

# Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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## The Holy Spirit Will Direct Us To Jesus

by Dan Trygg

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are out-from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world...<sup>5</sup> They are out-from the world; therefore they speak out-from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are out-from God; the one who experientially-knows God listens to us; the one who is not out-from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

1 John 4:1,5-6

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is out-from God, so that we may know the things freely-given to us by God.”

1 Corinthians 2:12

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

John 14:26

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

John 16:13-14

The apostle John warns us that there are spirits out there that are actively working in the lives and minds of people who are professing to speak truth, some even claiming to speak for God. This was a big problem in the first century church, and it is a significant concern in our time, as well. The apostle Paul also warned of false apostles, people who were proclaiming a Jesus who, at first blush, may seem similar to the real Jesus (2 Cor. 11:4). On closer examination, however, **the so-called Jesus that they were promoting did *not* accurately correspond to the Jesus of the NT, the actual Jesus of history, the true Jesus of Nazareth. *The message that these people were proclaiming was not at all the same message as the genuine gospel, ...and the spirit that was accompanying their presentation, influencing their listeners, and sometimes even doing supernatural things was not the Holy Spirit.*** Similar Jesus, different gospel, very different spirit. **We don't often think in terms of the spiritual reality behind some of the teachers, preachers, podcasters or talk show moderators of our day.** We don't consider that there may be more going on than convincing communication, or moving music, or crowd hysteria, or susceptible people. The NT points out that there are spiritual beings at work in and through these speakers, their organizations, their communications, and in the deception that clouds the minds of people and appeals to their emotions. Sometimes, there are even spiritual phenomena that seem to accompany these meetings. But, ...is it the Holy Spirit? **Is it about the real Jesus? And, is it declaring the same message that He stood for?**

When we consider what Paul was concerned about in **2 Corinthians 11:3,4**, we find a key insight that helps to expose the underlying agenda of whatever or whoever is speaking. **Paul wanted to secure a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.** The original language is interesting here. **He said, “I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived (led-astray) Eve through his subtle-craftiness, your minds might be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”** (11:3). The word for “simplicity” here is a negated form of the word for “many, multiple”. It means “*not* multiple”, as in “single, focused, undistracted”. It refers to a person who is devoted to Jesus with no dissimulation, pretense, or distraction. That **singleness of heart is the focus and goal of our relationship with Christ**, much as a couple engaged to be married should not be distracted or drawn away by other potential partners. Christ is to be the focus, the goal, the delight of our hearts. **What did Satan do? He subtly led Adam and Eve astray from purity of focus on God, using distraction and suggestion to direct their attention, focus and affection away from Him.** The word for “craftiness” refers to the sleight-of-hand trickery used by magicians to misdirect and fool their audiences. **All that Satan has to do is direct our attention away from Jesus, and on to other concerns or interests, and we are subtly being led astray, ...and we don't even realize it!**

**The spirits of this world will lead us away from Jesus, but the Holy Spirit will lead us toward Him. The spirits of this age will draw our attention to other concerns or interests; the Holy Spirit will draw us deeper into Christ Himself.** John said that the spirits of this world are out-from the world, and therefore they speak of worldly concerns and interests. These concerns do not have to be “evil” to be destructive or deceptive. **Satan just wants to distract us and draw us away from Christ as our Source of hope, purpose and power for living. By contrast, the Holy Spirit's desire is to reveal to us more concerning Jesus, ...who He is, what He has accomplished for us, and what He desires to do in and with us as His co-workers here in this world. The Holy Spirit delights to magnify Jesus.** He takes the things of Jesus and discloses or announces them to us. He comes alongside of us to teach us, and will guide us in the way of truth. The word for “guide” is a very personal word. It literally means the “way leader”. Instead of just giving us some information, or pointing us in a certain direction, the word means that **He accompanies us along**

the path of God's direction for our lives. He *shows us* the way, and *guides or counsels us* as we walk with Him. This is a picture of an interactive partnership, a relationship of instruction, implementation and training-by-doing. Again, **the spirits of this world-system desire to *interfere with this relationship, and redirect our attention elsewhere.***

The apostle Paul said that we did not receive the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God in order that we might know the things graciously given to us by Him. **This is the job of the Holy Spirit. He has come to help us perceive what God has provided for us by His grace, in and through Jesus. This should be a priority for us.** We ought to be asking Him to teach us, to open our minds and hearts, and uncover to us, more and more, the fullness of what God has provided for us by His grace through Jesus. This is a life-long pursuit, and ought to be getting deeper and producing more fruit in our lives. **These are insights and discoveries that are not taught by human wisdom, or contained in the pages of a book.** They are taught by the Spirit, as we go through life experiences. **And often they can only be correctly recognized and appreciated by a group of believers.** The original language of 1 Corinthians 2:13 says that these things are "not taught by human wisdom, but in teachings of the Spirit, spiritual ones jointly-discerning spiritual things." **So, not only will the Holy Spirit lead us deeper into Christ, but He will also lead us to other like-minded brothers or sisters who are seeking to discover more of what God intends for them.** These are people who are humble, practical, and centered on Jesus. People who are single in their hearts and focused on Jesus.

Finding people who are willing to put Jesus first, people willing to be focused on and devoted toward Him, is rare in our time. **The enemy uses many tricks and methods to try to pull us away from that single-hearted pursuit of Christ.** He uses the lusts and distractions of the world, but he also comes in more subtle ways. **He will try to entrap us in "much service"**, like Martha of Bethany (Lk. 10:40). Sometimes too much of a "good thing" can keep us from the "best thing". Or, put another way, **"the good" can sometimes be the worst enemy of "the best"**. It is better to sit a little while longer at the feet of Jesus to get His instructions, strength and empowerment, than to forge ahead on our own in blind zeal. **One of the key distractions of our time has to do with the news.** So many of the stories we hear about are really none of our business, in that they actually have little to do with us. Often, they can occupy our thoughts and consume our attention. **They divert us from Jesus. This is not simply a weakness of the flesh; this is by design!** News media, podcasters, talk shows, and even religious programming are often crafted to "hook us". They intentionally use suggestive and inflammatory claims, insinuating that there is some dark secret to discover that *they* can uncover for you. When you go back for more, ...when you "do your research", ...when you send for books, or watch more extensive programming, they are pulling you in farther. **Ask yourself, "Is this drawing me to focus on Jesus, or is this filling my mind with things that distract me from Him?"** Has Jesus called you to take on these issues? Is this really an *assignment* from Him, or a *distraction* from the enemy? What are you supposed to *do* about it? Are you called to seek out a solution, or bring about change, ...or is this just something to occupy your mind and upset your emotions? **Where is this going? Does it draw you toward Jesus, or lead you away from Him in your thoughts and attention? Are you going to HIM for an answer, ...even in prayer? How much** time and attention are you investing in these things? Do you talk about these matters with others? *How much* time and attention are you investing in *Jesus*, ...especially in pursuing a deeper understanding and a greater level of maturity? Are you talking to others about *Him*? **Are you seeing freedom in your heart and life? Are you experiencing the peaceful fruit of the Spirit in your life, or are you experiencing the agitation of the flesh?** Read through Galatians 5:19-23 and ask yourself what sounds more like your inner experiences, ...the desires and emotions of verses 19-21, or those of verses 22-23?

**When the apostle John told us to "test the spirits to see whether they are from God", these are the kinds of questions to ask, and observations to make.** Again, "the spirits" were actively working through human spokespeople. They were "prophets" in that they were people who were "speaking before" others. **They were voices conveying a message or narrative, promoting ideas, values and practices that were out-from the world system.** They were not all identifiable as "religious preachers". They were politicians, philosophers, local and world leaders, businesspeople, and even neighborhood gossips. The point is that **these were people that could be influenced by spirits that were in opposition to God. Their purpose was to distract and misdirect people away from God, and draw them to pursue what would lead them into emotional disruption, relational conflict, and patterns of living that would lead them into bondage and destruction.** The people of the first century, that John and Paul were writing about, have all died. The spirits that were at work in them, and in the world system, have continued on, however. **They are at work in the lives and minds of people in our day.** They have influenced *us* in the past, and we still need to untangle the web of false beliefs, wounded emotions, and misperceptions that they have helped to establish in our lives in order to manipulate and control us. We have been set free from their authority by Christ, but we need to learn to walk out of the darkness and into the light. **The enemy is happy to continue to misdirect and control us, if he can. The spirits of this age will draw us back into the maelstrom of life without Christ. The Holy Spirit will guide us deeper into the intimacy, knowledge and purpose of Jesus in our lives. Our victory and freedom are found in Him.**