



WHEN THE SPIRIT MOVES

Discerning the Spirits, True and False

September 8, 2024 Message Notes
1 John 4:1

NOTES

When life doesn't go as good as we hoped or expected, the Holy Spirit is our Comforter.

The Holy Spirit is your resource for abundant living until Christ comes again.

“As your days, so shall your strength be.” Deuteronomy 33:25

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first...” John 15:18



“Do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” Luke 12:11-12

When the world hates you, the Holy Spirit is going to help you.

Where can you turn when you need...

- Strength to persevere in spite of opposition?
- Power to bear witness in the face of unbelief?
- Insight to discern wisdom in the midst of deceit?

The Holy Spirit will guide us with truth through the Word of God

“You will be arrested, persecuted and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers and many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other and many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere and the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And the good news of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:9-14

“Don’t worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, for the Holy Spirit will tell you at that time what needs to be said.” Luke 12:11-12

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses telling people about me everywhere.” Acts 1:8 NLT

When times are hard the Holy Spirit will help you.

“Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings



that come from demons. These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead. They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods... Do not waste your time arguing over godless ideas... Instead, train yourself to be godly.” 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 7 (NLT)

“In the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.” 2 Timothy 3:1-2 NLT

“They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless and puffed up with pride and love pleasure rather than God.” 2 Timothy 3:3-4 NLT

When times are hard the Holy Spirit will help.

“Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” Ephesians 6:17

The Holy Spirit helps us in discerning the spirits at work in culture.

“Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said, hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil.”
1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 NLT

“Dear friends, 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.”
1 John 4:1

When times are hard the Holy Spirit will help you.

We are not to withdraw from the world. Jesus wants us **in** the world, but not corrupted **by** the world.



“I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They don’t belong to this world... Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth... Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world...” John 17:15-18 NLT

Why do people who have faith in God still experience evil? There is no absence of divine love in their soul, yet God seems absent.

1. Faith-in-God people share the same world everybody else does.
2. God works through people being rescued to rescue others.
3. God's goal isn't escape for faith-in-God people, but overcoming.
4. While people of faith are going through them, unbelievers watching can get questions like this answered and find hope and come to Christ.

We are admonished to be clear-minded, sober and alert to the ideas and principles animating culture – like the spirit of greed, pride and envy.

It is important that we listen to all of the world’s rhetoric through the filter of Jesus.

“Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”
Jesus, Matthew 22:21

“We ought to obey God rather than men.” *Peter, Acts 5:29*

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities...”
Pray for “all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives”
Paul, Romans 13:1, 1 Timothy 2:2

“The Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings...” *John, Revelation 17:14*

Jesus is our Filter.



When it comes to power, the world loves to blame, shame, defame and inflame.

Jesus' kingdom is one of servant leadership.
- Use your power to serve the greater good.

The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.

How do we discern the spirits?

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you
 - Build up your Biblical literacy
 - Check in with Jesus
 - Discern the fruit. Become a fruit inspector.
- “You will know them by their fruit.” Matthew 7:16

God may not choose to deliver us from evil but He will never fail to deliver us through it.

Everyone will answer to God. But in Christ we are “more than conquerors” (Rom. 8:37).

What if being more than a conqueror is less about the difference and more about staying together even in disagreement?

The Holy Spirit can help us do that.

