

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

1 JOHN 4:7-19

LESSON: THE SOURCE OF ALL LOVE -March 5, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. The "beloved" are God's believers and they are not to believe that all so-called believers have the same spirit. John, the writer has made the fact that believers are indwelt and led by the Spirit of God. So, the false prophets also claimed to have spiritual leading. John warns against believers accepting from these teachers things that are contrary to what they have already received from the apostles. But they are to **try the spirit** to see **whether they are of God**. That is, to check out by a pattern or standard that never changes; the standard intended is the Word of God.

- Check the words of the one speaking by God's Word in the Holy Bible.
- Check out their commitment to the Body of Christ believers.
- Check out their lifestyle.
- Check out the fruit of their ministry.
- Do they teach that God is fully God and fully man?

4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:— As believers we have His Spirit therefore, we are to know His Spirit because we have a relationship with Him by spending time and communing with Him. Therefore, give these tests to those speaking to you to see if they are indeed speaking God's truths. Our world is filled with many voices claiming to speak for God. **The spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God—**He is fully God and fully man.

4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Therefore, the spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God! This type of spirit is called the spirit of antichrist! The Antichrist will be a person who epitomizes all that is evil, and he will readily be received by an evil world. Thereby, John lets us know that that antichrist spirit has already been heard of and will come. But even now, that spirit is already in the world.

4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. John calls the believers little children because they are of God. In this encouragement he causes them to remember that they are of God; His children who has already won the fight that is against Christ. God is the Greater One; the stronger One in His Believers, than any evil teacher in this wicked world. ...**he that is in you** refers to the Holy Spirit. ...**he that is in the world** refer to Satan's spiritual demons.

4:5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. Those men that are of the world speak the language that is of the world. And the world is able to hear such language; ready to pay attention to any false things about the Lord. Why – Because they are of the world that oppose Christ.

4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. Here John includes himself with other apostles as spirits who

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follow the Spirit of Truth, and thus proclaim the truth. So being of God, believers know God and are able to hear the disciples, but those not of God, can't even hear the truth of the disciples. John is saying that's how they're able to recognize the spirit of truth and the spirit of error: if you listen to the disciples, you hear the spirit of truth; if you don't listen to the disciples, you're listening to the spirit of error.

LESSON: I. THE PAST: LOVE'S ORIGIN - 1 JOHN 4:7-11

4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. "Beloved" is how John starts many of his passages. He's telling the people of Ephesus that they are much loved. He does not want them to forget that! There were so many wrong ideas he wanted to correct. He wanted them to know the truth as he calls them "*dearly loved friends*." Everyone believes love is important, but we usually think of it as a feeling, but, in reality, love is a choice and an action. Loving one another proves seven things:

1. that love is of God, being born of God we know God.

4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. And it's just the opposite—that the person, who does not love, doesn't know God. Why? – Because God is LOVE!

4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. This is how the love of God has appeared to He revealed His love toward us by sending His only begotten Son into the world, who was not in the world or of the world. For this reason His love was manifested that we might live through Him. It is only through Christ and what He did at the Cross that we can find life. We live through Him as He lives through us.

4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Loving one another proves:

2. that love saved us before we deserved it; even before we loved God.
 - God saved mankind by giving us a Savior, His Son to die as our propitiation; appeasement—God's mercy and grace in action to put us in right relationship with Him, and have eternal life.

John says this is what we know about love. Love began with God. ¹God is the only origin of love. God loves us although we did nothing to deserve His love. He loved us before we loved Him.

4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. John begins again with "beloved", letting them know that they are much loved. Loving one another proves:

3. that God's love is so great that if He so loved us, we ought to love one another.- It's our Demonstration.

II. THE PRESENT: LOVE'S GROWTH - 1 JOHN 4:12-16

4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. We cannot see God, because He is Spirit; "*No man hath seen God at any time...*" Jh.1:18. ¹What we can see is His effect. We cannot see the wind, but we can see what it can do. We cannot see electricity, but we can see and feel the effect it produces. The effect of God is love. These examples show us that God whom you have never seen is dwelling in us is able to love those you've never seen, especially the ones He will place before us. We are able to love one another because of what God is doing in us.

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/love-is-an-action/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. John says this is what we do know: (1) we dwell in him. (2) He dwells in us. How do we know that we dwell in God and He in us? - By the power of the Holy Spirit whom the Father has given us. How do we know He's dwelling in us? - By the change in us to love one another. The Spirit of God bears witness within our spirit by our continuous relationship with Him. So, when we continue to trust and obey God's Word, loving one another proves:

4. that God's Spirit dwells within us.

- God is only known by Love, only by His Spirit who dwells within the believers. Therefore, when a person honors God's Son by believing, God takes that person and puts His Spirit into the person, thereby maturing His love more and more in us.

4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. John says he and the disciples have seen what the Father has done, and began to testify of Him. Their testimony and confessions are true.

- God the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. We today know and testify by His Spirit. God's love for us was proven by the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus.

4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. By the Father sending the Son to be the Savior of the world, those who make confession and believe Jesus is the Son of God, God will dwell in him and he in God. John says our confession brings the great promise in us.

4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. This all builds up to the fact that we have a great confession: known to us (by the Holy Spirit) and believed (by faith) the love God has in regard to us. Dwelling in God, who is Love will surely produce love in us. Three points to stress:

1. God is love.
2. Believers must love.
3. If we dwell in love, then we dwell in God and God dwells in us. God is joined to us and we to Him.

III. THE FUTURE: LOVE'S DELIVERANCE - 1 JOHN 4:17-19

4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. Loving one another proves...

5. that God is our perfect love, giving us boldness in the Day of Judgment.

A Day of Judgment is coming when all persons will be brought before the great Judge Himself. But note the most wonderful thing: we can be delivered from judgment. How? - By living a life of love. Perfect love is the love that has been perfected in us by God, to love others. If we allow love to live itself out through us, then we will have boldness in the Day of Judgment. Such love casts out fear, giving boldness in the Day of Judgment. The more we love, the more we grow; the more we grow, the more we become perfected in love. And the more we grow and become perfected in love, the more assurance and boldness we have about the future judgment. God will give us the assurance that we shall not be judged, but on the contrary, we shall be rewarded.

4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We can resolve our fears first by focusing on His immeasurable love for us, then others can be loved through us. Loving one another proves...

6. that God delivers us from such fear.

- If we really love someone, there is no need to fear him.

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- Perfect love casts out fear. When love grows, fear can't stay. The two are incompatible. Therefore, growing love fulfills perfect (complete) love.
- Fear means that a person is not perfected in love.
 - Because fear has torment, it shows that it thinks about and expects punishment or suffering or loss. A person feels that something is going to happen to him. Fear causes anxiety, dread, alarm, fright, panic, and terror.
 - The person is not fully grasping the love and care of God for him.
 - The person is not loving other people like he should; not growing more and more in love. And fear can have our eyes upon self, not upon God.

But God's love delivers us from such.

4:19 We love him, because he first loved us. Loving one another proves...

7. **that God first loved us.**

How do we know that we love God? - By making the choice to put love in action. Love him first, then others.

- When Adam sinned, He loved us;
- when we were lost in sin, He loved us;
- before Jesus even went to the cross, He loved us,
- when Jesus was nailed to the cross, He love us;
- when Jesus was beaten, He loved us;
- when Jesus died on the cross He loved us;
- and when He resurrected Jesus, surely He loved us. This means we are able to be resurrected also. He has given us another chance. Hallelujah! From the beginning of the foundation of the world God so loved us!

If we see our brother everyday and yet hate him, but say we love God whom we haven't seen, we are liars, pretending to love our brother while hating him. We are commanded to love our brother as we love God. Love has to be practiced, especially on our brother (**4:17-21**).

SUMMARY:

Many false prophets are gone out in the world. Therefore, John tells the believers not to believe every spirit is of God. Try or test the spirit to see if it's of God. Know the Spirit of God because every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God. But every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. It's the spirit of antichrist that they had heard should come. Even now they're already in the world. John calls the believers little children because they are of God. They have overcome those that are in the world because the greater one is in those that believe. Those of the world speak the things of the world and the world pays attention to them. So being of God, believers know God and are able to hear the disciples speak the truth, but those not of God, can't even hear the truth the disciples speak, and are therefore in error. John is saying that's how they're able to recognize the spirit of truth from the spirit of error—if you listen to them, you hear the spirit of truth; if you don't listen to them, you're listening to the spirit of error. We are to practice loving one another because love comes from; and is born of God. The person who does not love, don't know God. Why? – Because God is LOVE! God showed that love by sending His only begotten Son into the world for us. In this act, love was shone. The Son became the propitiation for our sins. And if God so loved us, we ought to love one another. (**4:1-11**).



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No one has ever seen God, but He dwells within us perfecting that love within us. When we become Christians, we receive the Holy Spirit. God's presence in our lives is proof that we really belong to Him and gives us the power to love. We know and testify by God's Spirit that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world, for He shows us through his Son how to love one another. Our confession allows Jesus to dwell in us and we in Him; believing at all times that God loves us. God is love and believers must love. By us dwelling in love, He dwells in us, causing us to dwell in God! **(4:12-16)**.

"As we live with Christ, our love grows more perfect and complete; so we will not be ashamed and embarrassed at the Day of Judgment, but can face Him with confidence and joy, because He loves us and we love him too." Fear is not an option, for perfect love casts out fear. Fear causes torment when it's not made perfect in love. God loved us first **(4:17-19)**.