

Part 6 study of 1 John 4:1-6

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today at the PUNLA Coffee Table. So, get comfortable, get your coffee or tea or water and settle in for our talk.

I hope everyone is doing well.

Today we are continuing our study of 1st John. 1 John 4:1-6 can be summarized as False Teachers

Remember before we start reading the bible we need to remember the background of 1st John. The author is the Apostle John. Most scholars believe it was written in AD85-90. The main themes in 1st John are,

- True Teaching, True Living and True Loving
- Encourage Christian who are being persecuted (who/why it was written to and what was happening in History). Christians were being persecuted by the Romans, by the Jews and pretty much very other group.
- We can Trust “who Jesus is”
- Jesus is both man & God - ignore false teachers who deny
- Correct the wrong ideas about Jesus
- Correct idea about what is good and evil which lead to the lack of morality in the church

Today we are going to study 1st John 4:1-6.

Our world is one noisy place. Every moment of the day, everywhere we go, advertisers and marketers, politicians and pundits are trying to get our attention, influence our opinions, and later our behavior. What are the criteria you use to judge whether a commercial or a candidate or a cause or a claim is legitimate?

Because so many false teachers were prowling about, deceiving naïve Christians, the apostle John urged his fellow believers to learn the art of spiritual discernment.

Let's Read 1 John 4:1-6. I'm reading from the NKJV. *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.

What does John mean by spirit here? Well spirits in the bible are often referring to angels. And angel literally means Messenger. So John is telling us to test every message. Just because a TV pastor says it, does not make it true or from God. Even people we trust. We should not just believe every message. We need to test what they are saying against what we know about God. When someone quotes a bible verse. Go look it up, don't just take their word for it. Prove it to yourself.

John goes on to say there are many “false prophets” in the world now. How can we identify “false teachers”? Well John says one way is what they say about Jesus. Does their message match the bible? He goes even further to say that any spirit or message that is not consistent with the bible is an “Antichrist”. Here John is probably talking about the devil as the king of deceivers.

Then John say He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. This is great new. Jesus is greater than the devil. In fact the devil is already defeated and insignificant. We are part of God’s family and He hears us.

John ends this passage by saying. “By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” So based on what we know about God, we should be able to tell truth from lies. God gives us all we need. Trust God and His word. Don’t just believe everything you hear.

Don’t believe everything you hear. Test every message based on what we know about God. The bible helps us to test messages

Beware of false teachers. I believe we should always be testing every spirit or testing every message we hear against what we know about God. Even what I tell you. You are responsible for testing my message. Even what you hear from your pastor. You are responsible for testing their message. We are just human. We miss speak, we can have wrong ideas. No matter who we are. You the listener must test what we say against God’s word and character before we believe it. I would never want to tell you something that is not aligned with God. But I’m just a broken, messed up sinner, so everything I say should be tested to ensure I’m speaking God’s truth.

I challenge you this week to do this intentionally. Listen to any of my messages or one from your pastor. Look at the scriptures and what you know about God’s character. Check us. This will help you remember the message and it is helpful if you hear something from me that seems wrong, then tell me. Healthy discussions are excellent ways to grow together as Christians.

“Test Every Spirit” is moto I live by.

Next week we will be studying 1 John 4:7-21 Victorious Life

Let’s Pray. Father God.

Father God thank you for equipping us with the ability to discern truth from false teaching. Thank you for this guidance from John to help us. I know we can trust who you are, your character, your word the bible. And we can use these to test every message we hear.

Give us the strength to Not Believe everything we hear but rely on You Lord to determine what is truth.

I pray for the listener today, give them the confidence to apply this lesson. I thank you for this time together Jesus.

I pray this in your name, Jesus Amen

I'm reminded of a quote I heard from the step son of CS Lewis Douglas Gresham. "If anything I say gives you wisdom its from God, if anything I say is folly then that's from me." Test every spirit my friends.

Thank you for joining me for Students at the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at kip@punla.org. I appreciate your feedback.

Until next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. **God bless.**