...as He leads...

TESTING THE SPIRITS
(Human & Spiritual)

The New Testament explicitly warns us to weigh up and test the spirits in order to see if the message we have been given is actually from God or not.

Teachings, prophecies, tongues, words, visions and dreams - everything is to be prayerfully and Biblically tested *(1 Jn 4:1-3, 1 Cor 14:29, 1 Thess 5:20-21, Acts 17:11, Heb 5:14)*.

"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. 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, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist..."

There are several distinct Biblical markers you can look at to test if the message you received was from God:

a) Pray: Take the matter straight to the Lord in prayer, asking Him for discernment.

b) The Person of Jesus *(Christological Test):* Does the message clearly affirm that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh? True spiritual insights never minimize Jesus' absolute divinity, His physical humanity, or His complete sacrificial death on the Cross *(1 Jn 4:2-3).*

c) The Word of God *(Scriptural Alignment):* A genuine word from God will never contradict Scripture. Ask yourself: *Does this align perfectly with His revealed character? Would Jesus say this? Would He ask me to do this?*

d) The Lifestyle Test*:* Look closely at the source of the message. Does the person display a lifestyle of holiness where the fruit of the Spirit is visibly demonstrated in their lives? False prophets inevitably breed pride, division, or worldly compromise *(1 Jn 4:6, Gal 5:22-23).* We are to righteously judge other Believers - after judging ourselves first *(Mtt 7:3-5, 1 Cor 5:12, Jn 7:24).*

e) Inner Peace vs Condemnation *(Spiritual Resonance):* Does the message bring Godly assurance and conviction from the Holy Spirit, or does it leave you feeling trapped in vague restlessness and confusion? While God's Word may deeply convict us of sin to lead us to repentance, He is not the author of confusion, and His voice never brings lingering doubt and condemnation to those in Christ *(1 Cor 14:33, Rom 8:1).*

f) Seek Counsel: Seek prayer and advice from other mature Christians to counter any possible self-deception. Scripture warns us that our own hearts and emotions can easily misinterpret spiritual experiences. God provides safety, wisdom, and confirmation through the collective wisdom of the church community *(Prov. 11:14, Prov. 15:22).*

g) Confirmation: Is God confirming this same truth to me in my personal quiet times? Is anyone else speaking the same message to me?

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