

Sermon Application Study

July 12, 2026

Target Passage → 1 John 4:1-6

1. What does John mean when he says the spirit of the antichrist is already at work in the world?
2. What does John expect us to do when he instructs us to test the spirits? Explore the full passage to create a picture of what this test looks like.
3. What does it mean that he who is in us is greater than he who is in the world? What does this truth do for the believer?
4. John says, "We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us." Is this arrogance? What is he claiming here? What is the equivalent of listening to John today?

Bridge Passages (for further study) → 2 Peter 1:19-2:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

For Me →

1. What does testing the spirits look like for you?
2. How do we get better at testing the spirits and grow in our discernment?

For the Mission →

In the 1st c., some in the church began denying that Jesus was truly human, which would invalidate the gospel. What are some popular messages about God today that invalidate the gospel? What would be a proper test question in our culture to determine if someone has the Holy Spirit?

PRAYER FOCUS

Ask the Lord to give you a greater capacity to test the spirits. Ask for a keen ear and a sound understanding of Scripture so that you can better separate truth from error and thus become more like Christ.