



Unless I Go Away

It is more important today than at any time in history for the church and Christians to be attentive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and to align every prompting with Scripture. We live in an age of confusion, noise, deception, and distraction, yet God is not a God of confusion. Any prompting, prophecy, or word of knowledge must always agree with the written Word of God. Jesus Himself taught that the coming of the Holy Spirit was essential for the life of the Christian. He said, “It is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the *Helper* will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7). Jesus also said the Spirit would “guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13). These verses establish that the Holy Spirit’s guidance is not optional but foundational for Christian living. In a world filled with competing voices, the Body of Christ must rediscover the discipline of listening to the Holy Spirit and testing every prompting against Scripture verses, because the Holy Spirit never contradicts the Word He inspired.

Many argue that God no longer speaks today, relying on cessationist or closed-canon reasoning. They claim that since Scripture is complete, God no longer gives personal guidance, prophetic insight, or Spirit-led direction. Yet the Bible itself counters this assumption. Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice” (John 10:27), which implies ongoing communication. Paul wrote, “Those who are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God” (Romans 8:14), indicating active guidance. The early church repeatedly experienced the Holy Spirit speaking, directing, and revealing (Acts 13:2; Acts 16:6-7). Peter declared that in the last days, “your sons and daughters shall prophesy... your young men shall see visions” (Acts 2:17), a promise extending beyond the apostolic era. These Bible verses show that while the canon is closed, God’s communication with His people is not. The Holy Spirit still speaks, but always in harmony with Scripture, never in contradiction to it.

When Christians remain attentive to the Holy Spirit and act on what aligns with Scripture, they participate in the “greater things” Jesus promised. Jesus said, “He who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do” (John 14:12). These greater works are not greater in power but greater in scope, because millions if not billions of Holy Spirit-filled Christians can obey God just as Jesus obeyed the Father. Jesus did nothing from His own will but only what the Father commanded (John 5:19). When Christians today follow the Holy Spirit’s leading, they continue the ministry of Jesus across nations, cultures, and generations. The Holy Spirit empowers evangelism, intercession, healing, discernment, and boldness. The Body of Christ becomes a global body doing what Jesus did, multiplied across the

earth. This is only possible if Christians listen to the Holy Spirit and obey Him in ways that align with Scripture.

To claim that the Holy Spirit no longer speaks to the church or to Christians today goes directly against what Jesus expected from His followers. Jesus did not intend Holy Spirit-led living to be limited to the original disciples. He said the Holy Spirit would be with us “forever” (John 14:16). He promised that the Holy Spirit would teach, remind, convict, guide, empower, and reveal truth to all Christians across all generations. A silent Holy Spirit contradicts Jesus’ teaching, the book of Acts, and the entire New Testament pattern of Christian life. The church cannot fulfill the Great Commission, walk in holiness, resist deception, or operate in spiritual power without the active voice of the Holy Spirit. To deny the Holy Spirit’s ongoing guidance is to deny the very means Jesus provided for His people to live victoriously. The call for today’s church is clear: return to the Word of God, listen for the Holy Spirit, test every prompting, and obey what aligns with God’s Word. Anything less falls short of what Jesus intended for us.

Study Questions:

1. Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27). How does this verse challenge you to pursue a deeper relationship with God so you can recognize His voice through the Holy Spirit?

2. Paul wrote, “Those who are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” (Romans 8:14). What does being led by the Holy Spirit look like in your daily decisions, and where have you resisted His prompting?

3. Jesus promised, “He will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13). How does this verse confront the belief that Christians no longer hear from the Holy Spirit today?

4. Scripture commands, “Do not quench the Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 5:19). In what ways might you be ignoring or suppressing the Holy Spirit’s guidance in your life?

5. John instructs, “Test the spirits to see whether they are from God” (1 John 4:1). How do you practice testing spiritual promptings to ensure they align with God’s Written Word?

6. The Bereans were commended because they “examined the Scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11). How does their example challenge you to test every prompting, prophecy, or teaching against the Word of God?

7. Paul said, “All Scripture is inspired by God... so that the man of God may be adequate” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). How does this passage help you discern between the Holy Spirit’s voice and your own thoughts or emotions?

8. Jesus declared, “The Helper... will teach you all things and remind you of all that I said” (John 14:26). How does this promise shape your expectation of the Holy Spirit’s active role in your spiritual growth?

9. In Galatians 5:25, Paul says, “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” What areas of your life need to shift so you can truly walk by the Spirit instead of relying on your own strength?

10. Peter quoted Joel, saying, “Your sons and daughters shall prophesy... your young men shall see visions” (Acts 2:17). How does this verse challenge the idea that the Holy Spirit no longer speaks or moves today?

11. Jesus said, “He who believes in Me... greater works than these he will do” (John 14:12). How does obedience to the Holy Spirit enable Christians to participate in the “greater things” Jesus promised?

12. Paul warned, “Do not despise prophetic utterances, but examine everything carefully” (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21). How does this balance between openness and discernment shape your approach to hearing God’s voice?

God is not a God of confusion and He said He would never leave us or forsake us. Continually strengthen your relationship with God by reading His Word, listening and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit, testing everything against Scripture, and emulating Jesus by doing only those things the Father showed Him to do.