

## March 4<sup>th</sup> - Seek and Test

The spirit of truth as we saw in John 14 is always about the work of the Father and the Son. There is only one Spirit of God and one Hope. We are told to listen and test the spirits that would pretend to be from God. John indicated that the world could not receive the spirit because it did not know him, so this helps us see those who have the Spirit of truth living in them.

### Scriptures:

Eph. 4:1-7

1 John 4: 1-6

2 Cor. 11: 1-15

### Discussion Questions

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Part 1: The Call to Unity (Ephesians 4:1-6)

1. Paul uses the word "one" repeatedly in this passage. What does this emphasis on oneness tell us about God's design for the church? How does this challenge our culture's emphasis on individualism?
2. The passage mentions being "completely humble and gentle" and "patient, bearing with one another in love." Why are these characteristics essential for maintaining unity? Share an example of when someone showed you this kind of patience.
3. How can we pursue unity without compromising truth? Where have you seen the church successfully balance these two priorities?

Part 2: Testing the Spirits (1 John 4:1-6)

4. John warns us not to believe every spirit but to "test the spirits." What are some practical ways we can test whether a teaching, podcast, or message aligns with Scripture?
5. The discussion mentioned that false teaching doesn't always come in "dark clothing" but can sound "compassionate" and "full of grace." Why is this particularly dangerous? Can you think of examples where something sounded good but didn't align with Scripture?
6. "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). How does this truth give you confidence when facing spiritual challenges or deception?

Part 3: Living in Truth (1 John 2:3)

7. The lesson emphasized that we can be sure we know God if we obey His commandments. How does obedience provide security in our relationship with God? Why might we resist this truth?
8. The discussion mentioned our tendency to want Scripture to "change to fit a situation" when we or someone we love is struggling. Have you ever felt this temptation? How can we show compassion while maintaining biblical truth?
9. What's the difference between "gray areas" we create and actual biblical principles that have stood the test of time? How can we avoid making things gray that God has made clear?

## **Practical Applications**

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Media Audit - Evaluate one podcast, book, or teaching you regularly consume. Write down its main messages and compare them with Scripture. Does it align with biblical truth?

Memorize Scripture - Commit 1 John 4:4 to memory: "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." Recall it whenever you face spiritual opposition.

Unity Check - Identify one area where you've been pursuing your own "unique" version of faith rather than biblical unity. Confess it and align yourself with Scripture.

Accountability Conversation - Ask a trusted Christian friend to help you think through a "gray area" you've been wrestling with. Bring Scripture and seek clarity together.

Obedience Inventory - Read through 1 John this week and make a list of God's commandments mentioned. Honestly evaluate which ones you're obeying and which ones you're struggling with.