

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
February 2, 2022
Are You Listening?

1 John 4:1-6 KJVS

[1] Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. [2] Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: [3] And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. [4] Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. [5] They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. [6] We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

This is a "shovel ready project" so let's dig right in. V1) The Word for 'spirit' here is in the Greek, pneuma, which is a current of air. It's the same word used throughout the New Testament and it's equal to ruach in the Hebrew old Testament. We generally think of a spirit as a supernatural being or an inspirational attitude or principle. The Holy Spirit of God is the third Person of the Trinity. He is Very God. The spirits we are warned to try or test in this verse can be of a various sort. They can be anything from demonic forces to false gods to negative feelings to evil ideologies to social mindsets. In keeping with the original biblical languages, these spirits will often be those spoken of in Ephesians 4:14. Winds of doctrine come from outside and inside the church. Something new or interesting or exciting seems to come along every day, especially now in this day of electronic information. There is always something for us to get upset over or to attempt to pull us away from the sound doctrine we are ingesting in Christ. 1 Timothy 1:9-10, 2 Timothy 4:2-4, Titus 2:1-3. We are told to try or test the spirits. How? Start with God's Word. Being in His Word daily and breeding a secure familiarity with the Truth will quickly reveal falsehood. Bankers handle real cash constantly so counterfeit can be instantly identified. Also, intimately knowing and trusting God's Holy Spirit will speak to our newly born eternal spirit because the two dwell as one. 1 John 3:24. False prophets will pervert the Truth of God to their own destruction and many exist apart from the church preaching every kind of evil and deception. 2 Corinthians 11:14, 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 John 1:10-11. V2) John gives us the acid test. The Spirit of God is in full agreement with the believer who acknowledges the incarnation. This verse is not simply saying that Jesus was a real human being. Many false religions state that, even giving Him credit for being a teacher or a Prophet. His name, Jesus Christ, Yeshua HaMashiach is a powerful statement in itself. Jehovah the Savior, the Anointed One. God is come in the flesh to redeem His creation. Putting faith in that statement equals the eternal salvation of the soul. The Spirit from God sends this message. V3) The spirit of antichrist denies that message. The spirit of the world and of demons and of false gods and of new age teachings and of societal ideologies and even the irrational fears and worries of life all deny the deity of Christ and His incarnation. Antichrist is described as the opponent or adversary of Christ. We have now drawn a dividing line. Pray that your unbelieving friends and loved ones

are merely pre-Christian not antichrist. V4) This verse reminds us that John is writing to Christians. But wait! All this evil spiritual activity that we have to beware and we have nothing to fear? We're told that we have overcome them all. How can that be? Back to 1 John 3:24. That fabulous day when we said "Yes Jesus, I am a sinner. Please forgive me and save me" Something phenomenal happened. The one and only Spirit that cancels all others, gave birth to our new spirit and moved in to dwell in us and join us as one. And greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Christ in us has overcome the evil spiritual world that seeks to derail our Heavenly journey. To have His Indwelling Spirit and still fall for satanic attack or deceptive spiritism can mean only one thing. We are not walking in His Spirit. Ephesians 2:1-6, Galatians 5:16,25. Verses 5-6 make a clear distinction between the acts of the will in those who belong to Christ and those who reject Him. We all choose who we will listen to and who we will hear. Test the spirits by listening to and hearing Christ our God. In our daily lives we encounter much falsehood. We in Christ can identify it with His Spirit. Don't rely on emotion or intellect. Trust God alone. Isaiah 26:3. Whether evil thoughts or enticing words we must admit that the Indwelling Holy Spirit speaks clearly to us and steers us back home where we belong. Pay attention to your Lord and follow Him willingly as the world follows the voices of darkness. Ephesians 5:8.