

Love & Light

Week 6- 1 John 4:1-6

We Must Test Them

“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.”

1 John 4:1

“What do you mean?”

A good test to help us engage deeper with others is to ask, “What do you mean by that?” They may say: “I’m spiritual, but not religious,” or “I believe in Jesus,” or “I’m praying for you,” or the ever-present “God bless you.” Let us be gentle, but let us ask what is meant and go deeper.

How We Know

“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.”

1 John 4:2-3

Not a Cheater

Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus was tested in the wilderness by Satan.

John 5:58 Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I AM."

Matthew 16:13-20 "Who do you say I am?" Peter replied and was blessed for saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

John 14:9 Jesus said, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father."

Matthew 26:39 Jesus prayed, "Let this cup of suffering be taken away..." and "Not my will, but Yours be done."

Not a Cheater

In Hebrews 4:15 the writer is talking about Jesus the Son of God as our high priest, “¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.”

The True Jesus Saves

The devil doesn't care at all if you know Jesus or love Jesus or pray to Jesus – as long as it is a *false* Jesus, a *make-believe* Jesus, a Jesus who is not there, and who therefore *cannot* save.

The Holy Spirit in Us

“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.” 1 John 4:4

The Holy Spirit in us > the spirit in the world

Where We Belong

“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.”

1 John 4:5-6