

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**Sunday, September 2, 2012**  
**Don't Give up The Ghost! 6**  
**Test All Things**

**TEXT:** Acts 19:1-7 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-20

We need the power of the Spirit in the supernatural more than ever since I have been alive. We are in a supernatural battle, living in a world of supernatural evil. Don't try to overcome using natural means. As a body ought to desire, recognize, and order the flow of all gifts through whoever God chooses to use. We have defined the manifestations and begun to delve into how we order that flow.

- ♥ A God who speaks presents certain problems 1 Cor 12:1-3
  - Paul wanted the church to be knowledgeable about a God who talks. Ps 115:5-7 / Ps 135:16 / Hab 2:18-20
  - The New Testament assumes a God who speaks. This point is never argued, simply accepted and expected as part of the normal course of Christian experience. Acts 13:1-3 / 16:6-10
  - He speaks to us directly Spirit to spirit Prov 20:27 / Rom 8:16
  - He speaks to us through Prophets, prophecies, and preachers.
  - This leads us to the problem of subjectivity: Is it God or is it me?
  - We need to :
    - Learn the voice of our human spirit
    - Learn to test the words spoken by others
    - Don't walk around saying "God told me..." every time you get a bright idea or resentment or a "hunch."
- ♥ How do I know if God wants me to give a word in the church?
  - God speaks to me in every service by Word and Spirit.
  - I must learn the voice of the Spirit bearing witness with my spirit.
    - He never contradicts the written Word.
    - The Holy Ghost speaks in peace and love. Colossians 3:15 / James 3:16-17
    - Spend a great deal of time praying in the spirit. "my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays" 1 Cor 14:14a AMP
  - When do I give a Word for public hearing?
    - There is a higher level of anointing that comes when a word or a tongue is for public ministry. Elihu's description: Job 32:5-22 A strong urging by the Spirit to speak forth..
    - If you quench the Spirit, you will sense His grief. 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Ephesians 4:30

- ♥ How do I judge when someone speaks a prophecy?
  - **Cultivate a loving skepticism**, a hunger for the real combined with a recognition of the human factor. Not every utterance is of the Spirit. We are called to judge for ourselves. 1 Cor 14:29
    - May be of flesh or a wrong spirit.
    - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 There is a danger of despising all prophecies because some have been wrong.
  - We are instructed to **be on the lookout for false prophets**. Matthew 7:15-20
    - What is produced by their life and ministry. Does the ministry bear the fruit of changed lives? Luke 3:8-14 Are people being saved, filled, growing in grace?
    - Does the prophet seek people to follow him? Acts 20:29,30
    - Sheep are submitted, not secretive beware the parking lot prophet. If someone gives you a personal word that makes you question your leadership or makes you feel icky inside, you should ask someone in recognized leadership about it. Wolves have "secret revelations" greater than the pastor .
  - We are instructed to **test content** of the prophecy.
    - Who gets the glory? Rev 19:10 / Jn 16:13,14 / 1 Cor 12:3
    - Does it agree with scripture? Jn 6:63 / Rev 22:18,19
    - Does it lead me toward God and the Word or toward other gods? Dt 13:1-5 What they say about Jesus. 1 John 4:1-3
    - Does it bring freedom or bondage? 2 Corinthians 3:17 / Romans 8:15 / 2 Corinthians 4:13
    - Prophecy is not a means of controlling other people. You will give account for what you do, not what I told you to do.
    - Does it agree with the witness in my spirit? 1 John 2:20,27 / Rom 8:14 We are led by the Spirit, not personal prophecy.
    - New Testament prophecy should confirm, encourage, or clarify that which we have already perceived in our spirit.

**Don't suppress the Spirit**, and don't stifle those who have a word from the Master. On the other hand, **don't be gullible**. Check out everything, and keep only what's good. Throw out anything tainted with evil. May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together--spirit, soul, and body--and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. **The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!**

1 Thessalonians 5:19-24 MSG