

Testing The Spirits February 17, 2019

1 John 4:1, *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*

Beloved: dear people, a Christian group.

spirit: an activating spirit that is not from God.

Luke 9:54-56, makes a clear distinction between two spirits, *“When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But He (Jesus) turned and rebuked them, [and said, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.”] And they went on to another village.”*

Error: Delusion, deception, deceit. Wandering from the path of truth.

1 John 2:24, *“As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.”*

Matthew 7:15, *“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”*

2 Peter 2:1, *“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them.”*

Acts 20:29-30, *“I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.”*

John's first test is, "What do people say about Jesus?"

1 John 4:2-3, *"By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world."*

Test: to determine genuineness and make a critical examination of something.

John's second test is, "What do people say and who do they listen to?"

1 John 4:4-6, *"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."*

John 15:19, *"Because you are not of the world...the world hates you."*

Hebrews 5:12, *"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food."*

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