



6/9/26

*I have to say... I have read 1 John quite a few times, and today's passage always seems to me to kind of come out of nowhere. I'm looking forward to getting a better understanding of how it fits into the context of John's letter. No matter what, it's an extremely important lesson for us to understand... We need to test the spirits because there are spirits that are trying to deceive us and ruin us and our relationships. But the wonderful news is... Greater who is in you and me than he who is in the world!!! Through Jesus, we overcome the deception. Amen!!!*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*1 John 4:1-6*

*This week I am seeking to apply the passages of the reading plan specifically to my marriage, and definitely to my relationship with Jesus. 1 John makes it clear that nothing good happens if I'm not abiding in the Lord. I can't love sacrificially or unconditionally or tenderly like Jesus does if I'm not giving the Holy Spirit free access to my heart. Without the Spirit's help, I quench His work in my heart, and this grieves Him because He has so much better for me than what I could do for myself. So Lord, please open my heart to hear and embrace what You want to teach me today.*

*As I start 1 John 4, I need to look back to the last verse of chapter 3. John has just made a clear statement about the Holy Spirit, and now he's going to talk about evil spirits. It's really important for me to understand all that applies here. How I handle these verses and the attention I give to their truth will have a direct impact on my obedience to the Lord and my love for others... including my husband.*

*So... 1 John 3:24 says, "Whoever keeps His (Jesus') commandments abides in God (the Father), and God in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us." The Spirit has SO MANY roles in my life. Among them, He reassures my heart that I belong to the Lord. He gives me the strength to abide in the Lord and obey Him. If I'm not obeying, I'm not abiding, and I'm quenching the Spirit's work in my life. This goes back to the questions... Whose will? The Father's. Whose way? The Son's. Whose work? The Spirit's. Who's in charge?*

*That's determined by who's in the room. It's usually NOT me. And it's DEFINITELY NEVER the evil spirits that I can't see. Let me NEVER voluntarily submit to their demands for obedience. They're liars. Let my loyalty be to the Lord alone.*

*Vs. 1 ~ "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."*

*In 1 Timothy 4:1-2, Paul says, "Now the Spirit (of God) expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared." Where do those liars show up? A lot of them show up in the church (and often politics). Their goal is to destroy the faith of believers, to prevent the salvation of others, and to tear down homes and render us ineffective for the gospel. They use all kinds of tactics. It is IMPERATIVE that I know God's word because THEY KNOW GOD'S WORD, TOO!!! They twist it to try to twist me. When they can do that, they can cause enormous damage.*

*I was talking with my husband about discernment. I believe God has given him the gift of discernment. God is growing discernment in me through the wisdom of His word, but I do not believe it's a spiritual gift of mine. I asked Tim what kinds of questions I should consider in having discernment. He said...*

- 1. Consider when someone is sharing with me... What are they telling that's too one sided? Proverbs 18:17 says, "The one who states his case first seems right until the other comes and examines him." If I'm testing the spirits, one who is from God will speak balanced, humbly, and truthfully in accordance with His word.*
- 2. Look for confirmations to see what they're saying that's right... Are they being balanced and humble?*
- 3. Check my emotions... Are they stirring my emotions to get me to align myself with what they're saying? Is that a manipulation so that I won't look at what's true?*

*O Lord, by Your Spirit, I pray that I will not DO the things that don't align with Your word or try to justify my thoughts and actions that don't align with You. And help me to test the spirits. Let me not forget from 1 Timothy 4 that human liars are being motivated by deceitful spirits... and they can do it with a lot of flattery and smooth words. Please help me to have discernment!!!*

*Vs. 2-3 ~ "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."*

*Let me not forget... There were many demons that came into contact with Jesus and declared who He is. But they did NOT confess Him as Lord. Just because someone calls himself a*

*Christian, it doesn't mean that he confesses Jesus as Lord. To confess Jesus is MORE than admitting I'm a sinner and saying I believe that He died and rose again. To confess Him is to say, "Jesus is in charge. He's my Master. I follow Him... His will, His way, His work... no ifs, buts, or limits."*

*How do the spirits of the world who don't really bow to Jesus try to ruin my faith and my marriage? They whisper all kinds of things with every type of manipulation like, "God just wants you to be happy." "Go ahead and do this thing that goes against God's word. He'll forgive you." "You don't deserve this." "God is withholding good from you." They teach the love of the world and try to repackage it as what God wants... 1 John 2:15-17 says the love of the world teaches us to pursue the desires of the flesh (which hate God), the desires of the eyes (which forget God's eternal perspective), and pride of life (which raises up man rather than God). It's all a ploy to distract us from what really matters, and it's all passing away. "But whoever does the will of God abides forever."*

*Here's the thing that I miss if I get caught up in the lies of the antichrists... God absolutely wants what is best for me and what is most satisfying to me. Nothing God wants for me ends up sabotaging me! ALL His paths are steadfast love and faithfulness if I'll just follow Him. He works ALL things for my good. Even my suffering is never wasted with Him.*

*I listened to those deceitful spirits for many years in my marriage. I allowed myself to believe God was not doing good in my life and that I had the right to complain and be angry. It was all a lie! Deception is so sneaky!!! It makes itself look right, but it's a lie. The more I surrender to the Lord the more He removes the deceit from my heart. The more He removes the deceit from my heart, the more I'm free to love and respect and submit to my husband with JOY and no resentment!!! O Lord, please help me to test ALL spirits and ONLY bow to YOU!!! If ANYONE, no matter how pleasant or kind they seem, teaches or encourages me to do anything that does not align with Your word, they are not from You and I need to refuse to listen to them.*

*Vs. 4 ~ "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."*

*Praise the Lord, I do not have to figure this out on my own!!! The Holy Spirit dwells in me and teaches me everything I need to know. He KNOWS everything. He KNOWS when someone is trying to deceive me. He is greater than the devil or any of his minions. The Holy Spirit gives me the victory! All I need to do is abide in Him... obey Him in His strength... dwell on His word and truth... and He will help me overcome. This is so important for me to get. I need to evaluate EVERY thought that tries to take my attention. I need to ask, "Is this thought from God? Does it align with His word?" If the answer is no, I need to surrender it to the Lord and speak the truth... out loud... no matter how many times in a day that thought comes to my mind. Whether it's my flesh, a deceitful spirit, or one of the liars in the world whose consciences are seared... or even whether it's another believer who is not testing the spirits... if the words and thoughts do not align with God's word, it is NOT from the Lord!!! My God IS greater and He WILL give*

*me the victory over all my thoughts!!!*

*Vs. 5 ~ "They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them."*

*The spirits are from the world. The world is listening to them and thinking they have plausible words of wisdom... but that is not the wisdom that is from the Lord. The "elemental spirits of the world" infiltrate schools, homes, workplaces... any place anywhere. Let me not listen to them.*

*Vs. 6 ~ "We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error."*

*John, who called himself "the one Jesus loves," said, "We are from God." There is no greater name to attach yourself to. To be from God means that your words are extremely credible. So if I belong to God, I will take his words to heart. John was also an apostle. God gave him a ton of authority to speak as His ambassador. When I listen to what he says, I'm listening to what the Spirit wants. When I'm not listening to what the Spirit wants, I'm listening to the spirit of error... also called the spirit of deception.*

*This is a big deal. It's not that one person chooses one truth and another person chooses another truth. There's only one truth. The Lord's truth. If I'm not listening to what the Lord says, I'm necessarily listening to deception. This is why I need to test the spirits. If it's not from God, it's deception.*

*O Lord, please help me to test the spirits and reject anything that doesn't align with Your word, even when it seems like I'd enjoy the lies more. Your word is truth. Your word is good. Your word is my joy. Thank You for putting Your Spirit in me so that I can know this truth that sets me free.*