

1 John 4: 1-6

Test the spirits

or

**Believers shouldn't believe
everything they hear or see !**

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God.. Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

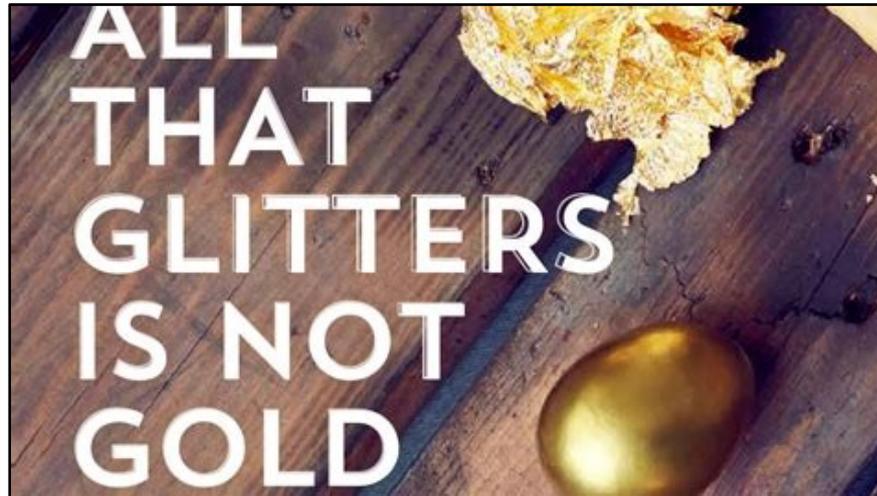
Dear friends, do not believe every spirit,

There are deceivers out there - spiritual, supernatural ?

This isn't an instruction just for leaders

*Two or three prophets should speak, and the others
should weigh carefully what is said.*

1 Corinthians 14:29



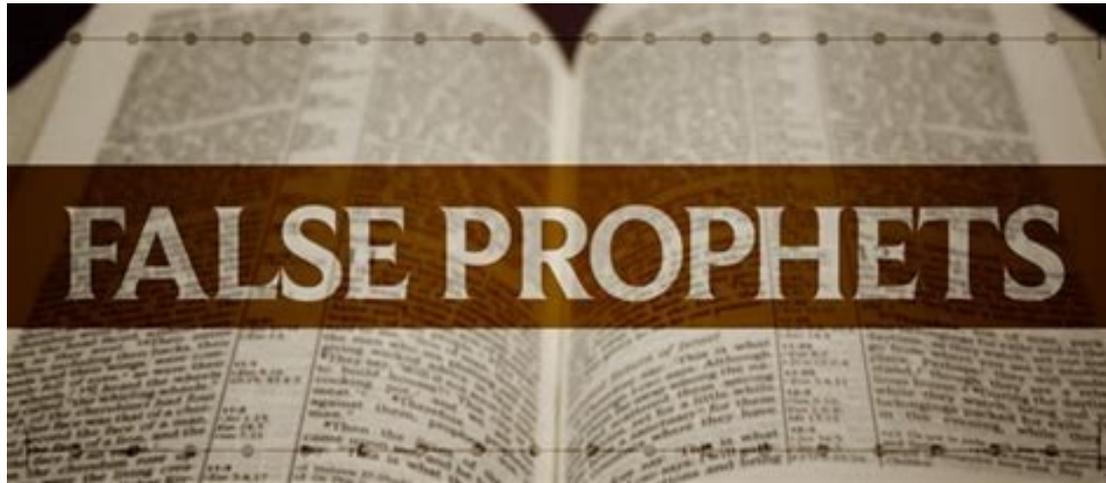
but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,

What is claimed to come from God may or may not
- we need to be able to tell the difference,
accepting one and rejecting the other.



because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

MANY – not just a few



Jesus said it would happen Matthew 24:11
And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

**Today
the Devil
has a 24/7
transmission service**



**Via TV.,
the Internet,
Newspapers, Films,
Arts and Culture.
etc.**

This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God..

**What do they say about the
Lord Jesus Christ ?**

What do they say about the Lord Jesus Christ ?

Is he truly man?

“He cannot understand, care or feel what it's like for you as a human being !”

*Every spirit that acknowledges
that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,
1 John 4 v 2*

What do they say about the Lord Jesus Christ ?

Is he truly man?

Is he truly God ?

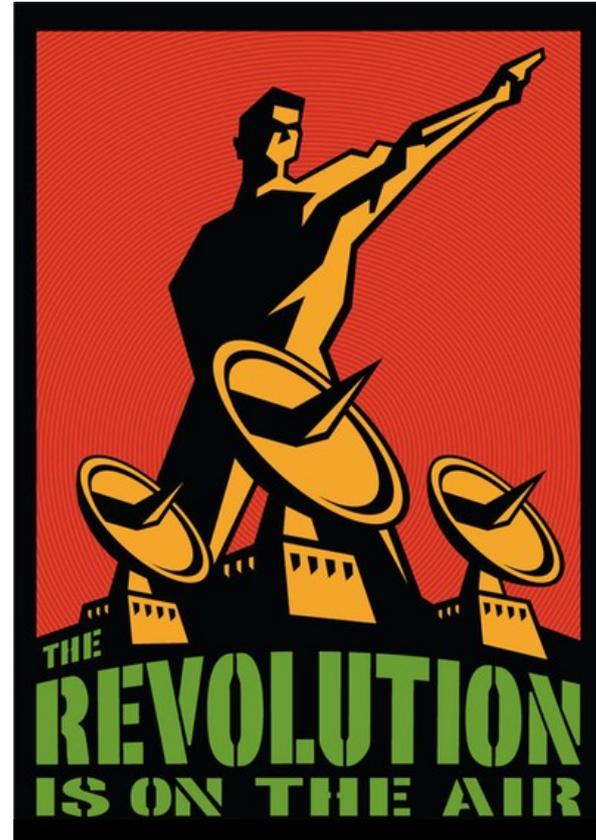
“He's just a man as weak as you! He can't help you!”

1 Corinthians 12 v 3

and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.

**Satan's
Propaganda
Agents
=
demons**



Evil spirits are real!

Jesus says so!

But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons,
then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 11:20

Evil spirits are real!

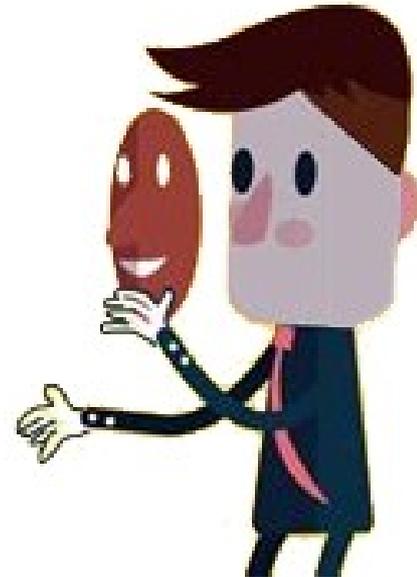
Jesus says so!

Jesus overpowered them

Luke 8:28-29 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man.

This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

“Anti” means ‘opposed to’ AND ‘in the place of’ as a fake.



This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

The disciples had been warned of his coming :

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

but his fore-runners had already arrived!

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them,



because the one who is in you
is greater than the one who is in the world.

Our strength is not in ourselves but
from the indwelling Spirit.



They are from the world
and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world,

Their assumptions and understanding colours
the way they see and so what they say.



Lies, lies and more lies!

Old Testament examples

(They've been here before)

false security

*Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD,
the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!"*

Jeremiah 7:4

In unbelievers: just get a bit of religion/ not too keen

Lies, lies and more lies!

Old Testament examples

(They've been here before)

false security

lying prophets

Jeremiah 23:25 "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name."

“If all these people say so, it must be OK.”

Lies, lies and more lies!

New Testament examples (The Last Days deceivers)

'the wrong way to holiness'

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, ... 1 Timothy 4:1,3

“Man-made rules will help you.”

Lies, lies and more lies!

New Testament examples (The Last Days deceivers)

'the wrong way to holiness'

'we want to hear nice things'

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 2 Timothy 4:3

“Don't disturb us.. we need comfort.”

and the world listens to them.

Of course, when you tell people what they want to hear.



We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us;



‘We’ - John is referring to the teaching of the Apostles

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

What is our defence ?



What is our defence ?

A living knowledge of the Scriptures leading to
a personal knowledge of Jesus

1 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

What is our defence ?

A living knowledge of the Scriptures leading to
a personal knowledge of Jesus

A willingness to hear the truth from the apostles

1 John 4:6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us;

What is our defence ?

A living knowledge of the Scriptures leading to a personal knowledge of Jesus

A willingness to hear the truth from the apostles

The presence of the Holy Spirit in us

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

The test works !
But be careful

*For false christs and false prophets will
arise and perform great signs and
wonders, so as to lead astray,
if possible, even the elect.*

Matthew 24:24



DANGER
Beware

but whoever is not from God does not listen to us.



NOT LISTENING

So we have a choice to make.

You can't switch off the propaganda

but you can refuse to believe it.

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.

But as for me and my household,
we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24: 15