



Going Deeper into "Confirming Spirits" – 1 John 4:1-6

In the midst of teaching about brotherly love, John interrupts to warn his audience not to accept a teacher too quickly, but to test the "spirit" behind their message.

Have you ever listened to a "Christian" teacher who you later determined was not teaching with a Godly spirit? What was the true spirit of their message?

Describe the process by which you recognized that their teaching lacked the Holy Spirit and was not from the spirit of truth. What role did the Holy Spirit play in your process?

Who are some teachers today that people might consider to be "false" teachers? Analyze their messages. Do they teach the truth about Jesus or is their teaching worldly?

Think of a teacher that you feel is Godly. What are the marks of truth within their message that resonate with you?

1 John 4:4-6 tells us that we will know which kind of spirit is in a person based on the message they share or accept, and that Christians have the Spirit of God in them.

Read John 16:7-15. What roles of the Holy Spirit does Jesus highlight in this passage?

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life? Even if you do not feel the Holy Spirit within you, what does John 16:8 say about your experience with the Holy Spirit?

As we saw a few weeks ago, 1 John 2:27 reiterates John 16:13. How does 1 John 4:6 help you understand how the Holy Spirit teaches us as we abide in Him?

Please pray: Heavenly Father, guide me to discern whether a preacher or teacher is speaking the truth or proclaiming a message from the world. Help me to be in tune to the Holy Spirit, to hear His direction and teaching in my life. Amen.