

Study Sheet: The Spirit of God Comes with Evidence

Demonstrations of New Holy Spirit in The Believer

Salvation and Proof of The New Birth



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Physical vs. Supernatural Evidence

This study explores a foundational principle: **just as physical entities manifest physical evidence of their existence, supernatural entities must manifest supernatural evidence.** Since the Holy Spirit is inherently supernatural, His presence in believers should produce supernatural manifestations that transcend human capability.

The Principle of Evidence

*"Anything **REAL CAN** and **DOES** manifest evidence of its existence and its presence. If it does not, then it is not real."*

This principle operates consistently across both physical and supernatural realms. **Evidence serves as the objective foundation for all belief and knowledge** - without it, claims remain unsubstantiated.

Evidence in the Physical Realm

How Physical Reality Manifests

Everything in the natural world provides detectable evidence of its existence through sensory perception or measurable effects. This evidence allows us to understand and navigate our physical reality.

Examples of Physical Evidence

- **Carbon monoxide** - Imperceptible to human senses yet manifests through physiological effects (unconsciousness, death)
- **Earth's magnetic field** - Invisible yet demonstrated through magnetic compass behavior and aurora phenomena
- **Shadows** - Non-physical phenomena that result from the interaction between light sources and opaque objects

Biblical Foundation for Physical Experience

Genesis 2:7 reveals that God placed spiritual beings into physical bodies to experience the material world. Our sensory systems serve as input mechanisms for interpreting physical reality. **Every genuine physical entity will produce some form of detectable evidence.**

The Supernatural Parallel - Mark 16:17-18 as Foundation

Extending the Evidence Principle

The same principle that governs physical evidence applies to supernatural reality. If God is both real and supernatural, His presence must produce supernatural manifestations *that correspond to His nature.*

Mark 16:17-18 - The Defining Text

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Note: Some scholars argue the legitimacy of this verse primarily because the **earliest manuscripts omit It**. The two oldest and most respected Greek manuscripts:

- **Codex Sinaiticus** (4th century)
 - **Codex Vaticanus** (4th century)
- both **end Mark at 16:8**. They do not include verses 9–20.

However, While the passage *may not be in the original autograph* of Mark, that doesn't immediately disqualify it from being **true** or **used by God**:

- The **doctrines in Mark 16:17–18** are not foreign to the rest of the New Testament.
 - **Tongues** — Acts 2, Acts 10, Acts 19, 1 Cor 12–14
 - **Healing & miracles** — throughout Acts
 - **Casting out demons** — Mark, Luke, Acts
 - **Protection from harm** — e.g., Paul and the viper (Acts 28)

So even if it's a later addition, the content itself reflects genuine biblical theology and experience, especially in the early church.

With that said, this passage establishes the biblical standard for supernatural evidence. Jesus declares that specific supernatural signs will "follow" (accompany as evidence) genuine spirit filled believers as only the spirit can manifest such things.

Significance of These Supernatural Signs

- **They transcend human capability** - fallen humanity possesses no inherent supernatural abilities
- **They are uniquely divine attributes** - these characteristics belong exclusively to God
- **They provide objective verification** - evidence that God's Spirit is genuinely present (Acts 8:18)
- **They distinguish authentic faith** - separating genuine spiritual experience from mere intellectual assent

The Holy Spirit's Supernatural Nature Requires Supernatural Evidence

Understanding God's Supernatural Character

God is not merely non-physical but **supernatural** - His nature transcends **natural law and human limitation**. When the Holy Spirit indwells a believer, His supernatural nature doesn't become dormant but actively manifests according to His character.

Christ as the Paradigm

- **John 5:30** - "I can of mine own self do nothing" - Christ acknowledged dependence on supernatural power of the spirit.
- **John 14:10** - "The Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" - Jesus' miracles **evidenced the Father's presence**
- **John 14:12** - "Greater works than these shall he do" - **The same supernatural power is promised to believers**

If the son of God, being divine, manifested supernatural evidence of the God's presence in flesh, believers should equally expect supernatural evidence of the Holy Spirit's indwelling; *in some manner*.

The New Birth: Supernatural Experience vs. Human Decision

John 3:5 - Salvation Requirements

"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

The text emphasizes that authentic **salvation is not**:

- **✗ A psychological decision for Christ**
- **✗ Behavioral modification**
- **✗ Intellectual acceptance of religious facts**
- **✗ Emotional religious experience**

Rather, salvation involves a **literal supernatural transformation** where God's Spirit enters and regenerates the individual. This supernatural event must produce corresponding supernatural evidence.

Acts 2:1-4 - The Pentecost Pattern

The Day of Pentecost establishes the normative pattern: when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, **immediate supernatural evidence manifested - *they spoke in tongues as the Spirit enabled them***. This event demonstrates the standard for all Spirit baptism experiences.

Spiritual Gifts as Ongoing Supernatural Evidence

1 Corinthians 12:4-13 - Continuous Manifestation

Supernatural evidence extends beyond initial experience. **The manifestation of the Spirit is distributed to every Spirit-filled believer** for the edification of the church body.

The Nine Supernatural Gifts:

1. **Word of wisdom** - Supernatural insight transcending human understanding
2. **Word of knowledge** - Divine revelation of information unknowable through natural means
3. **Faith** - Supernatural confidence producing miraculous results
4. **Gifts of healing** - Divine power restoring health beyond medical capability
5. **Working of miracles** - Supernatural intervention in natural law
6. **Prophecy** - Speaking God's message through divine inspiration
7. **Discerning of spirits** - Supernatural perception of spiritual realities
8. **Tongues** - Speaking in languages unknown to the speaker
9. **Interpretation of tongues** - Supernatural comprehension of unknown languages

Each gift represents evidence that exceeds human ability and confirms God's supernatural presence.

The Crucial Question: Evidence of Presence

The Logical Conclusion

This study culminates in this critical question: **If God does not manifest His power in some supernatural form in the "believer," then the question must be raised: "Is He present?"**

This question maintains logical consistency:

- **Physical entities** produce physical evidence
- **Supernatural God** should produce supernatural evidence
- **Absence of expected evidence** questions the reality of presence

Historical Precedent

Scripture demonstrates that **God consistently manifests His power and presence** throughout history:

- **Samson's supernatural strength** (Judges 15:14-16)
- **Peter's healing shadow** (Acts 5:15-16)
- **Apostolic miraculous ministry** throughout the New Testament

The same God who demonstrated supernatural power historically continues to manifest supernaturally today.

Distinguishing Authentic from Counterfeit

The Purpose of Supernatural Evidence

Supernatural manifestations serve as **divine authentication**, *proving genuine spiritual activity while distinguishing it from:*

- Human effort or natural ability
- Psychological manipulation
- Religious ritual without divine power
- Positive confession without supernatural backing

Biblical Warnings About Counterfeits

Acts 8:9-22 & Acts 19:11-17 caution against **false supernatural claims**. *Authentic supernatural manifestation results only from genuine reception of God's Spirit, not human technique or demonic imitation.*

Practical Application and Self-Assessment

Critical Self-Examination Questions

1. **Have I experienced authentic new birth** according to John 3:5 requirements (water and Spirit)?
2. **Is there objective supernatural evidence** of God's presence in my life?
3. **Do I manifest the signs** promised in Mark 16:17-18?
4. **Am I operating in spiritual gifts** as described in 1 Corinthians 12?
5. **Does my faith produce supernatural results** or only natural outcomes?

Biblical Standards for Verification

- **Initial evidence:** Speaking in tongues upon Spirit baptism

- **Ongoing evidence:** Operation of spiritual gifts / fruits of the spirit: as a result of the impact of submission to spiritual guidance, not human effort
 - **Practical evidence:** Supernatural results in prayer and ministry
 - **Objective evidence:** Divine power beyond human explanation
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Essential Memory Verses

- **Mark 16:17-18** - *Foundational passage defining supernatural evidence*
 - **John 3:5** - Requirements for kingdom entry
 - **Acts 2:4** - Pattern of initial Spirit evidence
 - **1 Corinthians 12:7** - "Manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man [spirit filled person]"
 - **Romans 8:11** - Same resurrection power dwelling in believers
 - **John 14:12** - Promise of greater works through believers
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Conclusion: The Inescapable Logic

This document presents a compelling logical progression:

1. Anything real produces evidence of its existence or presence.
2. Physical entities produce physical evidence.
3. Supernatural entities will produce supernatural evidence (at some point).
4. The Holy Spirit is supernatural by nature.
5. Therefore, the Holy Spirit will produce supernatural evidence.
6. Mark 16:17-18 defines the expected supernatural evidence.
7. Absence of supernatural evidence raises questions about supernatural presence.
8. Fruits of the spirit are also supernatural, not so much in the miraculous sense, but is supernatural "IF" the fruits are symptomatic the holy spirit manifesting through a yielded will, but be aware that fruits of the spirit can be mimicked through discipline.

This argument does not suggest earning salvation through works but rather recognizes that genuine salvation involves the supernatural God, whose presence inevitably produces supernatural manifestations consistent with His nature.

Questions for Further Study

1. As, believers, do we still have a basis for supporting supernatural manifestations, via the holy spirit without using Mark 16:17-18?
2. What role does supernatural evidence play in validating religious experience versus mere emotional or psychological phenomena?
3. How should the church respond to claims of the cessation of spiritual gifts.
4. What implications does this teaching have for understanding the difference between genuine and counterfeit spiritual experiences?
5. How does this perspective on evidence and manifestation relate to faith, which is often described as belief without seeing?