December 6th – Test the Spirits

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this we know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God." (1 John 4:1-2)

Have you ever noticed how many people in the world are spiritual, but how very few give their lives to Christ? Eastern religions are built around the "spiritual" – self-realization, meditation, auras, etc. Many people have taken a cafeteria approach to spirituality – take a little from Christianity, take a little from Buddhism, take a little from Hinduism, etc. As a result, they end up with something that is very "spiritual" but not very biblical.

Jesus was very clear – "God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Our God is Spirit, and it is He who has given life to every other spirit. When we're born again, God blesses us with the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit who confirms that we are God's children (Rom. 8:15). That said, not every spirit is heaven sent. The Devil and his demons are also spirit, and by no means do they bring glory to God.

So then, we live in a spiritual world, but not every spirit is a Christ-honoring influence. How can we know the difference between a heavenly spirit and a satanic spirit? "Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God." Any spirit that manifests itself in a way that discredits Jesus or His Word is NOT of God. Know the difference – "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23).