

THE ORDINARY SIGNS OF THE SPIRIT

Sunday, May 18, 2025 – After Resurrection – Pastor Ben Nistor

JOHN 16:4–15

Jesus speaking to His DISCIPLES...

English Standard Version (ESV)

4 “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. **5** But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ **6** But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. **7** Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you. But if I go, **I will send him to you.** **8** And when he comes, **he will convict the world** concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; **10** concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; **11** concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. **12** “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** **When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.** **14** **He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.** **15** All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that **he will take what is mine and declare it to you.**

REVIEW: THE ADVENT OF THE SPIRIT (LAST WEEK)

- The Old Testament promises the coming of the Messiah (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit (Genesis 3:15; see also Joel 2:28–29).
- God’s salvation comes through the vicarious, substitutionary atonement accomplished through the virgin birth, sinless life, sacrificial death, burial and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come after he departed (John 14:16–17, 25–27; John 16:4–15).

1) THE SURE SIGNS OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BIBLE

- There are over 240 explicit actions of the Spirit in the Old and New Testaments
- The dominant action of the Spirit in both testaments is giving revelation.
 - God the Spirit speaks through prophets and apostles to give the Word (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Tim 3:16)
- The Holy Spirit also empowers individuals in both Testaments (e.g. Moses, David, Messiah, John the Baptist, and the Apostles)
- The Holy Spirit participated in creation (Gen 1:2; Job 33:4), gifted skills to craftsmen (Exodus 31:1–5), and dwelt with God’s people (Exodus 29:45; Nehemiah 9:25)
- In the New Testament, the second most frequent action of the Spirit after giving revelation is making believers holy (sanctification).
 - The Holy Spirit fills people (Acts 6:3; Ephesians 5:18), produces fruit in believers (Romans 15:16; Galatians 2:22), indwells, regenerates, assures, convicts, and illuminates.
- The Holy Spirit’s signs can be categorized as extraordinary and ordinary.
 - Extraordinary signs usually occurred during transitional moments in God’s redemptive plan and served to re-order God’s people for ongoing, ordinary work for a given period (e.g. Building the tabernacle, the period of the Judges, the coming Messiah, Pentecost, establishing the church, and being in heaven).
 - The ordinary signs of the Spirit usually follow this pattern: revelation, life-generation, and ongoing sanctification.
- Often today, Christians tend to overemphasize the Spirit’s extraordinary signs to the woeful neglect of the ongoing, ordinary signs of the Spirit.

- We may dangerously elevate extraordinary experiences over the ongoing, ordered, ordinary signs of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12–14; e.g. desiring Spiritual manifestations but neglecting to love)

2) THE SURE SIGNS OF THE SPIRIT SOON AFTER JESUS' DEPARTURE

Sign #1 – The Spirit convicts the world over their sin -- verse 8, 9

*'he will convict the world concerning sin'
'...concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;*

Acts 2:37–38 → Peter preaches and people are convicted of their sin
See also 1 Thessalonians 1:5

Sign #2 – The Spirit convicts the world over their self-righteousness – verse 8, 10

*'he will convict the world concerning...righteousness'
'...concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;'*

Acts 9 → Paul is convicted of his self-righteous persecution of the church
See also Philippians 3:4–9

Sign #3 – The Spirit convicts the world over their judgment of Christ – verse 8, 11

*'he will convict the world concerning...judgment'
'...concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.'*

Acts 4:10–12 → Peter confronts Israel's leaders for judging Jesus wrongly.
See also 1 Corinthians 2:8

From the Hymn, 'How Deep the Father's Love'

*Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;*

Our judgment { ***Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice**
Call out among the scoffers.*

*It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.*

Sign #4 – The Spirit guides His people in all Truth that is bound to Jesus Christ – verse 13

'When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth (Jesus!), for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.' → after the resurrection, ascension, and Pentecost

Acts 10–11 → The Holy Spirit guides Peter to preach the truth to Cornelius
See also 1 Corinthians 2:10–13

Sign #5 – The Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ by declaring all that He is and does – verses 14–15

14 *He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.* **15** *All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

Acts 9:20; 13:1–12 → Following his conversion and filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul proclaims Jesus Christ
See also 1 Corinthians 12:3

3) THE SURE SIGNS OF THE SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH TODAY

- The Holy Spirit still reveals the beautiful truths of SCRIPTURE (Galatians 3:1–2)
O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?
- The Holy Spirit still performs the miraculous act of SALVATION
 - The Holy Spirit turns a spiritual slave into a son/daughter (Galatians 4:4–7)
*4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 **So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.***
- The Holy Spirit still gives the transformative gift of SANCTIFICATION (Galatians 3:2–3)
2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

IMPLICATION: NO! The Spirit saves AND sanctifies.
- The Holy Spirit still wages war against SINFUL FLESH (Galatians 5:16–17)
*16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are **against the Spirit**, and the desires of the **Spirit are against the flesh**, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*
- The Holy Spirit still provides SPIRITUAL GIFTS (Galatians 5:22–23)
*22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*
- The Holy Spirit still prioritizes SPIRIT-FILLED COMMUNITY (Galatians 5:25–6:2)
If WE live by the Spirit**, let us also **keep in step with the Spirit**. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and **so fulfill the law of Christ.

DO YOU HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- 1) When you sin, do you sense an inner tension? Are you numb? Do you sense guilt?
- 2) Do you call Jesus ‘LORD’? Is He *REALLY* your LORD? → only by the Spirit (see 1 Cor 12:3)
- 3) Do you seek to use the Spirit for *your* purposes or His purpose: TO GLORIFY JESUS?
REMEMBER: The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus → Those with the Holy Spirit glorify Jesus too!