

## The Book of First JOHN

### Chapter 4:1-6

# “Beloved, Do Not Believe Every Spirit!”

> (v1a) **TEST THE SPIRITS** - Do not believe every spirit! Literally - “Stop believing every spirit.” (Acts 16:16-18) (“spirit”- Gk. - *pneuma*- wind) Thayer the Greek scholar writes - The word as used here refers to “one in whom a spirit is manifest or embodied, hence one actuated by a spirit, whether divine or demonical.” Thus these spirits are human beings actuated either by demons or the Holy Spirit. In this case they would be the teachers, pastors and evangelists who circulated around the local churches. - Kenneth Wuest

Paul declares in **1 Timothy 4:1**- “*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons*” Scofield comments- Satanic deception which caused the fall of man will characterize the end of the age (Mt. 24:4-5; Mk. 13:6; 1 John 2:18-26; 2 John 7; Rev. 13:14; 19:20; 20:7-10). **Satan is the one “who deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9) and is the power behind the beast and the false prophet (Rev. 13:4,7,12-15; 19:20; 20:3,7-10).**

(v1b) **QUESTION AUTHORITY:** Are they of God? The word test or try is *dokimazo* “to put to the test for the purpose of approving, and finding that the person put to the test meets the specifications laid down, to put one’s approval upon him.” I’ve heard it said in the church today “Doctrine divides, but love unites.” That’s a slogan from the devil’s bag of lies. TRUTH UNITES, LOVE EDIFIES! WE MUST LOVE GOD AND HIS WORD FIRST, THEN AND ONLY THEN WILL WE HAVE LOVING UNITY!

> (v2) **EXAMINE** - Beware of false prophets?

> **IDENTIFY:** Deuteronomy 13:1-5;

> **JESUS WARNS:** Matthew 24:3-28;

> **THEY’RE IN THE CHURCH:** 2 Timothy 3:10 – 4:7; 2 Peter 2:1-22

> (v3a) **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** - Test their confession regarding Jesus: (1) Did Jesus come in the flesh; (2) Is Jesus the eternal Son of God; (3) Is Jesus the one & only Savior of the world; (4) Is Jesus the Second person of the Trinity; (5) Is Jesus death on the cross, the shedding of His blood our atonement; (5) Does faith in Jesus Christ alone save us!

> (3b) **The spirit of ANTICHRIST is:** Against Christ, or an opposition to Christ, or a rival of Christ. The word is used only by the apostle John. Referring to false teachers, he says (1 John 2:18,22; 4:3; 2 John 7), “*Even now are there many antichrists.*”

#### - THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST WILL BRING A:

(1) RELIGIOUS DECEPTION – 2 Corinthians 11:3-4; Rev. 3:14-19; ch. 17 & 19.

(2) GLOBAL DECEPTION – 2 Thessalonians chapter 2

##### - Ten Titles of the Antichrist:

1 – *The little horn (Daniel 7:8)*

2 – *A king, insolent and skilled in intrigue (Daniel 8:23)*

3 – *The prince who is to come (Daniel 9:26)*

4 – *The one who makes desolate (Daniel 9:27)*

5 – *The king who does as he pleases (Daniel 11:36-45)*

6 – *A foolish shepherd (Zechariah 11:15-17)*

7 – *The son of destruction (2 Thessalonians 2:8)*

8 – *The lawless one (2 Thessalonians 2:8)*

9 – *The rider on the white horse (Revelation 6:2)*

10 – *The beast out of the sea (Revelation 13:1-2)*

### **(3) PERSONAL DECEPTION – Romans 1:16-32**

- **CHRISTIANS ARE OVERCOMERS!** - *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”- 1 John 4:4 (Christians cannot be demon possessed.) Jesus said in John 17:14-19 - I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

- **OVERCOMERS WEAR ARMOR** – Ephesians 6:10-20

#### **> (v5-6) TRUTH - The Spirit of Truth & the Spirit of Error**

- Hearing God’s Word, believing God’s Word and obeying God’s Word is the spirit of truth!  
- Not hearing God’s Word, not believing God’s Word and not obeying God’s Word is the spirit of error!

➤ **THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE!** Jesus said in John 8:31-32 - *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (Revelation 3:7-14)*