

Sunday, November 16, 2025 AM
AUTHENTIC FAITH: Truth or Consequences 7
Mike Teel, Pastor

INTRODUCTION

The past few weeks we have been examining the THREE TOOLS that are used by the False Teacher or the Antichrist to lead people astray. These tools are designed to deceive and mislead, in particular believers, to stray from the truth of Scriptures.

The tools consist of the following:

- (1) DEPARTING FROM THE TRUE FELLOWSHIP (v.19)
- (2) DENYING THE FAITH (vv. 22-23)
- (3) TRYING TO DECEIVE OR SEDUCE THE FAITHFUL (v.26)

So, how does one protect themselves from being deceived? We know that in the last days the deception will increase and if possible even the elect could be deceived.

Matthew 24:24-25

²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time.

We also know that in the last days we will see a great falling away from the True Church.

II Thessalonians 2:3

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

There is day when people will not give attention to solid doctrine.

II Timothy 4:3

³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

“How can I protect myself from these deceptive ways that desire to mislead me and my family astray?” God has provided us with tool we can use to discern False Teachings. First, He has given us the Infallible, inerrant Word of God! But as we have already seen, if you take things out of context, we can make the Bible say anything we want it to say (**II Corinthians 4:1-2**).

Interestingly, John understands the important tool of the anointing of the Holy Spirit and underscores it here as we wrap up **I John 2**. Let’s read together what John has to say about how the Holy Spirit leads us into truth to prevent us from being misled...

FOCAL PASSAGE

I John 2:20-22

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.

²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.

I John 2:26-29

²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. ²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

HOW TO _____ FALSE TEACHINGS

I John 2:20

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

I John 2:27-28

²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. ²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

1. THE _____ OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

How does a believer detect false teachings? By depending on the teaching and leading of the Holy Spirit. Each true believer has experienced the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and it is the Spirit who teaches us truth.

John 14:16-17

**¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—
¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.**

False teachers are not led by the Spirit of truth; they are led by the spirit of error.

I John 4:1-3

¹ 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. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

2. THE _____ OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is so much misunderstanding about the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. The inhabiting of the Holy Spirit in our lives begins at the moment we trust Jesus as Savior. When we are saved, we have everything necessary for the Christian life – we do not get a portion now and then a second blessing or portion later on. Just like when a baby is born everything thing that baby will need is included, it may not be developed but it is included. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today is vital . . .

► NEW BIRTH AND REGENERATION

The Spirit brings about Spiritual transformation, giving new life in Christ. Remember it was God through the Holy Spirit that sought us for a relationship with Jesus.

Ephesians 2:1-5

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Romans 9:9-10

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

► INDWELLING AND EMPOWERMENT

He resides within every believer, providing the strength, wisdom, guidance needed to live the Christian life.

I Corinthians 6:19

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

Romans 8:26

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

► CONVICTION OF SIN AND GUIDANCE INTO TRUTH

The Spirit helps believers understand and apply God's Word, revealing God's thoughts and the whole counsel of God.

John 16:8, 13

⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

► INTERCESSION IN PRAYER

He assist in prayer, interceding on behalf of believers according to God's will.

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

► PRODUCING CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

The Spirit works to develop the “fruit of the Spirit” in believers’ lives, such as love, joy, peace, and patience.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

► GIVING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

He bestows Spiritual gifts to believers for the function and building up of the body of Christ, the church.

I Corinthians 12:4-11

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

► SEALING AND GUARANTEEING

The Spirit indwells believers as a pledge, or guarantee, of their eternal inheritance and status as God’s Children.

Ephesians 4:30

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

II Timothy 2:19

¹⁹ Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”

► EMPOWERING WITNESS

He empowers believers to live for Christ and to share their faith with others.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

This should be true of every born again believer in Christ – it is not received as a second blessing! We get all of this when we are born again – though it will not be fully developed.

THE _____ OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I John 2:20, 27

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One,

²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you.

The word “**anoint**” reminds us of the Old Testament practice of pouring oil (symbolic of the Holy Spirit) on the head of a person being set apart for special services:

A Priest was anointed – Exodus 28:41

A King was anointed – I Samuel 15:1

A Prophet was anointed – I Kings 19:16

A New Testament Christian is anointed, not with literal oil, but by the Spirit of God—an anointing that sets them apart for ministry as one of God’s Priest.

I Peter 2:5

⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

I Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

It is not necessary for you to pray for “an anointing of the Holy Spirit”. If you are a true Christian, you have already received this special anointing at the time of your new birth. This anointing “abides in us” and therefore does not need to be imparted to us. We have seen that false teachers deny the Father and the Son; they also deny the Spirit. The Spirit is the Teacher God has given us. **John 14:26** but these false teachers want many times to try to take the place of the Holy Spirit and play the junior Holy Spirit in our lives and tell us what we need to be doing.

John 14:26

²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

I can help you understand God’s general plan for your life based upon the teachings and precepts of God’s Word, but you have to determine by the Holy Spirit the specific plan He has for your life. If you are not experiencing and have not experienced the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life, then you may want to think about your Salvation experience – It could be you are probably a tare – have a false or counterfeit experience with Christ.

LIVE IT OUT

Are you secure in your relationship with Christ? Is He really the Lord of your life?

Are you being guided by the Holy Spirit in your life?

Has the Holy Spirit warned you about something that is counterfeit you are reading or listening to?

Don’t allow pride to prevent you from following the lead of the Holy Spirit today.