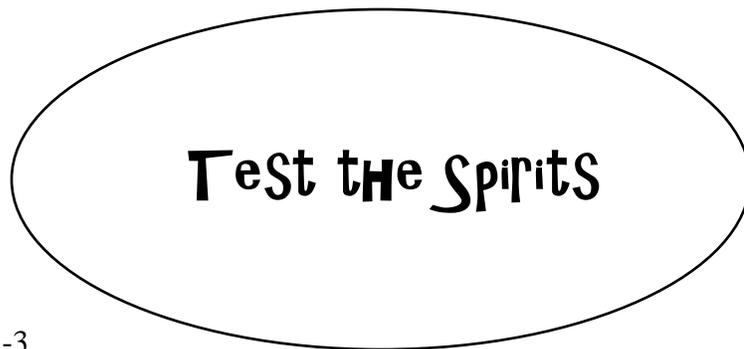


## LESSON 6: 1 JOHN 4:1-6



Please read 1 John 4:1-3.

John gives us a very important command in this chapter: do not believe everything you hear! It can be so easy to get swept away with an eloquent speech or a feel-good message. However, if what we are listening to doesn't line up with God's word, we need to not only reject it, but flee from it. The seeds of doubt will begin to grow if we allow those false messages to stick around our hearts. Let's look at some other passages of scripture that portray the same urgent message.

Please read 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.

What are we to do with good teaching?

What are we to do with bad teaching?

How do we know the difference?

Please read Matthew 7:15-20.

Can we tell who is teaching false information by their appearance? Why or why not?

What are some 'good fruits' that we could use to identify a false prophet or a false teacher?

Do you think it is possible for someone to appear to have all the right kind of fruits and still not be teaching the truth of God's word? Why or why not?

Please read a bit further in Matthew 7, read verses 21-23.

Jesus makes it clear that simply appearing like a godly person does not make you one. I have often heard it said, "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to McDonalds makes you a hamburger." What does that mean to you?

Whom does Jesus say will be the only ones who enter into the Kingdom of Heaven?

How can these verses help you as you 'test every spirit'?



Please read 1 John 4:4-6.

When have you felt the most like an overcomer?

When did you feel the least like an overcomer?

Please read Romans 8:35-39.

What does it mean to you personally that nothing can separate us from God's love?

What are all the things that Paul says he is convinced cannot separate us from the love of God?

Make this personal. Take a few moments and list any things, people or emotions that you struggle with.

None of these things can defeat us when we stand in the power of God. How do we stand in the power of God? We walk in His ways. We hide His word in our hearts and fill our mind with meditations of Him. The more we plunge our souls and our hearts into God's word, the easier it will be for us to recognize false teachers and false teachings. The stronger we will become in our faith and our dependence of God's power instead of our own. The more we will live like conquerors instead of a defeated and downtrodden people. So get out your sword and spend some time training for the fight of this life by reading scripture and training your mind to see the lie and reject the condemnation.