

A collage of various tools including a screwdriver, pliers, wrench, whisk, and pencil sharpener.

# POWER TOOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1Corinthians 12.7-11 (NIV11)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

to another faith by the same Spirit, to  
another gifts of healings by that one Spirit, to  
another miraculous powers, to another  
prophecy, to another distinguishing between  
spirits,

to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

# Distinguishing between spirits

*Discernings of spirits*

1Thessalonians 5.19-22 (NIV11)

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.

People who gather in the fellowship represent a wide spiritual range. Some may be present with a heavy spirit or an anxious spirit; there may be a weak spirit or a proud spirit; some may come with a jealous spirit or a bitter spirit. Such spirits may not be apparent to others; indeed, the believers may not be fully aware of them among themselves. Yet such spiritual attitudes are likely to affect whatever happens in dynamic interrelationships. Hence, the gift of discernings of spirits can be of signal importance, for by the action of the Holy Spirit the spirits of people are disclosed. When this occurs, the area of need may become apparent and proper ministry given.

Rod Williams

Matthew 16.21-23 (NIV11)

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Matthew 16.15-17 (NIV11)

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”

John 1.47-49 (NIV11)

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

2Kings 6.16-17 (NIV11)

“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered.  
“Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed,  
“Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.”  
Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Acts 5.1-5 (NIV11)

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that the satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

Didn't it belong to you before it was sold?  
And after it was sold, wasn't the money at  
your disposal? What made you think of  
doing such a thing? You have not lied just to  
human beings but to God.”

When Ananias heard this, he fell down and  
died. And great fear seized all who heard  
what had happened.

Acts 16.16-18 (NIV11)

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. 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.”

She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed (wearied, worn out, vexed) 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.

# The Conviction Test

# The Community Test

# The Consistency Test

# The Christ Test

1Corinthians 12.3 (NIV11)

I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

1John 4.2-3 (NIV11)

This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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.

# The Character Test

1Corinthians 13.1-2 (NIV11)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

# The Consequence Test

Matthew 7.15-20 (NIV11)

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles?”

Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognise them.”