

“Test The Spirits”

1 John 4:1-11 11/26/17

Today, we'd like to see the title of “Test The Spirits” in the book of 1 John 4:1-11.

To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In verse 1, “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,” how does John the Apostle test the spirits whether they are of God in this Chapter?

Q2. In verse 3, “and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world,” what do both Jesus Christ who has not come in the flesh and the Antichrist mean? And give examples.

Q3. In verse 9, “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him,” what point can we see the love of God? And how could we love God 1st or best and love one another?

(Background)

(1 John 3:23-24)

²³ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. ²⁴ Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. (In the last chapter, John the Apostle taught us His commandment (His Word) and to love one another. By this He abides in us by the Spirit.)

(Text)

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test [try] the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1=Q1 do not believe every spirit (but we need discern); test the spirits, whether they are of God (discern the spirits if they belong to God. HOW? (1) Word of God – 1 John 4:2, 6, see below; ¹Heb 4:12; (2) LOVE – 1 John 4:11, see below; 1 John 3:23, see above; ²Gal 5:22-23); false prophets (prophets to teach different things from the Word of God in the Bible, often men-pleasers rather than God pleasers Mat 7:15-16³

¹ Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

² Gal 5:22-23; But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

³ Mat 7:15-16 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous

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

³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

fruits (results) – e.g. especially prosperity – do not believe any prosperity as God's fruit but test it (*Jeremiah 12:1⁴*)

2= the Spirit of God (whom He have given us, 1 John 3:24, above); Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (Jesus, name, Christ or Messiah – anointed by God the Father for propitiation for our sins *Isaiah 53:6⁵* – has come in the flesh or incarnation *Isaiah 9:6, John 1:1, 14⁶*); is of God (belongs to God)

3= Q2 every spirit... not confess... . Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (denial of the incarnation, i.e., Jesus is both perfect God and perfect man— Gnosticism (from the Greek, Ginouskou, the material is evil but the spirit is good, so Jesus was never flesh on the earth – denial of man); Mormons - 4/09/1852 Brigham Young's sermon, "Jesus was born of a virgin but not conceived by the Holy Spirit"; He is a brother to Lucifer – denial of God *Mat 1:20⁷*; Jehovah Witnesses "Jesus is now Michael the archangel because when Jesus came to earth from heave, He laid aside spiritual or angelic nature and lived as a man, and when He left earth, He laid aside his human nature on earth and takes now the spiritual or angelic nature" – denial of both God and Man, but either man or spiritual creature, which is not God); is not of God (does not belong to God), the Antichrist (an opponent of Jesus Christ and a substitute for Jesus Christ – called as the man of sin, the son of perdition, or beast *2 Thes 2:3-4; Rev 13:1⁸*); is now already in the world (not yet that day when Jesus is coming again in heaven, just before the Great Tribulation, the antichrist is still working

wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

⁴ *Jeremiah 12:1* Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about *Your* judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?

⁵ *Isaiah 53:6* All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

⁶ *Isaiah 9:6* For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder, And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace: *John 1:1, 14¹* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

⁷ *Mat 1:20* But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

⁸ *2 Thes 2:3-4* Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God¹ in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.; *Rev 13:1* Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

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| <p>⁴You are of God, <u>little children</u>, and have overcome them, because <u>He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.</u></p> <p>⁵<u>They are of the world.</u> Therefore <u>they speak as of the world</u>, and the world hears them.</p> <p>⁶<u>We are of God.</u> <u>He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us.</u> By this we know <u>the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.</u></p> <p>⁷Beloved, <u>let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.</u></p> <p>⁸He who does not love <u>does not know God, for God is love.</u></p> | <p>through his servants- false prophets or devils)</p> <p>4. little children (because John is now too old); He who is in you (the Spirit of Christ who is in us, ⁹Gal 2:20. although the Antichrist who is in the world is stronger than us) is greater than he who in the world (Christ is greater than the Antichrist because Christ already conquered him through crucifixion and resurrection)</p> <p>5= They are of the world (The false prophets/teachers belong to the world); they speak as of the world (they speak about the world matter that audiences or non-Christians want to hear; Christians who faithfully teach God's word will not win any popularity in the world because people don't want to hear their sins to repent nor their heart to transform in Christ; so some teachers seek compromise to draw people. Note we are God pleasers, not men-pleasers or entertainers);</p> <p>6= We are of God (We belong to God); He who knows God hears us (Whoever knows God hears us who belong to God . i.e., God's word); By this we know the spirit of truth... the spirit of error (i.e. whether or not we hear of God's word or anything else.)</p> <p>7= let us love one another (Now we test the spirits if we love one another); for love is of God (because love belongs to God – here love is Agape love, divine love, or unconditional love, not erotic love or lust love or Eros); everyone who loves is born of God (everyone who has agape love is born of the Spirit of God because old spirit is dead and new spirit of Christ is alive, and the fruit of the Spirit is Agape love Gal 5:22-2, above)</p> <p>8= God is love (God is unconditional love. How about "love is God?" to please a man or make a man feel good by neglecting the characteristics of God who is holy, just, and true. If we do know God, we will love as He does)</p> |
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⁹ Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

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| <p>⁹In this <u>the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.</u></p> <p>¹⁰In this is love, <u>not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation</u> for our sins.</p> <p>¹¹Beloved, <u>if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.</u></p> | <p>9=Q3 the love of God was manifested toward us (the love of God was proved toward us by action), that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world (love is not just feeling but knowing, willing to do a particular action, and manifested, proved, or culminated by that action or work, <i>John 3:16; Romans 5:8</i>¹⁰): we might live through Him (so we are alive <i>Eph 2:1</i>¹¹; how to love God ^{1st} and love one another <i>1 John 5:2</i>¹²)</p> <p>10= not that we loved God... He loved us and sent His Son (God loved ^{1st} us and did the action to send His son, <i>Romans 5:8</i>¹³); propitiation (atonement of sins or atoning sins, similar to KAPHAR the Hebrew (covering sins – in OT, animal's blood on the mercy seat)</p> <p>11= if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another (by loving one another, we can test spirits whether they are of God.)</p> |
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¹⁰ *John 3:16* For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life; *Romans 5:8* But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

¹¹ *Eph 2:1* And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

¹² *1 John 5:2* By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

¹³ *Romans 5:8* But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.