

TWO15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

The Study of 1 John: Joy Through Abiding Fellowship **Test The Spirits – 1 John 4:1-5:5**

Hermeneutics: Christology and the New Testament writers.

Test the Spirits, Either of God or the Antichrist.

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1)

1) Test One: Confession. (4:2-6)

"By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already." (1 John 4:2-3)

2) Test Two: Love. (4:7-12)

"7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)

3) Test Three: Abiding. (4:13-21)

"15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." (1 John 4:15-16)

4) Test Four: Obedience. (5:1-5)

"2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome." (1 John 5:2-3)

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss with your group your understanding of spirits in 1 John 4.
2. Write a group statement that declares your view of Jesus Christ, based on 1 John 4:2-6.
3. In 1 John 5:1-5, what is the importance of obedience to our faith? Discuss.