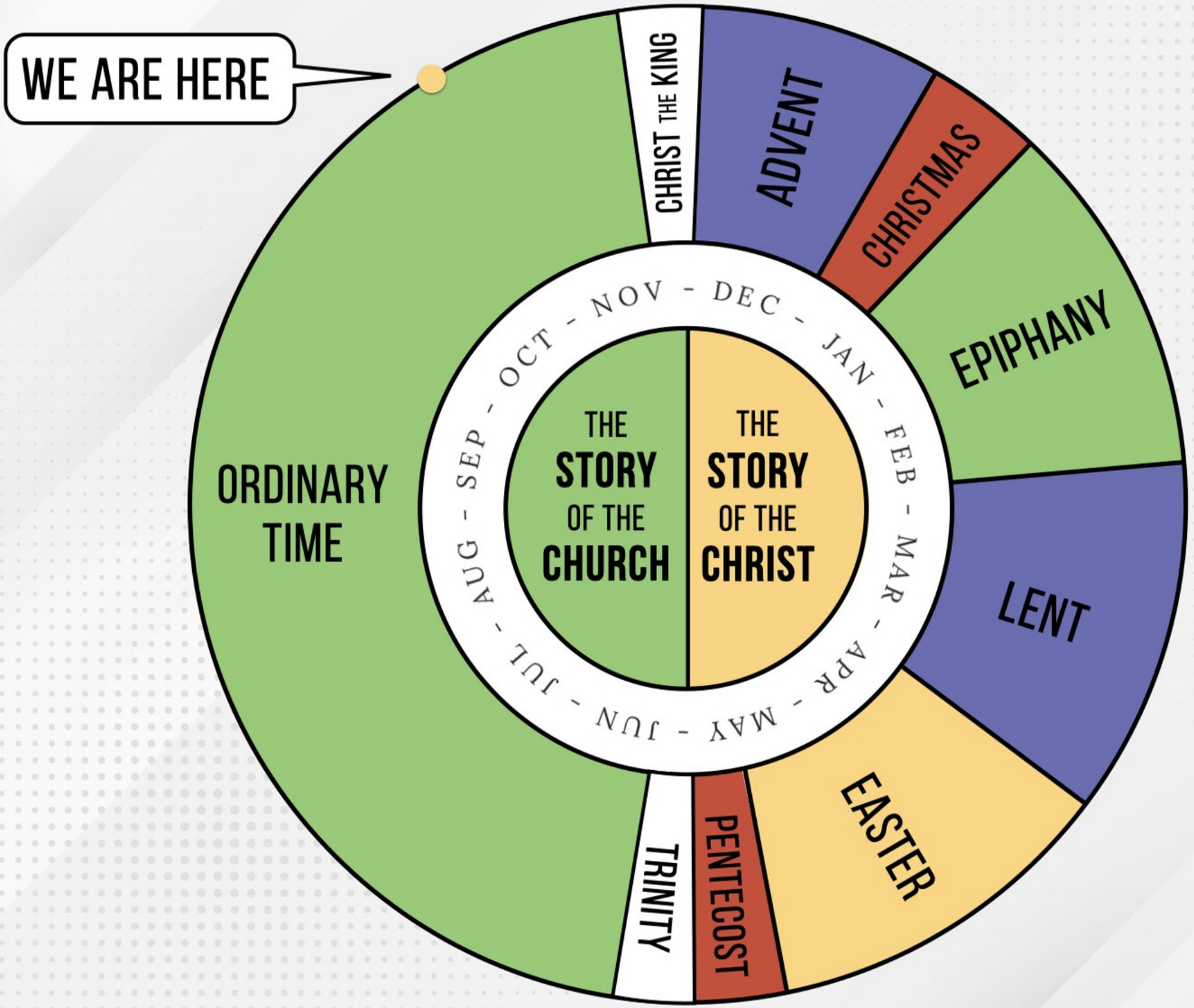

This is how
we know.


WE ARE HERE
CHRIST THE KING
ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
TRINITY
ORDINARY TIME
JAN - FEB - MAR - APR - MAY - JUN - JUL - AUG - SEP - OCT - NOV - DEC
THE STORY OF THE CHURCH
THE STORY OF THE CHRIST



THE SEASONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

CYCLE OF LIGHT — *GOD with us*

Advent: Anticipation
Christmas: Incarnation
Epiphany: Revelation

CYCLE OF LIFE — *GOD for us*

Lent: Crucifixion
Easter: Resurrection
Pentecost: Ascension

CYCLE OF LOVE — *GOD in us*

Trinity: Magnification
Ordinary Time: Mission
Christ the King: Conclusion


This is how
we know.

1 JOHN 4:1-6

1 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.

1 JOHN 4:1-6

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.

1 JOHN 4:1-6

5 They are from the world and therefore speak
from the viewpoint of the world, and the world
listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever
knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from
God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize
the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.


This is how
we know.

How should I read the Bible?

How should I pray?

How should I hear the Holy Spirit?

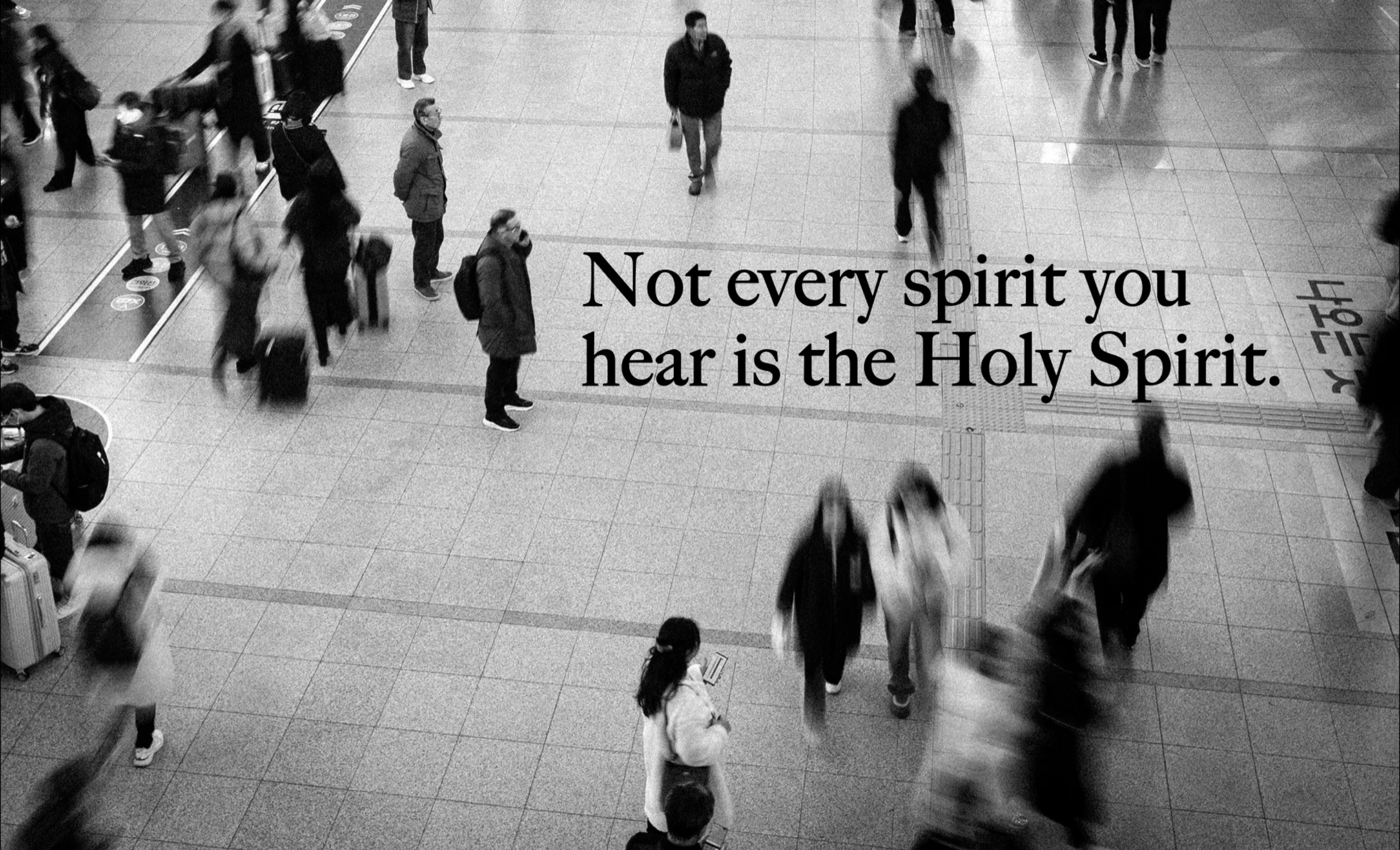
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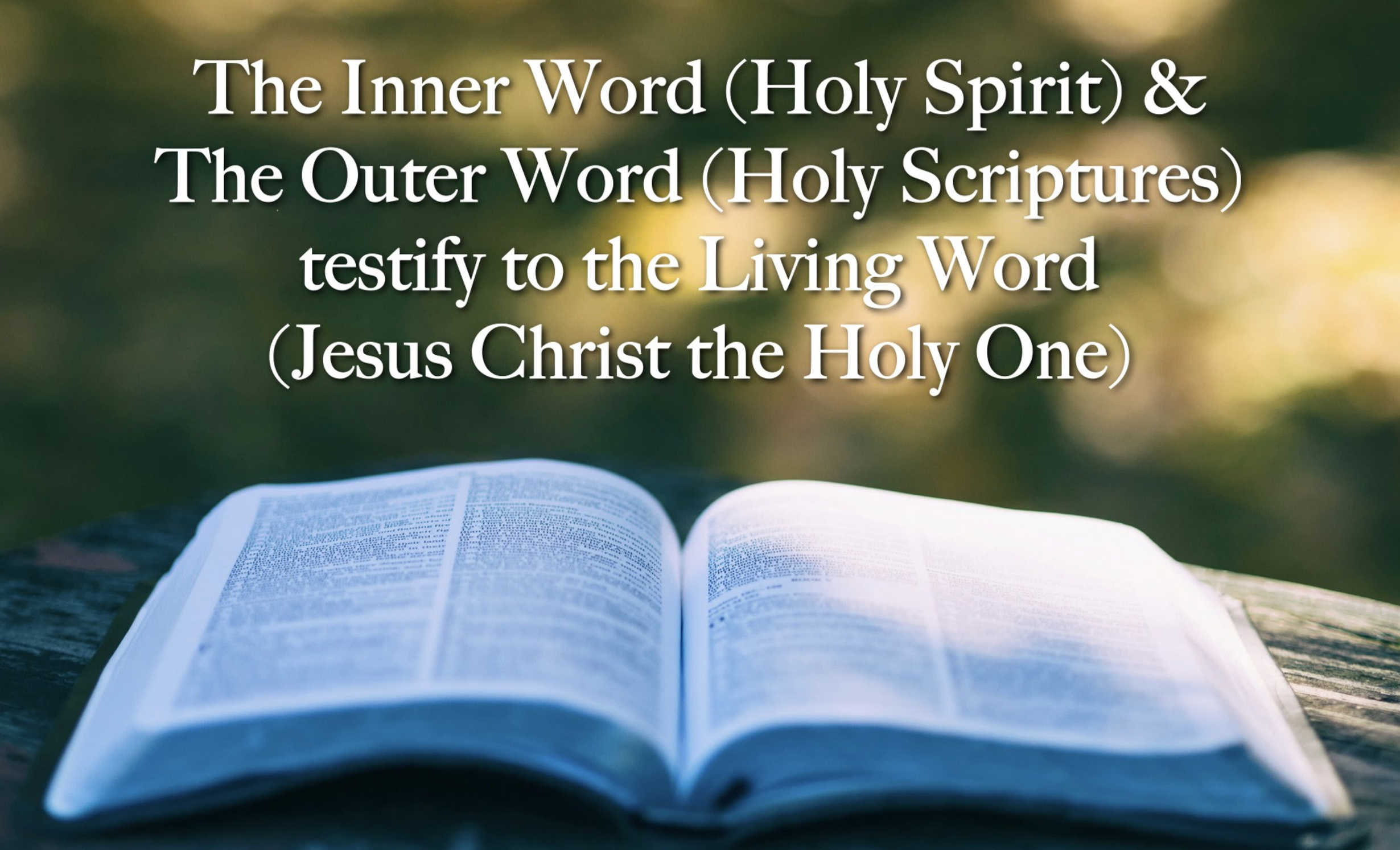
How should I hear the Holy Spirit?

IN COMMUNITY


Christian discernment is communal.


Not every spirit you
hear is the Holy Spirit.

The Inner Word (Holy Spirit) & The Outer Word (Holy Scriptures) testify to the Living Word (Jesus Christ the Holy One)





The danger is that you will not listen to the voice that speaks to you through the seagull mounting the gray wind, say, or the vision in the temple… instead you listen to the great blaring, boring, banal voice of our mass culture, which threatens to deafen us all by blasting forth that the only thing that really matters about your work is how much it will get you in the way of salary and status…

Fredrick Buechner


This is how
we know.

DISCERNING GOD'S VOICE IS EASY AS...

A B C



Aligns with Scripture

A word from God will never contradict what is written in the Bible. Scripture is the standard by which every prophecy, impression, vision, or claimed leading must conform.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 John 4:1, Acts 17:11

Bears Good Fruit

A word from God may challenge or convict, but it will never shame, degrade, or belittle. Scripture calls Satan the Accuser (Rev. 12:10) and the Holy Spirit our Advocate (John 14:26). Conviction from God leads to repentance and hope; condemnation from the enemy leads to shame and despair.

Matthew 7:15-20, Galatians 5:22-23, James 3:13-18

Consults Wise Counsel

A word from God is tested in community. No individual holds exclusive access to God's will and we recognize no titles, offices, or abilities that operate in isolation. Authority is shared, and the Lord's leading is discerned together in prayerful conversation.

1 Corinthians 12:7; Matt. 18:20; Ecc. 4:9-12

Demonstrates True Humility

A word from God is offered as a gift, not delivered as an ultimatum. Following the example of Jesus in Philippians 2, who emptied Himself and took the very nature of a servant, genuine prophecy is marked by gentleness rather than a demand to be obeyed on its own authority.

James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5-6, Philippians 2:5-11

Exalts Christ Jesus

A word from God will always point others to Jesus and increase his glory — never the status, platform, or authority of the person delivering it.

John 16:13-14, 1 Corinthians 12:3, Colossians 1:15-20


This is how
we know.