

## Discerning the Spirits of the Age 1 John 4:1-6

### 1. The call: Don't believe everything you hear!

**1 John 4:1** | <sup>1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

**Acts 17:11** | <sup>11</sup> Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

### 2. The criteria: Who do they say Jesus is?

**1 John 4:2-3** | <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

**Romans 10:9** | <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved.

**Mark 13:21-23** | And then if anyone says to you, "Look, here is the Christ!" or "Look, there he is!" do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

### 3. The confirmation: Who's their daddy?

**1 John 4:4-5** | <sup>4</sup> Little children, you are from God and have overcome

them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

#### **4. The conclusion: It's a matter of allegiance.**

**1 John 4:6** | <sup>6</sup> We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.