

1 John 4:1-6 Message Follow-Up Questions

- (1) Do you have a favorite story or movie from World War 2? Do you think about life as a kind of spiritual battle? Why or why not?

- (2) What does 1 John 4:1 suggest about the idea of life as a spiritual battle? Why do you think John started with “do not believe every spirit”? What makes it easy for us to listen to any kind of spirit? Does 2 Timothy 4:3-4 provide us with any insight on why it might be the case? What does that suggest about the need for transformation in our passions?

- (3) The first assessment to test the spirits offered in the message was the question – who is Jesus? Why is that question so essential? What do verses like Matthew 16:13-18; 26:63-66; 27:11-14; and Acts 5:34-39 contribute to this issue? How dependent is our salvation upon who Jesus is? What do verses like 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Galatians 4:4 suggest?

- (4) Please read 1 John 4:4. What do the words “have overcome” suggest in a battle context? How might that impact how we approach life as a battle? What is the source of our overcoming? What does John 16:33 suggest? Can we have peace in the battle?

- (5) The third assessment for testing the spirits offered was “align with God’s Word.” With that in mind, consider Acts 2:42, 1 Peter 2:1, and 1 Timothy 4:13. How important is God’s Word to our lives? What does this notion add to the directive of Joshua 1:8 and the word picture of Psalm 1:1-3? How can I increase my attentiveness to God’s Word?