

FIRST JOHN 3:24-4-11 THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND SPIRIT OF ERROR; KNOWING GOD THROUGH LOVE

12/20/25 Sat. Morn. Prayer - <https://www.ptwente.com> (20200512 1 Joh 3:24-4:11) ptwente@gmail.com 714 425-9221

1 JOHN 3:24-4:11 – The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error - 1Jn 3:24-4:6; Knowing God Through Love - 1Jn 4:7-11.

(1Jn 3:24-4:11) By His Spirit - Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. Test the Spirits [1] **Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because 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 of God, [3] **and 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.** [4] You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. [5] **They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.** [6] We 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.

God Is Love - [7] **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.** [8] He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. [9] **In 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.** [10] In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [11] **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

Knowing God Through the Spirit – The Spirit of Truth & the Spirit of Error - 1Jn 3:24 – 4:6

1Jn 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments (Joh 14:23) Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

abides in Him, and He in him. (Joh 14:21) He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

And by this we know (by experience) **that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.** (Rom 8:9) But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

- **The Holy Spirit verifies these things to our hearts** if we have not grieved Him. We grieve the Holy Spirit when we do not do His will.
- **In the following chapter, the apostle pursues the subject** suggested here in chapter 4, and shows that we should examine ourselves closely, to see whether the "*Spirit*" to which we trust, as furnishing evidence of reverence, is truly the Spirit of God, or is a spirit of delusion.
- **Every good man feels it, and knows he is of God by the Spirit** which God has given him.

Test the Spirits – to see if they are of God. What is their testimony of Jesus (Jehovah Shuah-salvation) Christ, and what is the fruit?

1Jn 4:1 **Beloved, do not believe** (caution -vs. 1-6! stop believing) **every spirit,** (Jer 29:8) *For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed.*

but test (check by an unchanging standard) **the spirits** (put them to the acid test of truth), **whether they are of God;** (1Th 5:19) **Test all things; hold fast** what is good.

because many false prophets (1Ti 4:1-2) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, [2] speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.

have gone out into the world. (Mat 7:15-16a) Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. [16] You will know them by their fruits.

- **"Beloved"** means "those who are loved divinely in God." Every one of the New Testament writers warned the believers, not just pastors, about false prophets and teachers. Here we are told not to believe, or to stop believing every spirit, of which there were and are many who have gone into the world, and to test the spirits to see whether they are of God or not

1Jn 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses (continually) **that Jesus Christ (Messiah) has come in the flesh** (Jesus Christ, virgin born (not of Adam), was preexistent) **is of God, (Joh 1:1, 14)** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. **(2Jn 1:7)** For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

1Jn 4:3 and 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.

(2Th 2:3-7) Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, [4] who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. [5] Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? [6] And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. [7] For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

- **Here is the first test, defense of truth,** of a spirit is what is being taught about Jesus Christ – His divinity, coming on earth in bodily form – what is the witness? What is being taught about Him?
- **Today, some groups deny that Jesus is really God** (such as the Jehovah's Witnesses (Jesus is Archangel), Mormons (Jesus is Lucifer's brother), and Muslims (Jesus is only a prophet). They twist, take away, diminish Christ.
- **The way to discern a false prophet is to see what the prophet says about Jesus Christ.** If he denies the deity of Jesus, then he is not of God. **Does the spirit draw you to, or away from Jesus Christ?**

1Jn 4:4 You are (emphatic) **of God, little children** (believers), **and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world** (and never indwelling a Christian!)

(Joh 17:15) I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. **(Rom 16:20)** And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

- **This is the second test.** The Holy Spirit's influence and revelation to every believer. You are under the influence of the Divine Spirit, and have overcome them - your testimony, proceeding from the Spirit of Christ, has invalidated theirs which has proceeded from the influence of Satan; for greater is the Holy Spirit which is in you, than the spirit which is in the world.
- **Believers are overcomers now!** Since the Day of Pentecost all believers have been filled with the Holy Spirit. There really is no excuse for you to be taken in today by a false teacher, a false prophet, or a false teaching. We need to go to God and ask that the Holy Spirit lead us and teach us. If you are in fellowship with Him, the Spirit of God is going to make the issue clear to you.

1Jn 4:5 They (false teachers, not of God) **are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, (Joh 3:31)** He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

and the world hears them. (Joh 17:14) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

1Jn 4:6 *We (believers) are of God. He (those listeners) 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. (Joh 18:37) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (Joh 14:17) the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

- The **third test of the spirit is it of the truth**, in total agreement to the Apostles' doctrine and to the Word of God?
- The **"truth" referred to here is His Word!** (Joh 17:17) Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. The **"deception"** is Satan's great deception concerning the Person of Jesus Christ (2Th 2:9-12) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, [10] and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. [11] And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, [12] that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
- Does the spirit being considered really have the love of God?
- Are the proponents of this spirit walking in the love of God? Are their lives manifesting the love of God? Test the spirits.

Knowing God Through Love vs. 7-11

1Jn 4:7 *Beloved, let us love (every time love is used in this epistle, it is agapao/agape in the original language) one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (1Jn 3:10, 11, 23) In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. [11] For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, [23] And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

- After the warning against the spirit of error and false teachers, we are referred back to the subject of love, a topic for which more is said than any other.
- **True love (agape) is of God.** Everyone who loves is born of God, believers (beloved) let us love one another! We need to be reminded in the last days that iniquity, lawlessness will abound, so our love may grow cold. (Mat 24:12) And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

1Jn 4:8 *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

God is love! His love is not based on our worthiness: (Deu 7:7-8) The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; [8] but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

God's love is giving (Jer 31:3) The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore, with lovingkindness I have drawn you. (Joh 3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God's love is unfailing (1Co 13:8) Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

- The word "love" is agape, the spiritual love we cannot have apart from God (1 Cor. 13).
- This is another test whether or not you are a child of God. Because God is love, if anyone does not love other believers, that person does not know God!

1Jn 4:9 *In this the love of God was manifested toward us (not just a static love, but active agape love), that God has sent (Rom 5:8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live (eternally!) through Him. (Joh 3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- **Whenever the love of God is described that tells of His manifesting His reconciling love toward us,** we are always taken to the cross! That is the time and place we see this total, awesome, sacrifice of God's only Son, Jesus Christ given for us that we and the whole world might live and have eternal life!

1Jn 4:10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us (Tit 3:5) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*

and sent His Son to be the propitiation (mercy seat) **for our sins. (1Jn 2:2)** *And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

- ***In this is love, not that we loved God***—How do we know that God loves us? By healing my body? By giving me what I want? He sent His Son into the world to be the propitiation! Total self-sacrificial love, nothing else even could come close what God has done for us!
- **We did not love Him first.** God didn't give His Son for us because we were attractive, or because we were good, or because we promised to do something.
- **God loved us “while we were yet sinners.”** We need to recognize that you and I today are sinners and that... **(Rom 5:8)** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* God did it at that time, and God loved us at that time.
- **He has made a way for us, if we will accept it.** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Joh 14:6).*
- **You either come His way,** or you don't come at all!

1Jn 4:11 *Beloved, if (since) God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (Joh 13:34) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

- **The Lord Jesus could say even on the Cross, (Luk 23:34a)** *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."* The first martyr, Stephen, said pretty much the same. Can you forgive like that today? Are you able to forgive those who have hurt you and harmed you and yet profess to be children of God? And if they cannot return your love, there is some question whether they are children of God or not.
- **This is the real test, the acid test,** and it hurts—does it not? John gives us the bedrock of it all! Do you love God? And do you love other believers?

Pray Today: We thank the *LORD* for a continuing great worldwide harvest! For continuing protection and security of all believers! For a great revival in the Church! For many to come to Jesus! *President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; J.D & Usha Vance;* Senate majority leader **John Thune**; Speaker of the House **Mike Johnson**; We thank You for the many believers in our current leadership! We pray for more!

O HOLY NIGHT — *Mariah Carey – Shea (3:30)*

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices For yonder breaks a new glorious morn. Fall on your knees. O hear the angels' voices. O night divine, O night when Christ was born. O night divine, oh night, when Christ was born!

Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother. And in his name, all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy, name. Fall on your knees. O hear the angels' voices. O night divine, O night when Christ was born. O night divine. Oh night when Christ was born!

The third message of “*Why Celebrate Christmas*” should be live on the CCCH website Sunday, 12/21 at 8 am. 10:30 am and 1:00 pm.

The fourth and last message should be live on the CCCH website next Wednesday, 12/29 at 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

Here is the link to the website - <https://youtu.be/gS-W3PYO-cI>
Merry Christmas