


Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 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, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:1-6 ESV)

A magnifying glass with a black handle and a silver-colored frame. The lens is clear and contains the text "Test the Spirits" in red and black. The handle is black and contains the text "1 John 4:1-6" in red. The magnifying glass is positioned diagonally on a white background.

*Test the
Spirits*

1 John 4:1-6

1. A Word of Caution

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

(1 John 4:1 ESV)

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SIM LIM SQUARE

Photo: Sim Lim Square



internet Love scam man charged With cheating woman



A Nigerian was charged in court with cheating a woman of \$3,500 with three others in an internet love scam.

PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

stomp
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Cartier





SCAM

ALERT

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(1 John 4:1 ESV)

This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

(1 John 4:3 ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.


(1 John 4:1 ESV)

2. A Word of Command

*Beloved, do not believe every spirit,
but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from
God, for many false prophets have gone out into
the world.*

(1 John 4:1 ESV)



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*Test the
Spirits*

1 John 4:1-6

*Thus you will recognize them by their **fruits**.*
(Matthew 7:20 ESV)

*Their end is destruction, their **god is their belly,**
and they glory in their shame, with minds set on
earthly things.*

(Philippians 3:19 ESV)

*They promise them freedom, but they themselves are **slaves of corruption**.*

(2 Peter 2:19 ESV)

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.

(1 John 4:2-3 ESV)

Ray Stedman

“It is significant that this warning comes in the midst of John’s discourse about love, because false spirits tend to make a great deal of the subject of love. Every cult, every deviant group, every false movement makes its appeal in the name of love.”

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.

(1 John 4:2-3 ESV)

*Who is the liar but he who **denies that Jesus is the Christ?** This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.*

(1 John 2:22 ESV)

*For if someone comes and proclaims **another Jesus** than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a **different gospel** from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.*

(2 Corinthians 11:4 ESV)

*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, **disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.***

(2 Corinthians 11:13 ESV)

*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a **gospel contrary to the one we preached to you**, let him be accursed.*

(Galatians 1:8 ESV)

*For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as **enemies of the cross of Christ.***

(Philippians 3:18 ESV)

*For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ,
but their own appetites, and by **smooth talk and
flattery they deceive** the hearts of the naïve.*

(Romans 16:18 ESV)

For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.

(2 Peter 2:18 ESV)

*They are from the world; therefore **they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.***

(1 John 4:5-6 ESV)

“The right church might just be the one where
you're least comfortable.”

*They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. **Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us.***

(1 John 4:5-6 ESV)

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but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from
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*They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. **By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.***

(1 John 4:5-6 ESV)

3. A Word of Confidence

*Little children, you are from God and **have overcome them***

(1 John 4:4 ESV)

*Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for **he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.***

(1 John 4:4 ESV)

*But you have been **anointed by the Holy One,**
and you all have knowledge.*

(1 John 2:20 ESV)

*I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the **anointing that you received from him abides in you**, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as **his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true**, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.*

(1 John 2:26-27 ESV)

They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

(1 John 4:5-6 ESV)

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

(1 John 2:14 ESV)



Beloved, do not believe every spirit



*Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times **some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons** (1 Tim 4:1)*



Whoever knows God listens to us (1John 4:5)



Whoever is of God hears the words of God (John 8:47)



Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. (Acts 17:11 ESV)

