

KNOWING we have God's Holy Spirit

We definitely want to be absolutely sure we have God's Spirit in us and God lives in us, is leading, guiding and communicating with us. I'm assuming I'm talking to people who are baptized members of his church, which is HIS body, the body of Christ.

So what were your first steps in terms of the Holy Spirit?

So here are 10 points to find out if you have God's Spirit

- 1. Did you respond to God's calling? It all starts with God. YOU REALIZED God was calling you and you responded. NO ONE comes to Jesus unless God calls him first (John 6:44, 65).**

BE sure you look up all the cited scriptures or hover your mouse over them.

So God the Father himself selected you. This is quite a high honor we should cherish to realize God MOST High personally chose you and me to be called now. Out of 8.5 BILLION people on earth, He chose you. Not for any goodness in us, but due to his grace and mercy (Titus 3:4-7)

Titus 3:4-7 NIV

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, NOT because of righteous things WE had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

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Father then hands us over, all those he called, to Jesus, whose job is now to *reveal* the Father to us.

Matthew 11:27

“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

And you did come to God through Yeshua, the DOOR to God (John 10:9). God called you. God takes the first move. You did not initially take the action of being a member of God's people, but God did.

Jesus clearly says, in John 15:16 -- "YOU did not choose ME, but I chose you" (after God our Father made the first move).

2. As we respond TO GOD'S CALL, WE'RE REPENTING and turning from old sinful ways, we get BAPTIZED and have hands laid on us to receive God's Spirit.

Acts 2:37-38 "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit.**"

Repenting is not just claiming you're sorry, even with tears, but having what John the Baptist called "**Fruits worthy of repentance**" (**Matthew 3:7-8**). Read through verse 12. When you genuinely repent, there is EVIDENCE you've repented. You're changing, turning from your old way.

I remember counseling a man who had been baptized and even had hands laid on him by a minister, but when that previous minister asked him if he had repented, he said "No" – but somehow was still baptized! So I had to start all over again and upon seeing godly repentance, I baptized him again. Correctly and fully that time.

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At baptism, I ask those I'm baptizing if they "have repented of their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and believe he is alive and sitting on God's right hand? And do you understand your faith is in HIM, not in your own goodness or works?" Upon hearing yes on all that, I then proceed to immerse.

Romans 10:9-10 "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

So we repent, acknowledging verbally and in our heart that our faith is now in Jesus as our Savior and Master. God is the One who qualifies us for God's kingdom and has already conveyed us into the kingdom of his son. READ carefully **Colossians 1:12-13**. KJV is not very clear in verse 12.

And then we were immersed, not sprinkled, in water baptism, picturing the burial of our old carnal self (read **Romans 6:3-6**) and the washing away of ALL our sins. **In Acts 22:15-16** – Ananias tells Paul: "be baptized and *wash away your sins*". And we come up out of the water picturing being resurrected with Christ.

Then a minister of God lays his hands on our head and prays God sends his Holy Spirit. You can see that process in Acts 8. The deacon Philip had gone to Samaria and baptized a lot of people but had not laid hands on them. Jerusalem church sent Peter and John to do that.

Acts 8:14-17

"Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. **16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit".

That's the normal process. **Cornelius' story in Acts 10 was an exception** since he was a Gentile and God had to show everyone that he was calling Gentiles now too. So they received the Holy Spirit *before* baptism. But usually Holy Spirit comes with laying on of hands (2 Timothy 1:6; Hebrews 6:2) after baptism.

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So – is that describing what you went thru, so far? You acknowledged God's calling, repented, got baptized in water, then hands were laid on you to receive the Holy Spirit? If so, so far so good. Here are more signs of having God's spirit.

- 3. WE BEGIN TO BE TRANSFORMED by God's presence in us. We're being CONVERTED, changed, to be a child of holy God.**

Full repentance involves *battling sin* and being transformed (Rom. 12:1-2) as we let Christ make us a new creation in Him (2 Cor. 5:17). This is what true conversion is. There are now two natures inside us: Godly nature led by the spirit, or the Flesh. These two are at war with each other.

Matthew 18:2-4 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, **unless you are CONVERTED and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.** 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be **CONVERTED**, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,"

HE IN US is what creates the New Creation, the new you. HE alone is creator of the new self. You and I don't create the new life in us. God does. So we refer to people of God led by God's spirit as "converted" people – they've converted from living in sin to living righteously. This is a process. It takes time with many slip-ups. Initially we make the decision to change and come to Christ, but being genuinely transformed can only happen with the Spirit but neither are most people suddenly perfect.

Having, using, and being led by God's Holy Spirit to transform us is what makes us children of God (**Rom 8:14**) and truly converted brethren. We are to be going through a TRANSFORMATION of our minds (**Romans 12:1-2**). This conversion, this change, should be evident to others.

If you've had no transformation, that's a problem. We are like a tree, known by our fruit. Transformation is part of the FRUIT of

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having truly repented and turned to God. *One by one we are stopping the old sins that plagued us.* You're more patient now, more loving, kinder, less lustful. If we have never changed, we may possibly *not* have God's spirit and need to talk to your pastor.

If you seem unable to change, you're probably feeding the FLESH, catering to your carnal nature, instead of God's spirit.

I love **Galatians 5:16-17**. The KEY to being transformed: **“WALK IN The SPIRIT and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”** If you spend time scrolling endlessly on Facebook, TikTok and Instagram– why are you doing that? What images are you looking for? Things that make you lust more? That's feeding the flesh and will not let you grow spiritually.

But when we “slip up” and sin, as we all still do, as even Paul admitted in Romans 7 that he still did things he hated, we must admit those are SINS, not just our struggles. But Paul admitted he hated those sinful things.

We now have faith in JESUS and his righteousness. HE is now our life and our righteousness. We are not righteous due to our own works, but by faith in Jesus. Read **GAL. 2:20-21** carefully. #4 is a natural next point.

4. Do you now HATE sin? With God's Holy Spirit, now when we sin, we feel greatly troubled by it. We hate it!

Though we all still sin – Paul referred to those times as doing the things which he HATED. With God's spirit, we should now HATE sins that we do. Very soon after sinning, we FEEL badly, deeply! God's spirit points out the sin and its consequences. **This is because two natures are in us and they constantly battle each other. This is GOOD AND NORMAL to feel the battle.**

Romans 7:14-22 REMEMBER THESE ARE WORDS from Paul. “For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; ***but what I HATE, that I do.*** 16 **If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.** 17 **But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.** 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 **For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to**

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do, that I practice. (NET: "I do not do the good I want to do...")
20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.
21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good."

When YOU sin, are you soon waking up to what you've done and HATING the sin you did? With God's spirit you will! **That's a good sign you have God's spirit.**

*If you don't hate sin, if you still too often engage in sin **and enjoy doing so** – over time God's spirit will not stay with you, as God left King Saul. David prayed "take not your spirit from me" (Psalm 51:10-11).*

I particularly address the sin of sexual lust for our men and not a few women too. See my sermon on Overcoming. If we are feeding our FLESHLY NATURE and our minds with stories, pictures, movies, internet exposure and conversations that flood our thinking with thoughts of lust – *that will be the fruit of our lives.* That must stop! If you truly still have God's spirit, you will want to STOP all that too!

But change is a lifelong process. **I like to say, "I'm not yet what I want to be. I'm not yet what I'm going to be. But thanks be to God, I am no longer what I WAS."**

5. We can now understand and ENJOY the Bible, God's Word, as never before. Daily Bible study is not a checklist item.

Regular humanity cannot understand spiritual concepts but need the Holy Spirit to see spiritual truth. If you understand the sermons and the Bible, you probably have God's spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:11-12

"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."

With God's spirit, you now love Bible study. We now love learning more of God's truths and of his way. Don't just read the Bible, but STUDY it.

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1 Peter 2:2 "*as newborn babes*, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby"

A new born baby absolutely clearly wants more milk! That's how we should desire and feel about Bible study.

Can you help me provide Bibles for our very poor brethren in Kenya?

I work with over 3,200 brethren in Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa. They are very poor. And though I've bought over 800+ Bibles, we need many more. If you're willing to help us, that would be so appreciated. Just send whatever you can to Donate@lightontheRock.org You can use your card or Zelle or PayPal. *Please help them have their own Bible in a zippered case, in their own language.* (Story of man who held Bible to his heart—"I finally have God's word in my own language that I can take home with me.") And so on their behalf, I thank you. Please help them.

- 6. Similarly, if you have God's spirit, you now LOVE to pray and talk to God. It's also not just a checklist to-do item.** Prayer to you now is "praying always" – or as I refer to it, as "Constant contact" with God, many times throughout the day in short bursts of communing with God, being in his presence.

However, if you're still frequently sinning horrible sins, you may not feel confident to come before the holy presence of holy God. But we must. And He will be there for you (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2).

But most of the time you're enjoying prayer – all through the day, not necessarily always on your knees. The Bible has examples of praying as you stand, kneel, as you even lie in bed. But talk to God. Look forward to it.

- 7. Can you say you now "hear Jesus' voice" or have God revealing His will to you? Look what Jesus clearly said:**

John 10:27

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

This is very clear. But one minister even said you should get your head examined if you ever feel Jesus or Father is telling you things. *But I believe Jesus.* He clearly said his sheep hear his voice! I hear his voice at times as

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strong thoughts with clear words, strong direction in my mind. If you're a part of his flock, you will be hearing his voice. He said that plain and clear.

I suggest you **study my two sermons on Hearing God's voice**. Just type in "Hearing" into the Search bar. God has not gone mute.

The problem is *we* are too noisy, too busy, too preoccupied to be hearing what our Father and our Saviour have to say to us.

If you never hear Jesus' voice, it may not be a lack of the Holy Spirit so much as a lack of focused quiet time. This makes me think of the Laodiceans. Jesus is outside calling out, knocking on their door but they couldn't hear him. Why? Probably too noisy, too preoccupied.

Revelation 3:19-20

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone HEARS MY VOICE and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

So get more QUIET time. Even while praying, sometimes just stop talking and ask God to talk to you, and then hush. Be quiet. Do you do that? I often have a pad and pen near me for the times I DO start to get words in my head I know I didn't initiate. ASK God to speak to you, to convey His will. Tell Him you want to hear from him. Even when praying, stop periodically and just listen. Say nothing for a time. Tell the Almighty you are eager to hear from him.

You may hear from him right then and there, or a few days later. It's SO exciting when it starts happening and you know it's GOD conveying his will to you – not just your own thoughts.

I ask God to speak to me and show me His will especially with sermon preparation, or before important meetings or phone calls coming up. Or when struggling with sins I can't seem to obliterate from my life. And I fairly often get strong messages and words from Almighty God telling me what I need to know.

YOU WILL, sooner or later, start to get very strong feelings and messages, perhaps as you pray or later. **Jesus SAID, "My sheep hear my voice."** BELIEVE HIM. That's more than just saying they "hear" Jesus in Bible study or from sermons. Sure, that's also part of hearing Jesus' voice. But

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more and more you'll start to experience HE IS talking to you in strong thoughts and nudges. SO exciting. I have sermons on this topic too.

8. Do you have any GIFTS of the God's spirit listed in 1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12?

These are not abilities you were born with, or talents you developed, but something since receiving God's spirit. Gifts HE gave you. If you have these kind of gifts of the spirit, you must have God's Holy spirit.

Romans 12:6-8 NIV

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is **prophesying**, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is **servicing**, let him serve; if it is **teaching**, let him teach; 8 if it is **encouraging**, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is **leadership**, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

1 Corinthians 12:6-11

"And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of **wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the word of **knowledge** through the same Spirit, 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, 10 to another the **working of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another **discerning of spirits**, to another **different kinds of tongues**, to another **the interpretation of tongues**. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills"

If you cannot see any gifts of the spirit, ask others if THEY see gifts in you. You might be surprised and encouraged.

9. Are you experiencing the real Peace of God even in severe crisis, trials, illness, pain and death of loved ones?

It's easy to expect God will keep us from a lot of pain and suffering since we are his children. But in fact, it's in the pain and suffering and trials where we learn to fully, deeply trust God. It's easy to have peace with God and to trust him when all is going well.

Look at all the things Paul had to go through! **2 Cor. 11:22-27**. And this was an apostle, but God still made him go through so much. Shipwrecked 3x, beaten with rods three times, scourged, stoned and left for dead, in numerous riots, numerous attempts on his life, plus something he

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calls a thorn in the flesh – perhaps bad eyesight, but we don't know for sure. Look at what Paul said about that:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for MY strength is made perfect in weakness.”** **Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.** 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.”**

And one of my favorite scriptures. No matter what we're going through, this is the goal of the way a Spirit-led believer will react. Read it several times.

Philippians 4:6-7 Holman Bible

“**Don't worry about ANYTHING**, but *in EVERYTHING*, through prayer and petition ***with thanksgiving***, let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”.

Diagnosed with cancer? THANK HIM. HOW? *Thank him that you can go through anything by his power.* It doesn't mean we won't have hard times. Even after being beaten in Philippi, and jailed with chains, Paul and Silas prayed and sang while even in JAIL, chained up (Read Acts 16:23-26). Look what God did.

SO EVEN IF GOD MAKES YOU GO THROUGH a terrible time, we still rejoice in him by faith, and look beyond all that to the resurrection!

If you can do that, you probably have the Holy Spirit.

10. **You're truly BEARING FRUIT of God's SPIRIT. You're becoming more like God by HIS SPIRIT – bu. It's not the fruit of your own effort but fruit God is producing. You're not perfect, but neither are you what you used to be anymore. That's a good sign you have God's spirit. Maybe this should be in the first five.**

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If we have God's spirit, we WILL be having more love, more joy, more peace, more longsuffering, goodness, kindness and faithfulness, gentleness and self control (Gal. 5:22-23). We should be BETTER PEOPLE than we used to be before we had the Holy Spirit. More gentle. Kinder, Nicer.

If we're not changing at all, you may want to FAST, and talk to God and his ministers about this – and maybe even get rebaptized!

So if we're NOT changing at all, I'd be concerned. But if you were baptized and had hands laid on you – and you've been falling more into sin recently, maybe you or I need to FAST, SEEK GOD again with all our heart, and ask him to help us TURN from our wicked way.

Matthew 7:17-20 “ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

Know this though: It's not us WORKING on becoming more loving, or kinder, or more patient – we just become more patient with God's spirit if we follow God's leading! The Holy Spirit flows out the very characteristics of Jesus Christ as we GROW TO BE more and more like him, and look increasingly more like Jesus.

WE IDENTIFY TREES by their FRUIT. If we see apples, then it's an apple tree. Similarly, WE should be bearing more and more love and joy and peace and the various aspects of the 9-part fruit of the spirit but it's not happening because WE are trying too hard, except to ABIDE IN Christ, AND THEN we SHALL BEAR more fruit, HIS fruit.

John 15:4-5 reveals the KEY BEARING God's fruit. He says:

Verse 4 – we cannot bear fruit by ourselves.

V 5 – but if we abide, stay firmly close to, Jesus, we WILL bear much fruit. HIS fruit. Our righteousness is BY Jesus Christ (Phil 1:11).

***Are you seeing the importance of daily prayer and Bible study?
That's PART of abiding in Christ.***

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Look up my sermon on Bearing the Fruit of the Spirit. Just type in "Fruit." It's best to just use one or two words.

This fruit of Love from God's spirit will show love to every human being – even our enemies, even those in other churches, or other races, or other tribes; it doesn't matter. Jesus was a FRIEND of sinners! (Matthew 11:19). Do YOU have real friends who are not a part of your church? Show God's love everywhere.

THERE ARE more points. We'll wrap it up there, but just let me mention that I also believe with God's spirit we want to share about Jesus, talk about him and his kingdom of God. Evangelizing is not just for pastors, but for all of us. You can read in Acts 8:3-6 how the early believers were scattered, but as they went out, they went everywhere preaching the word and talked of Jesus. You and I should do that more too.

We could go on and on. But I hope you have the confidence that though we're not perfect, we have God's spirit. If you doubt it – then deeply fast, repent, and talk to your pastor. Perhaps – in a few RARE cases – you should seek to be rebaptized (like Acts 19) all in the name of Jesus, and dedicate your life to zealously seeking after God.

Be sure you also keep ASKING for more of God's spirit. God wants to give you more of himself. I'm sure he also wants to see how badly you want more of his spirit – so ASK.

Luke 11:9-13 "So I say to you, **ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. 10 **For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.** 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!**"

Praise God. (Closing prayer)