

Test Everything

May 17, 2026

- 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21
 - Do not stifle the Holy Spirit
 - Cessationism – gifts of the Holy Spirit no longer functioning
 - Good with the general, but missing the specifics
- Test – to see if it is genuine - Positive Perspective
- Hold fast to what is good
- Acts 17:11 And the people of Berea ...They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.

Help in the testing

Search the Scriptures – speaking by inspiration of the Spirit will never contradict the Word authored by the Holy Spirit

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- God’s word – final authority
- Hebrews 5:14

Rely on the Holy Spirit

- 1 John 2:27 But you have received the Holy Spirit, ... For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know
- Acts 21:10–14 ... “The Holy Spirit declares, ‘So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.’
- Acts 9:16 And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

Evaluate the Fruit

- Matthew 7:15–20
- Identify people, true or false, by their actions
- Know them by their fruit

Ask for Wisdom and Discernment

- James 1:5 (NLT) — 5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you.
- Romans 12:2 ...Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Remain Faithful

- John 8:31–32 (NLT) — 31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth...

In the Last Days – many voices

- The Bible describes the "last days" as a tumultuous period preceding the return of Jesus Christ, marked by social upheaval, spiritual deception, and global distress
- Social and Moral Decay: 2 Timothy 3:1-5 warns of people being lovers of themselves and money, proud, arrogant, and having a form of godliness but denying its power
- Signs of the Times: Jesus mentioned wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, famine, and increased persecution of Christians (Matthew 24)
- Spiritual Deception: Many will turn away from the faith to follow deceiving spirits and false teachers.

Revival in the Last Days

- Acts 2:17–21 ... ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
- Matthew 24:9–14 ...And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.
- False Teaching – Kingdom Now

Ideal and Real Gap

- Ideal – God’s will that all be saved
 - 2 Peter 3:9 ...He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.
- Real – few there are
 - Matthew 7:13–14...the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

Pray and do

- Matthew 9:37–38 ...So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”
 - Do you want revival?
 - Are you praying?
 - Are you sharing your faith?