



Discerning
the Spirit of

TRUTH



1 John 3:24 – 4:6





1 John 3:24-4:6

²⁴ *The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them.*
And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.





1 John 3:24-4:6



¹Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but *test the spirits to see whether they are from God*, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.





1 John 3:24-4:6



² This is *how you can recognize the Spirit of God*: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,





1 John 3:24-4:6

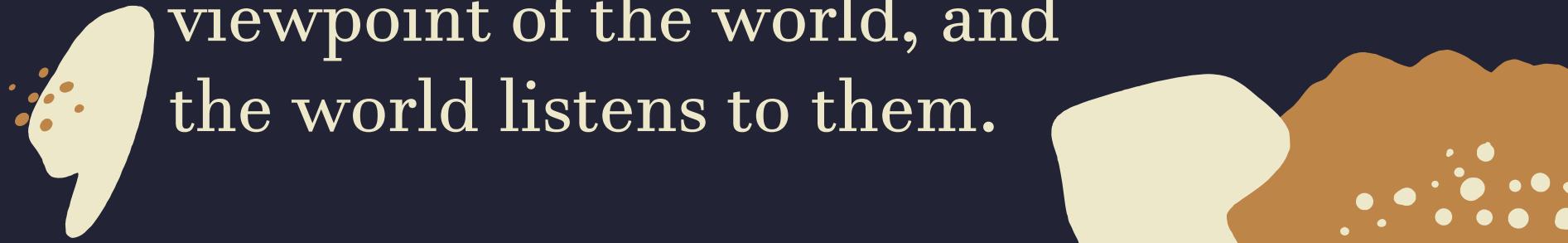
³ but *every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.*
This is the spirit of the antichrist,
which you have heard is coming
and even now is already in the world.





1 John 3:24-4:6

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because *the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.* ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.





1 John 3:24-4:6

⁶ *We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.*



Discernment is:

01

Sound
Judgement



1 Corinthians 12:10 "He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit."

02

is from God through
the
Holy Spirit.

03

Our born-again
spirit can handle
it.

1 Corinthians 2:14 "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."



Why we must be **DISCERNING?**

1

because not all spirit is
from God.

1 John 4:1 "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." ... You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world."

2

not to fall in spirit of error.

1 John 4:6 "We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

Process of Deception

DOUBT




```
graph TD; A[DOUBT] --> B[DISTORTION]; B --> C[DECEPTION]; C --> D[DENIAL]; D --> E[SHAME];
```

DISTORTION


DECEPTION

DENIAL

SHAME



4 Keys to discern the Spirit of Truth



01.

WE MUST BELIEVE THAT JESUS
CHRIST HAS COME IN THE FLESH.

1 John 4:2 "This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God."

John 11:35 "Jesus wept."

01.

WE MUST BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS COME IN THE FLESH.

Philippians 2:7 "but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

1 John 5:20-21 ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

02.

We must believe in
the deity of Christ.

1 John 4:15

15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

1 John 5:5

5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

02.

We must believe in
the deity of Christ.

1 John 2:22-23

22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

02.

We must believe in
the deity of Christ.

John 10:30

30 I and the Father are one.”

Mark 16:19

19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them,
he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the
right hand of God.



03.

We must believe that
"God is love."

1 John 4:8

8 Whoever does not love does not know God,
because God is love.

1 John 4:4

4 You, dear children, are from God and have
overcome them, because the one who is in
you is greater than the one who is in the
world.

04.

We must believe that
Christ is our Saviour.

1 John 5:11-13

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

04.

We must believe that
Christ is our Saviour.

John 7:38

38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has
said, rivers of living water will flow from
within them.” [a]

5 Practical Ways to Grow in Discerning the Spirit of Truth

01

Grow in Wisdom.

Prov 9:9; Psalm 86:11, John 16:13

02

Accept rebuke and godly counsel.

Prov. 27:5; Prov. 11:14, Prov 19:20-21

03

Know the Truth.

Hebrews 4:12

04

Practice the Truth.

1 John 3:24, Luke 6:46-49

05

Master the Truth.

3 John 1:4

5 Practical Ways to Grow in Discerning the Spirit of Truth

01

Grow in Wisdom.

Prov 9:9; Psalm 86:11, John 16:13

Proverbs 9:9

⁹ Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still;
teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

Psalm 86:11

¹¹ Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

John 16:13

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

5 Practical Ways to Grow in Discerning the Spirit of Truth

02

Accept rebuke and godly counsel.

Prov. 27:5; Prov. 11:14, Prov 19:20-21

Proverbs 27:5

5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Proverbs 11:14

14 For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

Proverbs 19:20-21

20 Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

21 Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

5 Practical Ways to Grow in Discerning the Spirit of Truth

03

Know the Truth.

Hebrews 4:12

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

5 Practical Ways to Grow in Discerning the Spirit of Truth

04

Practice the Truth.

1 John 3:24, Luke 6:46-49

1 John 3:24

24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Luke 6:46-49

46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

5 Practical Ways to Grow in Discerning the Spirit of Truth

05

Master the Truth.

3 John 1:4

3 John 4

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

**WORTHY IS
YOUR NAME,
JESUS!**

