

Joe Boerman

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. 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, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 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. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 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.

OUTLINE:

1. WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TEST THE SPIRITS
2. WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO TEST THE SPIRITS
3. HOW TO TEST THE SPIRITS

1. Think about the word “trajectory”. How have you seen the importance of starting in the right direction in your life? What kind of life decisions have the greatest impact on your life’s trajectory?
2. In the message, Progressive Christianity was mentioned as a false teaching of our day. Can you share another one you have encountered? How did that experience change and challenge you? How did you grow in your walk with Jesus through it?
3. In the passage, John makes it clear that there are some non-negotiables when it comes to Jesus. Based on verse 3 above, what would be some non-negotiables that someone would need to believe to be a true follower of Jesus?
4. Thinking about verse 4 where John writes that the Holy Spirit living in you is greater than the world’s forces that oppose Jesus, how does that truth comfort and strengthen you to share the truth of Jesus with others?

[illegible]

Recommended Resources:

“The Deconstruction of Christianity” By Alisa Childers and Tim Barnett

“Another Gospel” by Alisa Childers (also a student edition)

Alisa Childer’s podcast on YouTube

Time of Prayer:

Focusing on the truth of God and the Spirit within us, you can pray something like this:

Heavenly Father, I come to you today with a thankful heart. You have been so good to me in giving me the Holy Spirit to live within me. Thank you that through His work in me, you keep me safe from the lies of the enemy. Give me wisdom to see and discern when lies are around me that would distort Jesus and the Good News. Thank you for always being with me! In Jesus’ name, Amen.