

John's Letters: Lesson 9

Testing the Spirits, Truth and Error

Lesson Text: 1 John 4:1-6

Weekly Text: 1, 2 and 3 John

Assignment: Read the lesson text (at least) 3-5 times and answer the questions to prepare for class discussion.

In Context:

3:13-24 Love and Life

4:1-6 Testing the Spirits, Truth and Error

4:7-5:4 Love One Another

Study Guide Questions

1. John exhorts the brethren to “test the spirits.” How do we know if a prophet is from God – speaking by the Spirit of God? Observe both the general principle addressed in these verses as well as the specific issue for the original audience. (4:1-3, 6; cf. Dt. 13:1-5; 18:18-22; 1 Jn. 2:24; Ga. 1:6-9)
2. Note “you” (brethren) (4:4), “they” (false prophets) (4:5) and “we” (apostles) (4:6). Compare and contrast all three groups.
3. Provide your own title for this section, 4:1-6.