**11-8-15**

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**An Authentic Believer: Has Discernment**

1 John 4:1-6

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must **test them** to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. 2  **This is how we know** if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. 3  But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. 4  But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. 5  Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world’s viewpoint, and the world listens to them. 6  But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

What The Bible Says

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Them

You must **test them** to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. 2  **This is how we know** if they have the Spirit of

God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.

Docetists,

* believed in the inherent evil of everything material.

Cerinthus

* maintained that the spirit of the divine Christ descended on the body of the man Jesus at his baptism and then departed from him just before his crucifixion.

## 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Who or What?

Antichrist is everything that is **anti** Christ.

* In other words,
* it is everything that opposes Christ
* and the Gospel of Christ.

## 3. How can one tell if he has the spirit of the antichrist?

**A. They do not acknowledge the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus v.3**

*In analyzing the wide spectrum of teachers and books on spirituality available today, the test should be: What do they teach about the person of Jesus Christ?*

-labc

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)   
15  Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB)   
15  Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

**B. They belong to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ v.5**

Pervading philosophy of the day: **Humanism**

* there is no God
* evolution
* amorality
* relativism (no absolutes)
* no life after death

**C. They do not listen to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ instruction v.6**

* John says: “that is how we know they do not belong to God” v.6

2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

## 4. Believers have the advantage over the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Greater is He that is in you***

***than he that is in the world!***

**Lie:** “God is not the opposite of the devil”

Application

## 1. Understand that the Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you with wisdom, understanding and discernment.

John 14:17

He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

## 2. Make sure you understand: “It’s all about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!”

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, 16  for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. 17  He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. 18  Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. 19  For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, 20  and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.

Response:

## What is God speaking to me?

## Specifically, how will I obey Him?