

**Tried and True**  
How Do You Recognize a Christian?  
*Life in Light of 1 John*  
August 1, 2021

**Notes:**

**Questions for Personal Reflection & Group Discussion**

**Read 1 John 4:1-6.**

What sources of truth are you giving attention to in your daily life?  
Who are the “teachers” that you listen to?

Why do you listen to them?

How do you personally evaluate whether or not something is true?

How much time do you spend comparing what you hear from the ‘teachers’ in your life to what the Word of God says?

What influences your beliefs and how you behave? Peer pressure?  
Family expectations? Social media? Feelings? Tradition? Politics?

John Newton, the English Anglican cleric who wrote the hymn *Amazing Grace*, said: “*My principal method of defeating heresy is by establishing truth. One proposes to fill a bushel with tares: now, if I can fill it first with wheat, I shall defy his attempts.*” What do you need to do in your own life to fill your bushel with wheat (truth) and defy the attempts of Satan to deceive or confuse you?

Read 1 John 4:1-6 again. How can we know whether someone has the Spirit of God or is a false prophet?

What words or phrases in this passage encourage you?

What words challenge you? How will you respond?