



**Sermon Series:** 1 John: Testing the Pulse of Your Faith Part 4

**Sermon Title:** Necessary Testing

**Speaker/ Date:** Cameron Baker, November 21, 2021

### 1 John 4:1-21

In an effort to clarify the belief of Christians and squelch controversy, John's tone is very fact-based. In Chapter 4 we will discover:

**Only God's Word can determine Your Spiritual Well-Being  
(three diagnostic tests)**

#### 1. Test of Spirits

##### 1 John 4.1-6

The statement that many false prophets have gone out into the world seems almost nonchalant – it's a “given” in the text. But this is a powerful warning. We are called to recognize the Spirit of God against the backdrop of the false prophets – the impostor.

With this diagnostic, the spirit is very easy to Identify – If they hold up Jesus, come in the flesh (your savior), that's a good one. If the spirit rejects the truth of Jesus, then you can be 100% sure you are dealing with a worker of the anti-Christ. Anti (against) Christ (messiah)

Now think through your day – how many anti-christ (people who reject Jesus and his bodily Resurrection) do you come across?

As you go through your day: Are you on your guard?

It's not to be worried about because it is declared that YOU ALREADY have victory over them! - not because of your discernment but because the Holy Spirit within you is more than anything that may come to you!

#### 2. A Test of Love

##### 1 John 4.7-12

If there is any test John prioritizes over and over again in the letter, it's the test of LOVE in your life. What is the Love John tests for?

“AGAPE” (grk.) – unwarranted, self-sacrificial, generous, care, concern, and devotion.

Your capacity to care for people outside of your friends and family is a serious marker of your spiritual health. Everyone who AGAPEs has been born of God and knows God. (v.8) Whoever does not AGAPE does not know God, because God is AGAPE.

It's the testing standard because God himself loved us first (v.9)  
That's how we know what love is.

Love that is costly and for the benefit of someone who doest deserve it – that's our test. Because when we love well like this, it allows others to visualize and witness God's AGAPE care! **John 13:34-35**

### 3. A Test of Faith

**1 John 4:15-18**

This passage conveys a two fold life/death test:

- 1) Do you completely believe that Jesus is your Savior – your only way of life now and into eternity?
- 2) Do you face your death devoid of fear for eternity?

When you know you have been rescued solely by Jesus sacrifice – you have no need to fear your death, or eternity. Not only do you know where you're going but you have certainty, your eternal life is driven by God's great love for you. We trust God the same way Jesus did walking his cross to the place of crucifixion. Easy, no. Confident, yes.

The season that our world finds itself in – is indicative of a world full of people fearing for their mortal lives, clinging to this lifetime instead of enjoying the comfort and certainty of eternal life with Jesus. The more you love the world, the less likely you are to live in peace and LIFE with Jesus.

Spirituality has become such a broad commonplace term in our society.  
The truth is your spiritual health is indicated by what you believe:  
**Only God's Word can determine Your Spiritual Well-Being**  
Spirituality:  
Jesus = life  
Anything else = death (anti-christ)

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- John mentions false teachers throughout this letter. What is the motivation of a person to become a false teacher? Do you know any instances where a false teacher repented and was born again? Explain
- How can a Christian remain on guard and protect against the false teachers and antichrist attitude of the world?
- Give an example when someone showed AGAPE love towards you. Did that motivate you to show AGAPE love towards someone else? Explain
- Is there a difference between fearing death and fearing the process of dying? Is fear acceptable in either case? Explain
- What would you say to a Christian who trusts Jesus as their Savior but still fears death?