

1 John 4:1 - - 5:3 **Test the Spirits – Love is of God**

Test the Spirits – Spirit of God – Spirit of Antichrist

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.

Love is of God (cf. John 3:16)

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.

No one has seen God at any time – God is Love

¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁶ And 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.

Perfect Love

¹⁷ Love 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.

¹⁸ There 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.

¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

Test of Love

²⁰ If 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?

²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

1 John 5:1-5

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

Evidence that we Love God

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Test the Spirits – Spirit of God / Spirit of Antichrist [1 John 4:1-6]

✠ **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. [1 John 4:1]

✧ Deceptive spirits have been in the world since Satan entered the Garden of Eden. [Genesis 3:1-15, Revelation 12:3-9]

✧ False prophets are ministers of Satan who present themselves as ministers of righteousness to deceive the unwary. [2 Corinthians 11:13-15]

✧ False prophets have been in the world since the beginning, following lying spirits. [1 Kings 22:19-23]

✧ False prophets deceive the people and persuade them to act to their own destruction.

✧ Jesus and all the Apostles faced false prophets and false teachers in their days. And we are promised that the nearer we come to the time of the end the more false prophets will be multiplied and even more persuasive attempting to deceive the very Elect. [Matthew 24:24, Mark 13:22]

✠ **By this you know the Spirit of God:** Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ (Messiah) has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ (Messiah) 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. [1 John 4:2-3]

✧ This is an interesting text as it appears on the surface, because every cult including Muslim Quran acknowledges that Jesus came in the flesh. They all view Jesus as a man, a prophet, and a teacher. What **they do not acknowledge** is the identity of Jesus as **God the Word in human flesh**.

✧ John's focus in his Gospel, his epistles and Revelation is to demonstrate that Jesus is God the Word in human flesh.

✧ The term "Jesus Christ" is a term identifying Jesus as the Messiah of Israel Who is Jehovah the Savior of the world.

✧ Jehovah has clearly stated that there is no Savior besides Himself. [Isaiah 43:11, 45:21, Hosea 13:4]

✧ So the text is stating that only the Spirit of God identifies Jesus as Jehovah in the flesh.

✧ Any spirit that denies that Jesus is Jehovah in the flesh, is the spirit of the antichrist.

✠ 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**. [1 John 4:4]

✧ The Power to overcome the spirit of the antichrist in false teachers, false prophets, and false christ is provided by the Holy Spirit dwelling in you as He reveals the discernment of truth through the Written Word of God.

- ✧ Enemies of God are of the world, speak as of the world, and those of the world listen to them and believe the lie, being deceived by them and by the spirit of antichrist.
- ✧ We (the Apostles) are of God. Those who know God hear us. Those who are not of God do not hear us.
- ✧ Discernment is made easy to distinguish between the **Spirit of Truth** and the **spirit of error**.
- ✧ The evidence is in the perceived identity of Jesus, it was the focus of the question Jesus asked of the Disciples. [Matthew 16:13, 15, Mark 8:27, 29, Luke 9:18, 20]

Love is of God (cf. John 3:16) [1 John 4:7-11]

- ✧ Beloved, **let us love one another**, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. [1 John 4:7]
- ✧ Evidence that we are born of God is found in our affection toward one another.
- ✧ Godly Love is the theme of the entire new Testament from the teachings of Jesus through the epistles of the Apostles.
- ✧ Whoever does not love makes it evident that he does not know God, for God is love.
- ✧ **God** demonstrated His Love for us by sending **His only Begotten Son** into the world to provide a way for us to enjoy Eternal Life through Him. [Galatians 4:4]
- ✧ Angels and humans are called sons of God frequently throughout Scriptures.
- ✧ The distinguishing relationship of Jesus with God the Father is the fact of the incarnation. Jesus is the only One ever to come into the world as a **Begotten Son of God** through virgin conception by the Holy Spirit.
- ✧ God sent **Jesus Christ His Only Begotten Son** into the world for the express purpose to be the propitiation (acceptable Sacrifice to make atonement) for our sins.
- ✧ If God loved us that much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has seen God at any time – God is Love [1 John 4:12-16]

- ✧ No one has seen God at any time. [John 1:18, 1 John 4:12]
- ✧ This statement being true, we learn that all the appearances of God, the Angel of Yehowah, Yehowah, Word of the Lord, The Lord, etc. were all appearances of Jesus in His pre-incarnate state as God the Word. [Genesis 2:7, 19, 21-24, 3:8-19, 12:7, 17:1, 18:1-33, 26:1-2, 26:23-25, 35:1-7, 9, 48:3, Exodus 3:2, 16, 4:5, 6:3, 24:9-11, Judges 6:12, 13:3-21, 1 Samuel 3:21, 2 Samuel 24:15-17, 1 Kings 3:5, 9:2, 11:9, 2 Chronicles 1:7, 3:1, 7:12, Luke 1:11]
- ✧ No one has ever seen God the Father, but the Father is revealed in Jesus Christ His Son Whom multitudes saw, heard, touched, and were touched by Him. [John 1:1-5, 14-18]
- ✧ Evidence of the abiding presence of God in us, is seen in our love for one another, and His love is perfected in us. [1 John 4:12]
- ✧ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. [1 John 4:13]
- ✧ Evidence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is expressed by the loving fruits of the Spirit, demonstrating godly love is the best proof that we abide in Him and He in us. [1 John 4:13, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 5:9]
- ✧ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. [1 John 4:14, Matthew 1:21, Luke 2:18-22]
- ✧ The personal Testimony of the Apostles is, that the Father has sent Jesus His Son as Savior of the world.
- ✧ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. [1 John 4:15]
- ✧ John's confident testimony is that: 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. [1 John 4:16]

Perfect Love [1 John 4:17-19]

- ✚ Love being perfected in Believers will give them boldness in the day of Judgment, and the motive to do their best to be like Jesus in this world, following His example. [1 John 4:17]
 - ✧ **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.** [1 John 4:18]
 - ✧ Confident assurance of God's Love and Love being the active basis of our lives, removes fear of any circumstance that may come along because we know the outcome in the future God has ordained for those who love Him even if they face martyrdom.
 - ✧ Fear involves torment, so whoever fears has not been made perfect in love. [1 John 4:18]
- ✚ We Love God because He first loved us. [1 John 4:19]
 - ✧ There can be no greater example of the Love God desires in His Saints than the Love God demonstrated for humanity when He sent His Only Begotten Son into the world to offer us Salvation. This God did while the world hated Him. [Romans 5:8, John 3:16-17]

Test of Love [1 John 4:20—5:1]

- ✚ If 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?** [1 John 4:20]
 - ✧ Evidence of loving God is found in our obedience toward His commandment as Jesus said:
 - 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. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. NKJV [John 14:23-24]
 - ✧ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. [1 John 4:21]

Evidence that we Love God [1 John 5:1-3]

- ✚ **Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.** [1 John 5:1]
- ✚ Everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. [1 John 5:1]
 - ✧ **Evidence that we are born of God**, is found in the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah of Israel, Who is none other than Yahweh (Jehovah) in the flesh, come in human form.
 - ✧ Jesus is the only One ever directly Begotten by God the Father.
 - ✧ Whoever loves God the Father Who begot Jesus, also loves Jesus the only begotten Son, .
- ✚ **By this we know that we love the children of God**, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. [1 John 5:2-3]
 - ✧ Evidence of loving the **children of God** is found in our obeying His commandment.
 - ✧ His commandment is: "**Love one another as I have loved you.**" [John 13:34, 15:12, 17]