

1Jhn 11 - Disciples Know The Truth - 1Jn 4:1-6

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You & I **CAN** know the truth

Absolute truth **DOES** exist - & we can know it

Today - I'd like to **read** right thru our text **From the NLT**
to **set the stage** for what we'll be talking about - ok?

The **NLT** - being a "***thought for thought***" translation
gives us a **great overview** of our text

1Jn 4:1-6 - NLT

1 Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

2 This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.

3 But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.

4 But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

5 Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them.

6 But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

Let's Pray

I was listening to **James MacDonald**
& **he asked a question** I'd like to ask you;

What if I told you that **aliens** (who were 'super humans') have **come into this world** & taken over **people's bodies** - maybe even yours

& that they had **special powers** - & that they were **seeking to free themselves**, & **ultimately** all the world - of **anything NEGATIVE**

& by **freeing themselves** of all **negativity** they were **insuring** that they would have **another lifetime** to live on this earth

& **eventually**, thru a **series of lifetimes** coming back & **freeing themselves** and others of all **negativity**

That **ultimately** they would **free our entire galaxy** of ALL negativity

What would you **say** if I told you that?

Sounds Like a **Science Fiction Novel**, right?

Well, there was a **Science Fiction writer** named L. Ron Hubbard who began **teaching this concept** as a religion in **1953**

& it's **still going very strong** today
especially among *dysfunctional famous people*

It's called **Scientology** - & one of their *largest retreat centers* is 10 miles away from here in **San Jacinto**

Now **besides the fact** that this is the
WACKIEST Idea ever - **for a religion**

How Do we KNOW if this is **FROM GOD** - **OR NOT?**

Let me try to use an Illustration maybe a little "*closer to home*"

Have you *ever shared* what the *Bible says* with someone
Only to have them say . . . "*Well, here's what 'I' think*"

This absolutely blows my mind !!

Without a moment's hesitation
we Proudly Compare our own Opinion

to the Miraculous, Supernatural, Proven thousands of times over
Holy, Word of God !!

& we NEVER even consider the Vast Difference in VALIDITY
between Our Opinion & God's Miraculous Word

& the real question - we need to ask ourselves is
"WHERE did we get that opinion?"

Because - our text today makes it clear;
there are really only TWO SOURCES
from which we get ALL Spiritual Information

GOD - - - & - - - NOT GOD

Those are really the only Two Sources that matter
GOD - - - & - - - NOT GOD

& the point of these vs's in 1John is to show us
HOW to DETERMINE

if the Spiritual information we are receiving
comes From GOD - - or NOT FROM GOD

& if we would take just a minute - to evaluate the VALIDITY
some Man's Opinion - Vs's the VALIDITY of the Bible

We would easily & without a doubt see
that the Bible has thousands of Miraculous PROOFS

& we have only our over-inflated high opinion of ourselves

SO - Let's look carefully at how John addresses

THE SOURCE - of the "Spiritual Things" we hear
that end up SHAPING our Opinions

1Jn 4:1 - ESV

*1 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.*

Do NOT believe every spirit

MEANING - the spirit "behind" what a person is saying

In the paraphrase THE MESSAGE - V.1 says

Not everyone who talks about God comes from God.

Look at how the NLT puts V.1 → →

1Jn 4:1 - NLT

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God . . .

& this word **'TEST'** is in the present tense

Meaning, test now, keep on testing, & always be testing the spirit that is behind what someone is saying about God

TEST IT - to see if it is **FROM GOD** - or **NOT FROM GOD**

WHY ??

Because the end **of V.1** says
for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1Tim 4:1 says - NLT

1 Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

That **seems to be** a good reason for us to **TEST**
the spirit behind what we're hearing - doesn't it ?

& **HOW SERIOUS** IS IT?

Well, Paul says in Gal 1:8 - ESV

8 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.

Do you know that Joseph Smith said - when he was "about 14"
the Angel **Moron-I** visited him & gave him
a Gospel **CONTRARY** to the one Paul Preached

& MANY other "gospels" CONTRARY to the gospel of the Bible
have been GIVEN by "Angels" - to the founders of many religions
(including Islam)

But remember - there are only **TWO SOURCES**
for **anything spiritual** that anyone says

It is either **FROM GOD** - or - **NOT FROM GOD**

We **MUST realize**
there are **Spiritual Truths** & **Spiritual Lies** out there

& we are called to know (discern) **which is which**

For Example - how about;

*live a good life - be a good person
& you get to go to heaven*

Now - that is **certainly** a **Spiritual Statement**
but **how** do we **TEST IT** - to see if it's **From God, or NOT** ?

How About;

*there are **MANY** "good" religions
& surely God will accept **ALL** "good" religions*

How do we **TEST** that statement
to see if it's **FROM GOD** - or - OR **NOT FROM GOD?**

The **answer** - - - is in the **next verse** - in fact, the **next 2 Vs's**

1John 4:2-3 - ESV → →

1John 4:2-3 - ESV

***2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,
3 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.***

God has **clearly** & plainly **told us** - **HOW** to **determine**
if something "**spiritual**" is **from Him** or **not from Him**

& **the test** fully & completely **CENTERS** on **WHO Jesus Christ is !!**

Jesus Christ is **the FULCRUM** - **The CORE** - **The FOUNDATION**
of **God's entire revelation** to man

1Tim 6:15 - ESV

15 . . . [Jesus Christ] is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

Phil 2:10-11 - ESV

***10 . . . at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

Acts 4:12 - ESV

12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Rom 10:9 - ESV

9 . . . if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Jn 17:3 - ESV

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

AMEN ???

I know a lot of people who would **beg to differ** with God on the **Absolute Truth** of **WHO Jesus Christ is**

& if they ever **BECOME GOD** - they'll probably run creation **differently** than our Great God (*but they shouldn't hold their breath*)

But please hear me - *please*
If your "**Opinion**" is **different** from the Bible

whatever your Opinion is - *I promise you*

it **does not have** the thousands of years of **Supernatural PROOF** that **God's Word** has

& at **some point** - we have to *ask ourselves*

is there **really a good chance**
that **MY Opinion** is Actually **MORE VALID** - than **GOD'S WORD**

Because **God's Word** - - that is based on
Undeniable & Irrefutable Miraculous Validity - Says

The WAY we know - if something is **FROM GOD** - - or **NOT**

is by the **WAY it answers** A SINGLE question

WHO do you SAY Jesus Christ is ?

again - **1Jn 4:2 says - ESV**

*. . . every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the
flesh is from God*

Now - this is **NOT saying** - if you think Jesus was
a **good TEACHER** (in the flesh) that you're OK with God

His **Name JESUS** means - **SAVIOR**

His **Title CHRIST** means - **ANOINTED ONE FROM GOD**

When we say **JESUS CHRIST** we mean Literally
Savior Anointed From God

& so **V.2 is saying** - Every spirit that **SAYS:**

Jesus Christ is the **"Savior Anointed from God"**
Who **came in the Flesh**

Every spirit that confesses **THAT Truth - IS FROM GOD**

Well - THAT makes it easier - doesn't it?

& then - let's look at the **beginning of V.3**

1Jn 4:3(a) - ESV

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

This is a huge **ALL INCLUSIVE** statement

in the NLT it says (1Jn 4:3 - NLT)

3 But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God .

..

The Bible sets out the **TRUTH of JESUS** alone - & says

Anyone who **does NOT confess** (Stand in Agreement)
the Truth about JESUS - **is NOT from God**

& so - if that 'spirit' is **NOT** From God -
Then, **WHERE** is it From ??

Let's read **all of V.3**

1Jn 4:3 - ESV

***3 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.***

Remember - there are only **TWO SOURCES**
FROM God - NOT FROM God

& the Source that is **NOT from God** - is . . .

***The spirit of ANTICHRIST,
which you heard was coming, & now is in the world already***

The **AntiChrist** is the **Antithesis** of Christ
the absolute **OPPOSITE** of Christ

& WHOOOO would THAT be ???

Guys - there are **ONLY TWO Sources**
for **Everything** you hear - about God

CHRIST - - or - - **ANTICHRIST**
FROM GOD - - or - - **NOT FROM GOD**

& So - **the spirit** behind the **information**
that is **SHAPING your Opinion** about God

Is **EITHER** - the **Spirit of GOD** - or -
the **spirit of ANTICHRIST**

& the absolute **determining factor** of WHICH spirit it is - is . . .

WHO does that person SAY Jesus Christ IS ?

& the **GOOD NEWS** is - if you **SAY** Jesus **is The Christ**
(The Savior) **The Anointed One From God**

Then you can be **ASSURED**
that you are **FROM GOD** (you belong to God) . . .

AND - you have **ALREADY overcome**
the spirit of Anti-Christ

MEANING - You have already Overcome
those who are **AGAINST** Christ

1Jn 4:4 - ESV

4 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.

"Little Children" (Believers)

you are **FROM** God (belong to God)

& you have **ALEADY Overcome**
those who are **AGAINST GOD**

Do you see that there are **ONLY TWO SIDES** here
we either **BELONG** to God - or we're **AGAINST** God ??

& John draws a **very clear line** in the sand (a battle line)
& he says there is a **winner** - & there is a **loser**

& he says **YOU who** belong to God
have **OVERCOME THEM** (meaning **WON the Victory**)

guys - John is addressing the **VERY REAL BATTLE** for **our souls**

Do you think - *in the Spiritual Realm* -
there is a **BATTLE** going on for **souls** - - - **YES !**

AND if you **belong to God** today
then you have **Already DEFEATED** the enemy of your soul

Because **GREATER** is the **Holy Spirit in you**
than **the enemy spirit** who is in this world

& **notice** (again) (side note) - the *spirit* that is **IN THIS WORLD** is clearly referred to as **OUR ENEMY**

That's why John has already said in **1Jn 2:15**

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

WHY is this true ?? Because **the spirit** that controls this world is actually **the ENEMY of your soul**

We have GOT TO come to grips with that

Now, **continuing** -

John has been **talking specifically** about "False Prophets"

Back at the end of V.1 (1Jn 4:1 - ESV)

1 . . . for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

& **our text** today has made it **CLEAR**

Any person teaching on Spiritual Matters

Who **DENIES** the **Truth** about ***Who Jesus Christ is***

THAT person (the Bible says) - has the **spirit of AntiChrist**

& so now - John is going to draw **one last CONTRAST** between; those **NOT OF God**, - & - those who **ARE OF God**

1Jn 4:5-6(a) - ESV

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

6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; . . .

Guys - if someone is speaking of Spiritual Matters
& DENYING the Truth of Who Jesus Christ is

Then they are FROM the world

& their SOURCE - is *the spirit* that is *in the world*
& the world is LISTENING TO THEM !!

Can you think of any spiritual leaders (Oprah!) that fit that description ?

Shouldn't this be getting a little easier for us ?

Hey Oprah - Don't tell me about
How to *"attract the 'Powers of the Universe"* . . .

Just tell me - WHO do you SAY Jesus Christ is ??

EEEHHH - Sorry - NOT FROM God !!
(*hey, that was pretty easy*)

Hey Mormons - WHO do you say Jesus Christ is ??
EEEHHH . . . sorry that's DIFFERENT than what the Bible says

Hey Jehovah's Witnesses - WHO do you say Jesus Christ is ??
EEEHHH . . . sorry that's DIFFERENT than my Bible

Hey NEW AGE - *all roads lead to heaven* teachers,
WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS CHRIST IS ??

& the answer to that ONE QUESTION

Absolutely, indisputably, determines
whether that teaching is FROM GOD - Or NOT FROM GOD

Isn't that GREAT ??

Now - **I know** there will be some who **WILL NOT listen**
to God's Word here - - *They will flat out reject it*

I know, - because that's **exactly** what our **text** says will happen

Let's **re-read Vs's 5-6** again

1Jn 4:5-6 - ESV

5 They [false teachers] are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

6 We (the Apostles) 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.

PLEASE - If you **disagree** with God's Word today

Please Know - You are **holding** some other spiritual idea
in Higher Esteem

Than the Miraculous, Supernaturally Proven for over 2,000 years,
Holy Word of God

& if your "Spiritual Idea" cannot stand up
to the **Miraculous, Supernaturally Proven Evidence** of God's Word

then **maybe**, you should ask yourself
if that spiritual idea is really **from God** - OR **not FROM God**

Because there really are - **ONLY TWO SOURCES**

& **from our text** today - we can say with **Assurance**
in the last sentence of V.6 . . .

By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Please **don't be fooled** by the spirit of ERROR

KNOW the **TRUTH** - of **WHO** *Jesus Christ is*

& use just **ONE QUESTION** - to determine
whether to follow, or agree with - ANY spiritual teaching,

"Who do you say Jesus Christ is ?"

Let's Pray

1Cor 11:23-26 - NKJ

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.