

## Pentecost De Doorns 2020: Meeting 3 – How do we know if we have received the Holy Spirit?

Grace and peace be with you!

Two days ago we started with the question: Who is the Holy Spirit? And we said: He is a person, not merely an invisible force or presence. We also said that He is not a stranger, but God Himself. Yesterday we looked at the works of the Spirit, and we mentioned that he is a part of our conversion, as well as being part of our growth to become more like Jesus.

Of course this could lead us to as the question: Are we certain that we have received the Holy Spirit? How can we be sure?

So this will be our first question for today:

1. How can we be certain we have the Holy Spirit living in us?

Many people will answer that it is shown through the Gifts of the Spirit. Praying in tongues, prophesying, or something similar. Others may point to the Fruit of the Spirit and say: "Someone who is living right must have the Holy Spirit". These are obviously not opposed to having the Spirit, on the contrary, we will look at these topics in the days to come, but the answer is actually much simpler than these. Jesus Himself gives us the answer in **John 7:38-39**:

*38 "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

We know that, since then, Jesus has indeed been glorified, and that the Spirit was poured out as Jesus promised. That is what Pentecost is all about! But what is important for us today is that Jesus said: "Whoever believes in me"! Therefore, if you are still unsure, but you know that you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, then you can be certain that you have the Holy Spirit living in you! Furthermore Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:3 that nobody can say "Jesus is Lord" (and mean it) except through the Holy Spirit. So I want to invite you to profess that right now, altogether if you are with others:  
*"Jesus is LORD!"*

If you could say that sincerely, you do not have to be unsure anymore. The Holy Spirit is with you! But perhaps you could still ask: Why is it that I do not see or feel Him in my life?

A Good friend of mine, Michael, explains it this way: He says the Holy Spirit is like a guest who comes to stay in your home. The day you accept Jesus, he comes to stay in your home (heart), and He will never leave you. But just as a house can have several rooms, your life also has many different parts. You have your religion, your marriage and your family, your job or your school, your friends, even your parties on a Friday night. When someone is a guest in your house, they do not go into different rooms unless they are invited. In the same way the Holy Spirit will not force Himself into the different parts of your life, He will only be there if you invite Him.

The Holy Spirit really wants to be part a part of everything in your life! And if you make Him a part of it, you will experience the powerful work He does in you and through you! But sometimes we are too scared, too proud or too comfortable to invite Him in. However, you can choose today to let Him even deeper into your life, and allow Him to make your life fuller than it has ever been!

Questions:

1. Have you ever had an experience with the Holy Spirit? Share with others how it felt.
2. Which part of your life are you still scared to invite the Holy Spirit into?

.....  
Additional Texts: John 3:5-8, Ephesians 5:18

Additional Question: What should we change in order to let the Spirit work through us even more?