

1 John – part 5

1 John 4:1-6

Test spirits: of God or of the antichrist (vs 6 – truth or error)

antichrist both coming and already at work (2 Thes 2)

false prophet = false voice (antichrist)

In other words, test what voice you're listening to.

ex: globalism vs nations – set up for antichrist's coming

Truth: Jesus came in the flesh (vs 2), Jesus is the Son of God (vs 15)

lie then: Jesus only spirit (Gnosticism ~ implications)

lie now: Jesus isn't God, isn't Son, isn't only way

Test is foundational truths of the gospel (Spirit of truth)

(2 Co 11:3-4) ³But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

We overcome those in the world because the Holy Spirit in us is greater than the antichrist spirit in them. (vs 4)

This is also why they speak error and can't hear us. (vs 5-6)

(1Jn 5:19) ¹⁹We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

We overcome them with the gospel (must change sway before beliefs/opinions)

1 John 4:7-16

Loving God should lead to loving one another. (evidence)

1. God is love (vs 8, 16) – He has no other motive (His nature)

whatever we go through don't question His love or His goodness

even His judgements are motivated by love

(1 Co 11:31-32) ³¹For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

(Rev 11:18) ¹⁸The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth."

(Mike Bickle – He will remove all that hinders love)

2. He is the initiator of love (vs 9-10, Rom 5:8)

we must *experience* His love to be loving (vs 19)

(Ep 3:17-19) ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

God's love in us perfects love through us (vs 12) ~ fullness

1 John 4:17-19

perfected love ~ as He is, so are we

bold/fearless (1 Jn 3 confidence/assurance) because we're unpunishable

fearing punishment from God reveals lack of revelation of His love

(Ro 8:31-39) ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."
³⁷Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 4:20-21

because of God's love, we *must* love

we must first *know* and *believe* His love (vs 16)

(1Jn 4:1-21) ¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. ⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹²No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.

²⁰If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.