

# 1 Corinthians 14:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

## Analysis

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**If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord—**

Greek *ei tis dokei prophētēs einai ē pneumatikos, epiginōsketō ha graphō hymin hoti kyriou estin entolē* (εἴ τις δοκεῖ προφήτης εἶναι ἢ πνευματικός, ἐπιγινωσκέτω ὃ γράφω ὑμῖν ὅτι κυρίου ἐστὶν ἐντολή, "if anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize what I write to you, that it is the Lord's command").

Paul's test of spirituality: recognizing apostolic authority. True prophets and spiritual people will acknowledge Paul's instructions as *entolē kyriou* ("commandment of the Lord"), not mere human opinion. The aorist imperative *epiginōsketō* ("let him recognize") demands immediate, full acknowledgment. This is Paul's trump card: reject his teaching, and you prove you're not spiritual, regardless of your claims or experiences.

## Historical Context

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Some Corinthians likely claimed their charismatic experiences authorized ignoring Paul's regulations. He insists: true spirituality submits to apostolic teaching, which carries Christ's authority (cf. 2 Cor 10:8, 13:10).

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Paul make recognizing his authority the test of true spirituality?
2. How do we balance Spirit-promptings with submission to apostolic teaching?
3. What does it mean for Paul's instructions to be 'the commandments of the Lord'?

## Interlinear Text

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|                     |                  |               |           |       |       |             |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Εἵ                  | τις              | δοκεῖ         | προφήτης  | εἶναι | ἢ     | πνευματικός |
| G1487               | G5100            | think himself | a prophet | to be | or    | spiritual   |
|                     |                  | G1380         | G4396     | G1511 | G2228 | G4152       |
| ἐπιγινωσκέτω        | ἃ                | γράφω         | ὑμῖν      | ὅτι   | τοῦ   | κυρίου      |
| let him acknowledge | the things       | that I write  | unto you  | that  | G3588 | of the Lord |
| G1921               | G3739            | G1125         | G5213     | G3754 |       | G2962       |
| εἰσὶν               | ἐντολαί·         |               |           |       |       |             |
| are                 | the commandments |               |           |       |       |             |
| G1526               | G1785            |               |           |       |       |             |

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 4:6** (Spirit): We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

**2 Corinthians 10:7** (Parallel theme): Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.

**2 Peter 3:2** (Word): That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

**Jude 1:17** (Word): But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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