



First John

abiding faith

“Identifying False Teachers” | Gordon Tsai | April 6, 2025



1 John 4:1-6

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God



1 John 4:1-6

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

⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.



1 John 4:1-6

⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.



1 John 4:1

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but *test* the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.



1 John 4:2-3

¹ By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that **confesses** that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

³ and every spirit that **does not confess** Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.



Mark 1:24

24 “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”



Matthew 8:28-29

²⁸ When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes two demon possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”



1 John 4:4

⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is **greater** than he who is in the world.



1 John 4:5-6

⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them

⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the **Spirit of truth** and the spirit of error.



How To Identify False Teachers

- *Equipping* the saints



1 Timothy 1:19-20

¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,

²⁰ among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn **not to blaspheme**.



2 Timothy 2:16-17

¹⁶ But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,

¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus



How To Identify False Teachers

- *Equipping* the saints
- *Know* God's Word



How To Identify False Teachers

- *Equipping* the saints
- *Know* God's Word
- Be *in tune* with the Holy Spirit



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.



Application

1. *Study* the Word of God



Application

1. *Study* the Word of God
2. *Cultivate* a spirit of discernment



Application

1. *Study* the Word of God
2. *Cultivate* a spirit of discernment
3. *Connect* with a mature believer

