

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

### Chapter 16- The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error

#### 172. Testing the Spirits- Part 23

---

WAOY Friday-Monday 03/21-24/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to examine what John taught about "Testing the Spirits". So, let's open our Bibles and read **1John 4: 1-6**- again together:

- 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from 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 from God;**
- 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.**
- 4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.**
- 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them.**
- 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

Now on the last broadcast- we were looking at just what John meant when he said in verse 5- that the antichrists were "of the world" and spoke "of the world" and those who are "of the world" hears them. And on today's broadcast- I want to take a final look at this passage by concentrating on verse 6- so let's read that verse again together:

**We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

Now John was talking about Christians in general here- John was

talking about the Apostles and the Sound Doctrine that the Apostles taught. You have to understand, dear friends, that the Apostles were a specially chosen group of men who were anointed to do a specially chosen task- which was to establish Christianity in the earth. And there was a very precise and narrow way that Christianity was established on the earth.

Christianity was not established through the building of buildings or even preaching sermons. Christianity was established on the earth through the formulation and articulation of New Covenant Theology and Doctrine. And the Apostles and only the Apostles were chosen by Jesus Christ Himself to do this.

Before the final, full, completed Revelation of God to Man through Christianity was given to the Apostles through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit- everything that anyone knew about God and Heaven and Hell and Salvation and the ways of God was contained in the 39 Books of the Old Covenant.

For 200 years after Malachi's prophecy was finished- God did not reveal anything new to Man. Then suddenly one day the angel appeared to Zacharias behind the veil in the Temple to announce that John the Baptist was going to be born and six months later- the war angel Gabriel appeared to a frightened little virgin girl named Mary to announce the most startling announcement anyone has ever received:

**Luke 1:35b**

**"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.**

At this point- the 700 year of prophecy of **Isaiah 7:14** came to pass where God promised:

**Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.**

And the 700 year old prophecy of Jeremiah came to pass when he spoke in God's Name:

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

**31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,**  
**32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.**  
**33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**  
**34 "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."**

Jesus Christ fulfilled 330 out of 330 very specific and detailed Old Testament prophecies concerning the Jewish Messiah and was the most unique Person to ever live. Jesus Christ was Immanuel- He was God Almighty wrapped in human flesh. Jesus was Yahweh draped in humanity and was 100% God and 100% Man in the same body at the same time without conflict or contradiction.

And as God- Jesus never sinned. And as Man- Jesus did what no other human being before Him or after Him has ever done- as He perfectly obeyed every single commandment of God to the letter in thought, word, and deed- thus earning His Own Personal intrinsic Righteousness.

And as the sinless, spotless Lamb of God- God placed all of the sins of every child of God on Him and Jesus physically died with those sins while at the same time remaining perfectly sinless Himself. During the time that Jesus was dead- He went to those fallen angels who are kept locked forever in prison and triumphantly gloried in front of them that the power of sin and the sting of death has been forever broken for those who trust in Him by Faith and on the third day Jesus Christ's Heart began to beat again and He opened His Eyes and He physically and literally rose from the dead in the greatest demonstration of Power and Glory that the world has ever seen.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was God's eternal Seal of approval of all that Jesus faithfully did and it changed everything. To commemorate this great act and to remember it forever- the Jewish Sabbath on the last day of the week became the Lord's Day on the first

day of the week and the veil was rent and the superior New Covenant which finalized and completed and which perfectly complimented the Old Covenant was instituted upon the earth.

And after He rose- Jesus Christ physically and bodily ascended up into Heaven to be the only One in Heaven or Earth allowed to sit at the Father's Right Hand.

So 40 days after the Resurrection- 120 scared and troubled souls gathered in an Upper Room to pray until they could be endued with Power from on high. These people prayed anywhere from 10 to 50 days without stopping and suddenly there came from Heaven the sound of a rushing mighty wind and each one of these souls were all filled with the Holy Ghost and the Church of Jesus Christ was born.

In just a few hours after this glorious infilling and empowerment- the Apostle Peter stood on the balcony of that Upper Room and preached the very first sermon of the Christian Church.

In that sermon- the Holy Ghost gave Peter the correct understanding and interpretation of seven separate and distinct Old Testament Scriptures and he clearly articulated what each one of those promises and prophecies meant and how they all tied together and came together in and by and through the Person of Jesus Christ.

**Joel 2:28; Isaiah 44:3; Joel 2:30; Psalms 16:8; Daniel 9:24; 2Samuel 7:13; and Psalms 16:10** were all correctly explained and put into their proper context by this former fisherman because Jesus had promised him and the other Apostles in **John 16:13** that this is what would happen to the Apostles when the Comforter came.

Over the next 60 or so years- 4 Gospel accounts; one diary; one prophecy and 21 letters containing the fullness of Christian Doctrine and the final full, and completed Revelation of God to Man were written by these men and their designates. So that by reading and studying and comprehending these inspired, inerrant, and infallible New Covenant Books properly- the entirety and the understanding of all of the 39 Old Covenant Books of inspired Scriptures would come to pass.

Before God the Holy Spirit authored the 21 New Testament Epistles- the first five Books of the Bible called the Torah were called the teaching Books of God's people. But after the completed Revelation of God was given through the 21 Epistles- the full meaning of what the Torah taught was made known to the believer and so the Epistles became the teaching Books of the Church.

All true and genuine Christian Doctrine therefore came about by an understanding of the 21 New Testament Epistles and through the correct understanding of the other 45 inspired Books brought forth by the Epistles.

So the calling of the Apostles was to receive the final and full and completed Revelation of God which they were faithful to write down in the 21 Epistles and the 4 Gospel accounts and the diary of the Church and the Book of the Revelation. This Revelation; these inspired Scriptures; these Divine Truths that we have in the New Testament is what established Christianity. That is what set up the Church.

So that is why it is so inconsistent to think that there are Apostles in our day. Once Christianity was set up- once the Church was established- it will never be set up again and it will never be established again. You see, dear friends, Christianity doesn't need to be developed- it is already fully developed. It doesn't need to be established- it has already been established. It doesn't need to be articulated- it has already been fully and completely and totally articulated and written down.

You can't add anything to the Scriptures and you better not take anything away from them. They are what they are. If you *do* add anything to the Scriptures; if you *do* develop new doctrine; if you *do* add new revelation- or if you do take anything away from the existing Scriptures- you no longer have Biblical Christianity- you have made yourself your own religion- but it isn't Christianity because true genuine Christianity has already been set up; established; formulated; and written down.

So, while it is true that we have today many organizations that call themselves a church- which do preach another Gospel and do make it up as they go along- they are in fact not representative of Biblical Christianity because they do not follow the pattern laid out for us by the Apostles.

So in our day, we have absolutely no need whatsoever to invent something new. We have no need for new visions or new revelations or new prophecies or new doctrines. We already have the best that Heaven has given. But we do have a great need today to preach and teach and to love and obey and defend the already existing visions and revelations and prophecies and doctrines that are clearly spelled out for

us in the only Book that God gave to Man and that is the 66 Books of the Holy Bible.

Now I said all of that to say this. When John says here in verse 6 that **“we are from God”** he is not talking about you and me. He is not talking about every organization that calls itself a church because as we know all too well- all organizations who make that claim do not believe and they do not faithfully teach the Bible. No, John was referring to himself and the other Apostles. John is saying here that he and Peter and James and John and Paul and the rest had it right and they were following God correctly and they were living examples of what it means to be saved and their words are inspired and infallible and inerrant.

So John was saying here that those people who have trusted Christ alone; those who have been made righteous by Faith alone; and those who have been saved by Grace alone will hear what these chosen men have to say. They will believe Scripture. They will bow to its authority in their own lives and they will be faithful to teach it to their children.

And John is also saying here in verse 6 that those who do not hear the Apostles; those who do not bow to the authority of Scripture; those who try to create another gospel are not of God and this is the defining difference between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America  
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 [www.covenantofpeace.net](http://www.covenantofpeace.net)

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of 1John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.