

Ghost Stories-2
“The Holy Spirit vs. Other Spirits”
1 John 4:1 (ESV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome all of our first-time guests and those watching with us online! Take a second and let us know where you're watching from!

Today we're in our second week of our sermon series called “Ghost Stories”. It's all about the Holy Ghost a.k.a the Holy Spirit...

Last week Pastor Mike taught us that The Holy Spirit is part of what is called The Trinity. The doctrine of the Trinity is how Theologians describe that there is One God who eternally exists in Three distinct Persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit...

The Holy Spirit is God...He's infinitely Holy...
He's infinitely wise...He's infinitely powerful...

Yet He's wonderfully tender...wonderfully
sensitive...and wonderfully compassionate
Get this...

- The Holy Ghost is here to **HELPS US**
- He's a **PERMANENT** Helper
- He's a **RELIABLE** Helper
- He's an **EXCLUSIVE** Helper

And guess what if you missed it you can watch
it on our YouTube channel...Newsong Church
NYC.

So today my sermon title is called
“The Holy Spirit vs. Other Spirits”

Our Key verse is found in ***1 John 4:1***
***(ESV) “Beloved, do not believe every spirit,
but test the spirits to see whether they are***

from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

How many are you scared by stories our parents or family members would say to us, be careful of “El Cuco” or watch out for the “Buggie man”.

Parents if you do that to your children **PLEASE STOP**, you are putting unnecessary fear in them and you are also inviting demonic presence into their lives.

The Reality is that there is a Spiritual Realm that most people don't want to believe to be true because of some fable our parents told us that scared us for life...so now as adults you realized “OH” that wasn't real or you would just rather not think about it.

But The Bible is clear: there is more to this world than what we see. Spiritual forces are real — and not all are from God.

Ephesians 6:12 — “Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against... spiritual forces of evil.”

- Not every supernatural experience, dream, prophecy, or miracle is from the Holy Spirit.
- The bible warns us that Satan masquerades as an angel of light ***(2 Cor. 11:14...And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light)***. He uses deception to draw people away from Christ.

Discernment isn't optional — it's essential.

Who Is the Holy Spirit? Well, the Pastor gave us a really good description of who He is. So I just want to remind you again:

- He is not a vibe or a feeling — He is God, the third Person of the Trinity.

John 16:13 — “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth...”

So what are the Functions of the Holy Spirit:

- He Convicts us of sin

John 16:8...when the Holy Spirit comes, he will "convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment"

- He Guides us into truth

John 16:13...when the "Spirit of truth" comes, it will "guide you into all truth"

- He Glorifies Jesus

John 16:14...He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- He Produces fruit

Galatians 5:22–23...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- Empowers believers

Acts 1:8...Jesus promises his disciples they will "receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"

If it's truly the Holy Spirit, it will always glorify Christ, lead you into truth, and transform your life.

Let's compare what the Holy Spirit does vs. other spirits:

The Holy Spirit

Other Spirits

Truthful (John 16:13)

Deceptive (2 Cor. 11:14)

Glorifies Jesus

Distracts from Jesus

Brings conviction and repentance

Promotes rebellion or pride

Produces love,
joy, peace
(Gal. 5:22)

Produces
confusion, lust,
fear

Builds unity in
the church

Sows discord
and division

Test every spirit:

John 4:1-4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have

heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

We want to make sure we are following the Holy Spirit and not other spirits.

How do we know what's from God and what's not? Ask yourself, these questions:

- Does it align with God's Word?
- Does it exalt Jesus?
- Does it bear spiritual fruit?
- Does it lead to truth, humility, and love?

Please know that the the Word of God warns us of the danger of other spirits:

1 Timothy 4:1 — “In later times, some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

So many Christians are being swayed...they are intertwining other spiritualities with their faith in Christ...and what happens when we do that...we invite others spirits to influence us.

We open the portal to Satan and give him full access to their lives.

Let me be very clear you can not serve two masters (Matthew 6:24)...Jesus says that a house divided will fall (Matthew 12:22-28)

Examples from scripture show us that not everything supernatural comes from God:

- Pharaoh's magicians (Exodus 7) — supernatural power, but not from God.
- Spirit of divination (Acts 16) — a slave girl could predict the future, but Paul cast the spirit out cause it was not from God.

Acts 16:16-21 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18 She kept this up for many days. 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.

Not Everything Spiritual Is Holy.

Satan Is So Deceptive...see He Doesn't Care If You Know The Truth...he Just Doesn't Want You To Live It...why Because He Knows the **TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE!!!**

So what does the Holy Spirit do, He helps us with Discerning other Spirits...

The Holy Spirit never contradicts Scripture.

He will never tell you to stop from going to church.

He never tells you to do something that goes against His very Word, even when we feel justified in doing it...that's not from the Holy Spirit.

He will never lead you into pride, fear, or spiritual compromise.

So what do we need to do...We Need To Walk in the Spirit, why?

Galatians 5:16 — “Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

To walk in the Spirit means:

- Yielding daily to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

- Choosing truth over emotion.
- Living in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control.

The more you walk in the Spirit, the easier it is to recognize counterfeits.

Now I want to show you how to recognize counterfeit spirituality:

Before I get into it I want to share a little of my story.

My Story

Santería

- Mixes Christianity with idolatry, witchcraft, and spiritism.

- Worships false gods, consults spirits, performs rituals.
- Opens the doors to demonic presence
- Santería involves **spirit possession**, **ancestral worship**, and **seeking messages** from the spiritual realm — all of which God forbids.

“Let no one be found among you... who practices divination or sorcery... or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord.” — Deuteronomy 18:10–12

- God commands His people to seek **Him alone**, not spirits or mediums.

“You shall have no other gods before Me.” (Exodus 20:3)

Horoscopes

- Rooted in astrology — not God.

- Seeks guidance from stars, not the Creator.

“Do not turn to mediums...” (Leviticus 19:31)

“Trust in the Lord... He will direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5–6)

Reiki, Crystals, Sage

- Seeks energy healing or protection without Christ.
- Based in Newage, mysticism, and paganism.

“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie...” (Romans 1:25)

“Peace comes from the Holy Spirit, not crystals.” (Gal. 5:22)

Mediums

- Attempt to contact the dead — forbidden by God.
- Often speak with familiar spirits, **NOT LOVED ONES.**

“Anyone who consults the dead is detestable.” (Deut. 18:10–12)

Satan is an imposter, him and his minions have studied you all of your life...of course they know all those moments you've shared with your loved ones.

Do we really want our loved ones watching everything we do or how we are suffering the loss?

Our loved ones aren't Angels, they didn't get their wings, they don't become our guardians and we should definitely not consult them.

So, you don't have to fear these things. But don't flirt with them either.

Our Protection and Power Is in Christ alone

Church you do not need any of those things to get through life, WHY?

- **We “overcame him (satan) by what the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) and by the word of their testimony” (Revelation 12:11)**

- **The Holy Spirit (John 16:13)**
- **The armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–18)**
- **A direct connection to the Father through Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5)**

So, He is all we need.

Let 's look at what the Holy Spirit Provides a Believer in Christ:

1. He Provides Salvation & New Birth

- The Holy Spirit is the one who regenerates and brings a person into spiritual life when they put their faith in Christ.

“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” — John 3:5

2. His Presence Dwells Within Us

- The Holy Spirit lives inside every believer as a permanent resident.

***“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit...?”
— 1 Corinthians 6:19***

3. He Sets Us Apart, Marks as His Own and Gives Us an Inheritance

- He marks believers as God's own and guarantees our future inheritance.

“You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit... who is the guarantee of our inheritance...” — Ephesians 1:13–14

4. A Christlike Character

- He produces inward transformation

***“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”
— Galatians 5:22–23***

5. Intercession and Help in Prayer

- He helps when we don't know what to pray and intercedes on our behalf.

***“The Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”
— Romans 8:26***

6. Comfort and Assurance

- He comforts us in trials and assures us that we belong to God.

***“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”
— Romans 8:16***

7. Sanctification (Spiritual Growth)

- He helps us grow in holiness and walk in obedience.

***“But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”
— Romans 8:13***

8. Unity Among Believers

- The Spirit brings believers into spiritual unity and harmony as one body.

“There is one body and one Spirit...”
— Ephesians 4:4

9. Boldness and Freedom

- He replaces fear with boldness and sets believers free from spiritual bondage.

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”
— 2 Corinthians 3:17

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
— 2 Timothy 1:7

Church, the Holy Spirit Is Not Optional In The Christian Life — He Is Essential.

Let us not just acknowledge the Holy Spirit — let us depend on Him daily.

Worship Team

Final Encouragement

- You don't need to fear darkness — Jesus defeated it.
- You don't need to search for truth in other spirits — the Holy Spirit lives in you.
- You don't need to rely on objects — your power is in the name of Jesus.

Final Scripture

“Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

— 1 John 4:4

Closing Challenge

- Ask the Holy Spirit to increase your discernment.
- Reject any spirit that does not exalt Jesus or agree with His Word.
- If you’ve dabbled in false spirituality — repent. God is merciful.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us.”

— 1 John 1:9

So as I close, we always end with the question “What Is The Holy Spirit Telling You”

What doors do you have open that need to be closed?