



Week 12 Study Guide

Read the text: 1 John 4:1-6

4:1 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. 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. 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. 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; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Study the Text

- Its always important to remember the context. So, since we took a couple weeks off, let's take a few moments to discuss the letter. Why did John write this letter? What has been the flow of thought up to this point?
- So how does this section fit within the larger framework of the letter? How does it fit with what he just said in chapter 3 and particularly in 3:24?
- He mentions the Spirit here. As Christians, we believe in 1 God who exists as 3 persons, Father, Son and Spirit. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit here? Look at John 16:4-15. What do we learn about the Spirit in that passage and how does it relate to what John says here in 1 John 4:1-6 (think about what Jesus said about the Spirit guiding in truth and the Spirit glorifying Jesus)?
- Can you think of some other things that the Bible tells us about the Holy Spirit and His ministry in our lives (for further study, you could look at some of these passages... 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, Romans 15:14-21, Ephesians 1:11-14, Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12)?
- What does John mean by "spirits"? How do you know this?
- What commands are given regarding what to do with "spirits"?
- How do you spot teaching that is from God versus teaching that is false? Consider what is said in verses 2-3 and 6. What are the multiple criteria for testing truth?
- What encouragement does John give to these believers? How does that encourage you?

- Why do people listen to false teachers/teaching?
- What does John mean in verse 6?
- Why is a passage like this so important in the age that we live in? How can we apply this passage to our lives?

Prayer (this section is to help guide your group in learning how to pray. The design is to converse with God regarding what you just heard from Him in His Word).

- Thank God for the gift of His Spirit
- Confess any sin especially related to this text (ways we have not been led by the Spirit, ways we have neglected God's Word or not been discerning in seeking truth)
- Ask God to guide us in truth, to increase our passion for His Word, and to guide us by His Spirit to know and obey the truth

Mission

- One of the main ministries of the Spirit is to empower us to speak about Jesus to others. This week, seek the Spirit's guidance for who to invest in/share with and to empower you with what to say