

May 22, 2022

“Spiritual Tests”

I John 4:1-6

Sam Burton, Pastor

I. Introduction

A. Review

1. Chapter 1 — Walking in the Light with the God of Light
2. Chapter 2 — Walking with the Trinity
3. Chapter 3 — God’s Love for His Children; Our love for the brethren

B. Caution

1. Later, we see previous points being elaborated on and reinforced
2. Here we see a _____
<See Ch. 2, vv. 15-17>
3. We have a friendly enemy that we are to identify and overcome
4. We’re told how to do both in this passage

II. Command (v. 1)

A. Address

1. “Beloved”
2. If we’re saved, we’re beloved of God

3. We ought also to be beloved by _____

B. Aversion

1. We are cautioned against believing everything we come across

a) “Believe not every spirit”

b) Approach everything as a skeptic

c) Of course, as humans, we literally have a _____
to believe something

d) We will all believe something whether we realize it or not

2. We are to try the things we encounter

a) Examine it to see if it is worth our belief and

b) “Try the spirits”

c) We see this applied to everything

(1) God even invites the sinner to put His goodness
to the test (Psalm 34:8)

(2) Even the _____ thing done for the
_____ reason can be the
_____ thing

(3) We might fake others out, but not God

d) The objective is to see whether the spirits are
_____ or not

C. Adversary

1. Those we are to be on guard against
2. False prophets
 - a) MANY false prophets
 - b) These are those who are out to _____ God's people
 - c) 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
 - d) The deception is what makes it so dangerous
 - e) They appear to be of the light, but as Satan himself, they would deceive us
 - f) Matthew 7:15
 - g) Galatians 2:4-5
 - h) The spirits are to be identified and dealt with accordingly

III. Confessions (vv. 2-3)

A. Confession of God's Spirit (v. 2)

1. Two options
 - a) Is it "of God"?
 - b) Is it "of Satan"?
 - c) *Matthew 12:30. He that is not with me is _____ me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.*
2. _____ the Spirit

a) As a guard standing watch at a gate, we are to know what comes within our borders

b) We can tell who or what is of the Spirit of God

3. Confession

a) Jesus Christ

(1) Jesus: *Jehovah saves* — Matthew 1:21. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

(2) Christ: *Anointed or Chosen One* — Luke 4:17-19

17. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight

to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

(3) Both are characteristics of _____

b) So then, all who believe and admit that God in flesh has come to mankind and redeemed us are of God

<See ch. 2, vv. 22-23>

B. Confession of antichrist (v. 3)

1. Opposite outcome

2. Spirit of Antichrist

a) The world awaits the fulfillment of 2 Thessalonians 2:3

b) In the meantime, we have this spirit already among us

3. All the more reason to be sober and vigilant

(I Peter 5:8; I Timothy 3:2)

4. It's here and it's here until Jesus comes

IV. Conduct (vv. 4-6)

A. Conduct of a godly people (vv. 4, 6)

1. _____ are being addressed — “of God”

2. Additional characteristics of those who are said to be “of God”:

a) We are “little children”

b) We are _____

(1) That is, we have “overcome them”

(2) The world, the spirit of antichrist

(3) Because Christ has the victory and He is in us

(4) 1 Corinthians 15:57

(5) Whatever we encounter, Christ is greater!

c) The brethren hear us (v. 6)

B. Conduct of the world (v. 5)

1. Those with the spirit of _____
2. They follow a captain who commands a sinking vessel (2:17)
3. A spirit whose influence we were under at one time —
Ephesians 2:2.
4. They speak the world's language, and the world to speak theirs

C. Truth or Error (v. 6)

1. Again, there are only two options: What's right and what's wrong
2. And these are the ways we can perceive the spirit of _____ and the spirit of _____

D. If we are of Christ, we must put each spirit to the test (Romans 12:9)

E. If you are not of Christ, the first spirit you must try is your own

1. Come and see how Christ can meet your greatest need
2. *Psalms 34:8. O taste and see that the LORD is good:*
_____ *is the man that trusteth in him.*

F. Ephesians 5:14-17