

Connect

Have you ever gone to a mechanic or contacted tech support knowing something was clearly wrong, only for them to say "everything looks fine"? How did it feel to be told you didn't need help when you thought you did?

Verses - 1 John 4:1-6 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in the world. 4 You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world. Therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Anyone who knows God listens to us; anyone who is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. John gives a clear command and a warning in verse 1. What are they? (v. 1)

2. What is the specific test mentioned to determine if a spirit or teacher is from God? (vv. 2-3) (Note: To deny Jesus came in the flesh is to deny that He came to deal with our real-world sins).

3. According to verse 4, what is the reason believers are able to conquer or overcome these false teachings? (v. 4)

4. Why are the teachings of false prophets so popular and easily accepted by the world? (v. 5)

5. How does a person's response reveal whether they have the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception? (v. 6)

Share

DISCUSS 1

Pastor Takeshi compared false teachers to a doctor who tells a sick patient they don't need medicine. False teachings are popular because they tell us we don't need to change our natural desires. What is one area in our culture today where the world's "diagnosis" sounds appealing, but you know you need to rely on God's truth instead?

DISCUSS 2

Pastor Takeshi used an example of instinctively standing on the wrong side of the escalator because of old habits. When your worldly "autopilot" tries to take over this week, what is a practical way you can "test" that inclination against the Spirit of truth?

Minister to one another sharing specific prayer requests.