

Discerning False Prophets - 1 John 4:1-6

Reflection Questions

A. Dealing with deceitful false teachers and prophets who spread lies and misinformation about Jesus was a real challenge for new believers and seasoned believers during the Apostle John's time. What makes it even easier for false teachers to spread their untruths today?

B. How can you tell if someone is worldly or of God?

Scripture: 1 John 4:1-6 New King James Version

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

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 ^[a]that Jesus ^[b]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.

⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

⁵They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them.

⁶We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Key Terms:

Believers	Jesus Christ
Christian	Know
Confession	Overcome
Deception	Spirit
God	Test
Error	Truth
Hear	Unbelievers
Incarnation	World(ly)

Lesson Outline

- I. Vigilance of our Faith (1 Jn 4:1)**

- II. Voice of our Faith (1 Jn 4:2)**

- III. Vices of our Faith (1 Jn 4:3)**

- IV. Victory of our Faith (1 Jn 4:4)**

Exploring the Text

1. What did John instruct his readers to do? (4:1)

2. Who did John say had gone into the world? (4:1)

3. How is the Spirit of God recognized? (4:2)

4. How can we distinguish truth from error in spiritual matters?
(4:2-3)

5. What spirit does not acknowledge that Jesus is from God? (4:3)

6. Why did the writer say that believers had overcome the spirit of the antichrist? (4:4)

7. Where is the spirit of the antichrist from? (4:5)

8. From what viewpoint does the spirit of the antichrist speak? (4:5)

9. Who does and does not listen to those who are from God? (4:6)

10. How are the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error recognized? (4:6)

Understanding it Questions

11. What spirits should we be testing today?

12. What false prophets are in the world today?

13. What segments of our society would you say are influenced or controlled by the spirit of the antichrist?

14. What is the significance of acknowledging that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh?

15. In what way have you overcome the world?

16. How does the truth that Christ is greater than the devil make you feel?

17. How can we reflect our confidence in Christ's supremacy over the devil?

18. How would you distinguish between seeing from the world's viewpoint and seeing from God's viewpoint?

Life Application Questions

19. What influences in your life (for example, books, movies, music, ideas, etc.) will you "put to the test" this week to see whether they are from God?

20. What false prophets do you need to guard yourself against this week?

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker.