

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

1 John 4:1-6

Key Verse: 4:2

“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God...”

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read verse 1. Why must we test the spirits? What are the spiritual powers at work in the world? What are false prophets?
2. Read verse 2. How can we recognize the Spirit of God? What does it mean to acknowledge that Jesus Christ came in the flesh? To deny this?
3. Let's think about who the Holy Spirit is. Find the names used for the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments: Ge 1:2; 1Sa 11:6; Jn 14:26; Ac 1:5; 1Co 6:19; 2Pe 1:21; Ac 16:7.
4. What does John 16:8-13 teach us about the work of the Holy Spirit? What does the Spirit mainly teach?
5. Think about the power of the Holy Spirit in Genesis 1:2; Ro 8:11; Acts 2. What does Jesus teach about God's changing power in Jn 2:1-11. How were Peter and the other Apostles changed? How have you been changed?
6. What else can we learn about the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit from John 6:63; Jn 3:3,5-8. What does it mean practically that only God's Spirit can change people?
7. Read verse 3 again. What is the spirit of the antichrist? What identifies him as the antichrist? What does it mean to not acknowledge that Jesus came from God?
8. What are some Biblical and other examples of the activity of the spirit of the antichrist or evil spirits or the devil? (Mk 5:2-8; 1Sa 16:14) How does he show himself to be a liar and a murderer? (Jn 8:44)

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9. Read verses 4-6. How can God's people overcome the world? What is the viewpoint of the world? How can we recognize the spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood?