Today, many Christians believe they have received the Holy Spirit simply because they can speak in tongues, prophesy, or perform miracles. However, the Bible reveals that there is a difference between being anointed by the Spirit and being baptized or indwelt by the Spirit. The presence of spiritual gifts does not necessarily mean someone is born again or sealed for eternal life.

⚠ THE ANOINTING VS. THE INDWELLING

It is possible to be used by the Holy Spirit outwardly—preaching, casting out demons, healing the sick—and yet not be indwelt by Him. Even Judas Iscariot performed miracles along with the other disciples, but he was not saved.

> *Matthew 10:1*
> *“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”*

Yet, Jesus said this to the same group:

> *Acts 1:4-5*
> *“...wait for the promise of the Father... For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”*

This shows that spiritual power can be given before someone is truly baptized with the Holy Spirit. This is a crucial distinction in biblical pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit).

 SIGNS AND WONDERS DO NOT GUARANTEE SALVATION

Jesus warned us not to rely on miracles as proof of salvation:

> *Matthew 7:22-23*
> *“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*
> *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

This shows that spiritual gifts can function in people who are not truly converted. What matters is relationship with Christ, not mere activity.

> *Luke 10:20*
> *“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”*

 VESSELS OF POWER VS. VESSELS OF SALVATION

God can use anyone—even unwilling or unrighteous people—for His purposes.

> *Numbers 22:28*
> *“And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee…?”*

If God used a donkey, He can use anyone. This is instrumental

use, not relational indwelling.

Many people today are used by God but are not known by God.

> *Romans 11:29*
> *“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”*

This verse teaches that God’s gifts are irrevocable, meaning someone may retain spiritual gifts even if they fall away from the truth. This reinforces the need to examine one’s spiritual condition, not just gifting.

 TRUE EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: A TRANSFORMED LIFE

The primary sign of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling is not tongues, prophecy, or visions—but a changed life.

> *2 Corinthians 5:17*
> *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

> *Romans 8:15-16*
> *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption… The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”*

A believer who has received the Holy Spirit walks in obedience, grows in Christlikeness, and seeks holiness.

> *Galatians 5:22-23*
> *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance…”*

The fruit—not the gifts—are the true marks of spiritual maturity and indwelling.

 IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES THE ONLY EVIDENCE?

Some denominations teach that tongues are the only proof of

receiving the Holy Spirit, but Scripture disagrees.

> *1 Corinthians 12:29-30*
> *“Are all apostles? are all prophets?... do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?”*

The answer is no. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different members of the Body of Christ. Tongues may occur, especially at initial baptism in the Spirit (Acts 2:4), but they are not a requirement or the only sign of His presence.

 HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is not earned by works, religious acts, or spiritual displays. He is given to those who believe in Jesus, repent of their sins, and ask with a sincere heart.

> *Acts 2:38-39*
> *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the*

> *gift of the Holy Ghost."*

> *Luke 11:13*
> *"...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*

Receiving the Spirit requires a repentant heart, genuine faith, and submission to Christ.

 SEALED FOR SALVATION

The Holy Spirit is God's seal upon the believer—a mark of ownership and guarantee of redemption.

> *Ephesians 4:30*
> *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."*

> *Romans 8:9*
> *“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”*

This verse confirms the theology of regeneration: without the Holy Spirit, there is no salvation.

 EXAMINE YOURSELF

Ask yourself honestly:

- Have I truly repented of sin?
- Do I walk in holiness and truth?
- Has my life been transformed by Christ?
- Is the fruit of the Spirit growing in me?

> *2 Corinthians 13:5*
> *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...”*

Don’t settle for spiritual activity. Seek true transformation.

 DON’T BE DECEIVED BY SIGNS

Miracles, tongues, and power may be present in someone’s life, but that doesn’t always mean they are truly saved. God can use anyone, but only those who are born again and filled with the Holy Spirit will enter His Kingdom.

Let us not seek just the power of the Spirit—but the presence, the seal, and the indwelling that leads to eternal life.

> *John 3:5*
> *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”*

Have you truly received the Holy Spirit?

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