

I John 3:18-24

John 4:1-12

¹⁸Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. ¹⁹We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him ²⁰in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. **I John 3:18-24 NASB**

- John exhorts us to ‘out-life’ all the attempts to heap condemnation on our hearts and minds. All the condemning thoughts (guilt, shame, regret, etc.) that target our hearts and minds need to be swallowed up by this truth: ...”in whatever our hearts condemn us...God is greater than our heart and knows all things” – (I John 3:20) This will empower us to (v22) ... “do all the things that are pleasing to Him”. We must grow and mature in our sense of abiding in Him and Him abiding in us.

⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. **Philippians 1:9-11 NASB**

- (See v23) This is His commandment.
- Believe in the name of Jesus.

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- Love one another.

All who keep His commandments [who obey His orders and follow His plan, live and continue to live, to stay and] abide in Him, and He in them. [They let Christ be a home to them and they are the home of Christ.] And by this we know *and* understand *and* have the proof that He [really] lives *and* makes His home in us: by the [Holy] Spirit Whom He has given us. **I John 3:24 AMPC**

- Abide in Him...us in Him and Him in us...This is the empowered partnership...our one-ness with the Spirit of God.

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. **I John 4:1-3 NASB**

- Testing the Spirits

- Test, examine, prove the origin of what you hear and see.
- False prophets and teachers; a warning.

- Jesus issues a warning: "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **Matthew 7:15**

- Paul's warning: ¹But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ²by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron. **I Timothy 4:1-2 NASB**

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- Peter's warning: ¹But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ²Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. **2 Peter 2:1-3 NASB**
- ⁹Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; ¹⁰and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." ¹¹And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. **Acts 8:9-11 NASB**
- ²¹You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' ²²When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. **Deuteronomy 18:21-22 NASB**
- The spirit of anti-Christ
 - Test the 'confession'
 - They don't say and mean what God says about Jesus.

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- They deny and refuse to acknowledge the divinity and/or the humanity of Jesus.

⁴You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. **I John 4:4-6 NASB**

- The Gnostics and other false teachers were trying to ‘scuttle’ the early church. They were untruthful, deceitful, and filled with contempt for the Gospel and the Apostles.

¹Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ²that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction. **I Thessalonians 2:1-3 NASB**

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write. **I Thessalonians 3:17 NASB**

Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated *and* overcome them [the agents of the antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world. **I John 4:4 AMPC**

- John says that we have ‘overcome’ the false teachers of false prophets...how can that be, when the false teachers are still so active?
 - Here’s how we overcome them:

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- You believe in the true message of the most high God.
- You believe in the inspiration of the Bible...You believe in the virgin birth. You believe in the sacrificial death of Jesus, you believe in the resurrection, you believe in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. You believe in God's healing power, you believe in the second coming of Jesus.
- The false prophets have thrown everything they have at you and they continue to do so, but, you still believe...you even believe that "greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world (v4). That is overcoming!

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:37 NASB

⁵They belong to this world and they articulate the spirit of this world, and the world listens to them. ⁶But we belong to God, and whoever truly knows God listens to us. Those who refuse to listen to us do not belong to God. That is how we can know the difference between the spirit of truth and the spirit of deceit. I

John 4:5-6 The Passion Translation

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷*that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. **John 14:16-17 NASB**

- The Spirit of Truth, the Person of Truth (Jesus) and the Word of Truth empower us to over-come the spirit of deceit in this age.