



May 19

Passage: 1 John 4:1-6

READ & DIG.

Read 1 John 1-6. **TRUTH & how to create your own lie detector.** What is truth? How do we test for the truth? We have opinions pushed at us all day long. Most are through people we may trust; for example parents, teachers, friends, family, but then there is also technology, media, etc. Therefore we are charged with a biblical task here. We are to test the things we hear because some come to us as absolute truth and others come disguised as the truth but are lies. As we mature in our walk in Christ, WE- I- YOU must learn to test the Ideas and things we hear so that we can obey the only absolute truth, Christ.

Truth! Truth is defined as that which is true or in accordance with fact or certainty. Fun fact, some use a special promise! ~~Yes, spirit of the word that we read in the bible, the gospel, there is just doesn't recognize what they are saying?!~~

(V1) John opens up right out of the gate with 'Beloved, no not believe every spirit, 'Beloved' indicates he is talking to the church - Christians. So, that tells me it must be easy to get swept away with our thoughts and who/what we are trusting if John is having to remind the early church, some of who knew Jesus personally and witnessed His life and teachings. Just like today, at this time there were false teachers and false doctrine (beliefs by the church) being taught and followed. John was warning the church that there are for real people/sources in disguise you trust telling you lies covered as truth. They are false prophets, spirits, the antichrist. You gonna have to test 'em folks...know they are telling you truth. Don't just take it as 'the gospel' because you know them and trust them. EXAMINE what they are saying...So, yep us too! When John speaks of spirits he is referring to one of two, the Holy Spirit, God, Jesus Christ or a false spirit-demon spirit inspired by Satan. Our goal in 'testing the spirits' is to sift through the things we hear and are being taught to determine are they the TRUTH of God's Word and the Holy Spirit driven or are they Satan inspired ideas dressed up to look and sound good to us to derail us from God's purposes.

TEST 1...with encouragement! (V.2-4)

The first test of a true Christ following teacher is that he/she professes that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. So basically, you need to know that anything/one you are listening to acknowledges that Jesus is the Christ, He was born, lived sinless, died FOR US, rose from the grave, and is alive seated at God's right hand today. Period. Anything/one else is FALSE...LIES...Opposite of truth...NOT the Gospel! V 4 Is a well known verse widely quoted. Listen close, John reminds us with a, 'listen-I know I am telling you about false teachers, antichrist, you name It-be on the lookout for it and this may alarm you, BUT DO NOT BE AGRAID of these things. Know that the One In you, your Creator, the Truth, is so much GREATER than anything there is proposing lies to you. Look to the Greater One. We always have victory in Christ.

TEST 2! (v.5-6)

The second test of a true Christ following teacher is they speak God's Word. It is your responsibility to check things against God's Word, so you have to read the Word, be familiar with It, and know It to be able to test things against It. You can't know that it is God's Word if you never read it. If you don't spend time with me you don't know me. How do you know I am telling you the truth? Get to know me, test what I say against God's Word. Does what I say line up with God?

Apply & GO

So what now? What do we do with this? Always remember. God's Word means what it means. There is no "what does this mean to you, and to you, and to you." That's wrong. The Bible means what it means. How we apply it may be different, specifically. It means what it means.

SO...let me ask you. What will you do after hearing this truth? What can we learn about God? What can we learn about His Word?

What can we learn about testing the spirits to know if it is the truth? I cannot borrow my parents, Bro. Chris, Bro Andrew, or Pastor Stephen's faith. I must test and know it is the truth for myself. How will I walk in that today?