

Flag Branch Missionary Baptist Church
Baptist Training Union

1st, 2nd and 3rd John
How Should A Christian Live

Study 8 – Testing The Spirits: – 1 John 4:1–6

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.
2. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,
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.
4. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
5. They are of the world. Therefore, they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them.
6. We 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.

Discussion

- A. What spirit(s) is John asking his readers not to believe? Why shouldn't we believe them? So what should we do before believing spirits? v. 1
- B. What is the test we should apply to spirits seeking us to believe them? Can a confession be false or disingenuous? How? What is a sign of a true confession? v. 2
- C. What is the spirit of the antichrist? What are examples of antichrist in the world? v. 3.
- D. Who are "them" John says the little children of God have overcome? How are they able to overcome them? v. 4.
- E. Who is of the world? What does it mean to be "of the world"? Who listens to them? Why? v. 5.
- F. Who are the "We" and "Us" John says are from God? Who listens to them? John names those "who know God" and those "who are not from God". Describe these two groups of people. v. 6