

6. The Holy Spirit's Prompting often Leads into _____, not Comfort

Acts 16:22–23 (NIV) ²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to **be stripped and beaten with rods.** ²³ After they had been **severely flogged,** they were thrown into **prison...**

- Sometimes the place that hurts, is the place that _____.

Acts 16:25–33 (NIV) ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God... ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a **violent earthquake** that the **foundations** of the **prison were shaken...** ³⁰ The jailer asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"... ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ ...then immediately he and all **his household were baptized.**

Paul and Silas take a Stand

Acts 16:36–39 ³⁶ The jailer told Paul, "The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. **Now you can leave.** Go in peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to the officers: "They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? **No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.**" ³⁸ ...when the magistrates heard that **Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed.** ³⁹ They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison...

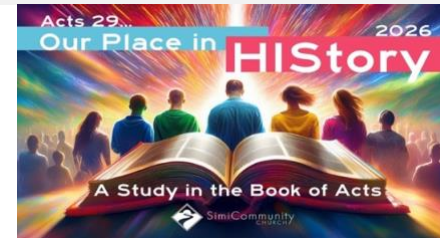
Jesus takes a Stand

Matthew 5:39 ³⁹ If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Matthew 22:17–20 (NIV) ¹⁷ Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?" ¹⁹ **Show me the coin used for paying the tax.** **They brought him a denarius,** ²⁰ and he asked them, "Whose image is this?"

How Can You Recognize the Holy Spirit?

1. **Does it agree with Scripture?**
(God never contradicts Himself)
2. **Does it produce peace instead of manipulation?**
(Not necessarily comfort but a settled confidence)
3. **Is it making you more like Christ?**
(The Spirit points people toward Jesus, not toward self-glory)
4. **Does wise counsel affirm it?**
(God often confirms what He's already whispered)
5. **Does it require faith?**
(The Holy Spirit rarely leads us to stay where we're comfortable)



CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

(Acts 16) 7-12-26



John 10:27 (NIV) ²⁷ My sheep **listen to my voice;** I know them, and **they follow me.**

THE DIVINE HEARING TEST:

1. The Holy Spirit often Leads by _____ Doors

Acts 16:6–8 (NIV) ⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.** ⁷ ...**they tried** to enter Bithynia, **but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.** ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

- The Holy Spirit often speaks loudest through what He _____ allow.

Isaiah 30:21 (NIV) ²¹ Whether you turn to the right or to the left, **your ears will hear a voice** behind you, saying, "**This is the way; walk in it.**"

- The Holy Spirit sees tomorrow while we're living _____.

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2. The Holy Spirit usually Speaks through _____ more than Pressure

Acts 16:9 (NIV) ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him. "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Philippians 4:6–7 (NIV) ⁶ present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...

⌋ "rule" (*Brabeúō*) - to be an umpire, or arbiter in the public Greek games.

- Your emotions, your fears and other people's opinions may all be shouting; but the Holy Spirit quietly says, "This _____."

3. The Holy Spirit's Prompting always Aligns with _____

Acts 16:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- The Spirit never writes a new Bible; He illuminates the one He's _____ inspired.

4. The Holy Spirit often Confirms Direction through _____

Acts 16:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- Healthy confirmation matters, not because we need everyone's approval, but because wise believers often _____ God's fingerprints.

Acts 13:2–3 (NIV) ² ...the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

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5. Sometimes you don't Know it was _____ until Later

Lydia is Converted

Acts 16:11¹¹ From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony,



Paul and Silas thrown into Prison

Acts 16:16,18 (NIV) ¹⁶ we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future... ¹⁸ Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

- Be sensitive to God's prompting, you might be someone's _____ point.

Acts 10:19–35 (NIV) ¹⁹ the Spirit said to Peter, "Simon, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them." ²¹ Peter said... "Why have you come?" ²² The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the

centurion... A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say."

³⁴ Peter said, "**I now realize how true it is** that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.