

## **Bible Study Guide**

### **The Holy Spirit: Are We Truly Listening and Making Him First?**

#### **Key Theme**

The Holy Spirit speaks, guides, convicts, and empowers believers, but many Christians struggle to slow down, listen, and place God first above distractions, pride, busyness, and personal desires.

This study challenges believers to examine whether they are truly being led by the Holy Spirit or simply asking God to bless their own plans.

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#### **Key Scripture**

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth...” — John 16:13

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#### **Big Idea**

The Holy Spirit is constantly leading believers toward truth, holiness, wisdom, and obedience—but we must intentionally make room to hear His voice and follow His direction.

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## **Historical Context**

Before His crucifixion, Jesus Christ prepared His disciples for His departure by promising the coming of the Holy Spirit. In John 14–16, Jesus explained that the Spirit would continue His work by teaching, guiding, convicting, and empowering believers.

At Pentecost in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit filled the believers, transforming fearful disciples into bold witnesses. The early church depended daily on the Spirit’s guidance rather than relying solely on human wisdom or strength.

Today many believers acknowledge the Holy Spirit intellectually while rarely slowing down enough to truly listen and surrender.

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## **Session 1 — The Holy Spirit Still Speaks**

### **Main Scripture**

John 16:13

Romans 8:14

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” — Romans 8:14

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## **What Does It Mean to Be Led by the Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit:

- Guides believers toward truth
- Gives conviction
- Produces peace and discernment
- Directs decisions
- Opens our understanding of Scripture
- Warns against sin and compromise

God primarily speaks through:

- Scripture
  - Prayer
  - Conviction
  - Wisdom
  - Godly counsel
  - The inward prompting of the Holy Spirit
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### **Signs We May Not Be Listening**

#### **1. Constant Busyness**

Noise can drown out spiritual sensitivity.

#### **2. Living by Emotion Instead of Truth**

Feelings can overpower discernment.

### **3. Prioritizing Comfort Over Obedience**

Sometimes we know what God wants, but we resist.

### **4. Lack of Prayer and Scripture**

It is difficult to hear God while disconnected from His Word.

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### **Reflection Questions**

- When was the last time I slowed down long enough to listen to God?
  - What distractions compete for my spiritual attention?
  - Am I more driven by culture or by the Spirit?
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## **Session 2 — Is the Holy Spirit First in Our Lives?**

### **Main Scripture**

Matthew 6:33

Galatians 5:16–25

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness...” —

Matthew 6:33

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### **What Happens When God Is Not First?**

When believers stop prioritizing the Spirit:

- Spiritual discernment weakens
  - Fleshly desires become stronger
  - Prayer becomes inconsistent
  - Conviction becomes easier to ignore
  - Anxiety and confusion increase
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## **Walking by the Flesh vs. Walking by the Spirit**

**Galatians 5 contrasts:**

### **The Flesh**

- Pride
- Anger
- Jealousy
- Impurity
- Selfish ambition

### **The Spirit**

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Self-control

The question becomes:  
Which influence is shaping our daily lives?

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## **Practical Ways to Put the Holy Spirit First**

### **1. Begin Each Day in Prayer**

Invite God into your decisions before the world fills your mind.

### **2. Stay Rooted in Scripture**

The Spirit often speaks through God's Word.

### **3. Obey Promptings Quickly**

Delayed obedience often becomes disobedience.

### **4. Remove Spiritual Distractions**

Not everything pulling for attention deserves priority.

### **5. Make Worship a Lifestyle**

The Spirit moves in surrendered hearts.

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## **Session 3 — Learning to Recognize the Voice of the Spirit**

### **Main Scripture**

1 Kings 19:11–13

John 10:27

“My sheep listen to my voice...” — John 10:27

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## **Elijah and the Whisper**

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah expected God in dramatic displays:

- Wind
- Earthquake
- Fire

But God spoke through a gentle whisper.

Sometimes believers miss God because they only expect dramatic signs while ignoring quiet conviction and daily guidance.

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## **How the Spirit Commonly Speaks**

### **Through Scripture**

The Spirit never contradicts God’s Word.

### **Through Conviction**

The Spirit reveals areas needing surrender.

## **Through Peace**

God's direction often brings clarity and peace, even in difficulty.

## **Through Wisdom and Counsel**

God uses mature believers to confirm direction.

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## **Warning Signs of Ignoring the Spirit**

- Repeated compromise
  - Spiritual numbness
  - Rationalizing sin
  - Lack of conviction
  - Prayerlessness
  - Distance from God
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## **Session 4 — Living a Spirit-Led Life**

### **Main Scripture**

Acts 2:1–4

Ephesians 5:18

“Be filled with the Spirit.” — Ephesians 5:18

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## **The Holy Spirit Empowers More Than Church Attendance**

The Spirit empowers believers to:

- Love difficult people
- Walk in holiness
- Share the gospel boldly
- Endure hardship
- Serve faithfully
- Live differently from the world

The early church was not transformed by programs alone—it was transformed by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

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### **Questions for Spiritual Evaluation**

- Is God truly first in my schedule?
  - Do I seek God before making decisions?
  - Have I become spiritually distracted?
  - Am I obeying what the Spirit has already shown me?
  - Do others see evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in my life?
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### **Supporting Scriptures**

- John 14:26 — The Advocate teaches and reminds
  - Romans 8:14 — Led by the Spirit
  - Galatians 5:22–23 — Fruit of the Spirit
  - Acts 1:8 — Power through the Spirit
  - Ephesians 4:30 — Do not grieve the Spirit
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:19 — Do not quench the Spirit
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## **Life Application**

The Holy Spirit is not meant to be an occasional influence in a believer's life. He is meant to lead daily.

The challenge for believers today is not whether the Spirit still speaks—the challenge is whether we are making room to listen and whether we are willing to obey.

A Spirit-led life requires:

- Surrender
  - Stillness
  - Sensitivity
  - Obedience
  - Trust
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## **Closing Prayer**

“Holy Spirit, help me slow down and listen to Your voice. Remove distractions, pride, fear, and anything competing for first place in my life. Teach me to walk in obedience, truth, and sensitivity to Your leading. Let my life reflect the fruit of Your presence daily. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”