

1 John 3.19-24-1

 1 John 4:1-6

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1 Group 1 John series text slide up...

 **Question:**
How do we recognize what voices and teachings are actually from God when so many voices sound spiritual, convincing and true?

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21 John series text slide updated...

  **John's Charge to the Church:**
Followers of Jesus don't just listen to spiritual sounding voices, they learn to recognize the voice of Jesus, their shepherd.

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31 John series text slide updated...

  Dear friends, 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. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.

41 John series text slide updated...

  ...the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

51 John series text slide updated...

 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

61 John series text slide updated...

⚠️ If the incarnate Christ has been theologically removed, **if Christology is not at the center** of what someone says, we are right to be **suspicious**. In addition, **if the community** we have always trusted, if the church as the historic custodian of truth, **refuses this prophesy**, we should be **warned**. Moreover, if it **finds a ready reception in the world**, we should **flee** because it may be a message that has originated with the evil spirit that dominates that world.” h|c

71 John series text slide updated....

📄 Dear friends, 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.

81 John series text slide updated....

📄 **False** messiahs and **false** prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to **deceive** if possible, even the elect.” Mark 13:22

91 John series text slide updated....

📄 I know after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number, men will arise and **distort the truth** in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!” Acts 20:29

101 John series text slide updated....

⚠️ **Be** afraid, just as Eve was **deceived** by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a **different spirit** from the one you received, or a **different gospel** from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.” 2Cor. 11:3

111 John series text slide updated....

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121 John series text slide updated...

📄 And this is his command: to **believe** in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to **love one another** as he commanded us. 1 John 3:23

131 John series text slide updated...

⚠️ **Love me, keep my commands.**” Jn 14:15

“Whoever **has my commands and keeps them** is the one who loves me.” Jn 14:21

“Anyone who **loves me** will **obey my teaching.**” Jn 14:23

“You are **my friends** if you **do what I command.**” Jn 15:14

141 John series text slide updated...

 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God. Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

6 but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

151 John series text slide updated...

 True and False Spirits] 1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, lest you be deceived. Test the spirits to see whether they are from God.

[False Prophets] because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

[True Words] 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.

[False Spirits] 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

[True Spirits] 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

[False Words] 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

[True Prophets] 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us.

[True and False Spirits] This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

161 John series text slide updated...



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171 John series text slide updated...



This is the spirit of the antichrist (Anti Jesus), which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

181 John series text slide updated...



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191 John series text slide updated...



We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

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211 John series text slide updated...



The heart's *voice of self-condemnation* often overpowers the *voice of good theology*.

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221 John series text slide updated...

 **Reflect:**

What voices am I currently trusting the most?

Is Jesus truly at the center of what I believe? Do you see Him in how I spend my time? Is He at the center of my priorities? Do my emotions reflect Jesus - or has something else taken His place?

Am I more shaped by the world around me - or by the transformation of the Holy Spirit?

Where might I be believing something that sounds right - but isn't actually true?

When was the last time I slowed down enough to actually invite God to speak to me and then listen for his voice?

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 **Application:**

Pay attention to what voices you're listening to the week:

Podcasts, Influencers, Reels, News and commentary, Voices in your own head

Test It:

Hold it up to the light of Jesus and the Scriptures - are they voices that are speaking the spirit of Jesus or the spirit of the World?

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