The purpose of this short study is to help you examine yourselves, as to whether you truly belong to Christ.

The **Holy Spirit** is given to those who believe, and who are therefore saved. “*God bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit . . .*” (Acts 15:8; see also Eph 1:13-14).

So here are some evidences, according to 1 Thessalonians, that show whether God has “borne witness” to youby giving you the Holy Spirit as well. Notice this key thought of Paul’s (1Th 1:4): “We know that he has chosen you, because*. . .*”

(1) Have you ever been confronted by a deep sense of conviction (a need for deliverance from judgment)?

*For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction*. (1Th 1:4-5a)

(2) Have you made a life change? Has there been an awakening, a turning to God and away from sin and a former false worldview?

*[The report of] your faith in God has gone forth everywhere . . . they report . . . how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God . . .* (1Th 1:8-9)

(3) Are you living in expectation of meeting the Lord Jesus in person when he comes to judge?

*. . . to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.* (1Th 1:9b-10)

(4) Do you wish to learn to imitate the lives of mature, godly disciples—even the Lord Himself?

*And you became imitators of us and of the Lord . . .* (1Th 1:6a)

*For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea.* (1Th 2:14a)

(5) Is there joy when you consider the gospel?

*. . . for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers . . .* (1Th 1:6b-7a)

(6) Does the preached word of God affect you as though it were God’s very words, or do you tend to dismiss it as merely a man talking?

*And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.* (1Th 2:13)

(7) Is genuine love for one another, and for all the saints, your present practice and continual goal?

*Now concerning brotherly love, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that is indeed what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more.*

(1Th 4:9-10)

These qualities of the Thessalonians are the reasons why Paul was so confident that they genuinely had been made new in Christ. They are evidence of the presence of the **Holy Spirit**, the seal of eternal life.

*Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him* (Romans 8:9).

*It is the Spirit who gives life* (John 6:63).