

**IN THESE VERSES WE BEGIN WITH A COMMAND TO TEST THE SPIRITS HAVING DISCUSSED THE ABIDING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN TRUE BELIEVERS IN 1JOHN 3:24 THEN JOHN TRANSITIONS TO THE WORK OF UNHOLY SPIRITS IN FALSE TEACHERS AND THEIR FALSE TEACHINGS 1TIM 4:1-5**

**IN MATT 10:16 JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES BEHOLD I SEND YOU OUT AS SHEEP IN THE MIST OF WOLVES SO BE SHREWD AS SERPENTS AND INNOCENT AS DOVES**

**HE BEGINS BY SAYING BELOVED DO NOT BELIEVE EVERY SPIRIT OR ANOTHER WAY TO PUT IT EVERY PROPHET WHO SAYS HE IS FROM GOD BUT TEST THE SPIRITS TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE FROM GOD**

**IN MATT 7:15 BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS WHO COME TO YOU IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING BUT INWARDLY ARE RAVENOUS WOLVES AND AGAIN IN MATT 7:21-23 NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME LORD LORD WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

**THE REASON TO TEST IS BECAUSE MANY FALSE PROPHETS HAVE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD AND WHAT THEY DO IS VERY SUBTLE THEY MIX THEIR LIES WITH THE TRUTH 2PETER 2:1-3 AND THEIR LIVES DENY THE POWER OF GOD THEY LIVE UNHOLY LIVES THEY ARE PRETENDERS**

**THEN JOHN SETS FORTH THREE TESTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER A TEACHER AND HIS MESSAGE REFLECT THE SPIRIT OF GOD OR THE SPIRIT OF SATAN**

**TRUE TEACHERS WILL BE CHARACTERIZED BY A CONFESSION OF THE DIVINE LORD A POSSESSION OF THE DIVINE LIFE AND A PROFESSION OF THE DIVINE LAW OF GOD THOSE WHO FAIL THIS TEST PROVE THEY ARE NOT FROM GOD**

**IN VERSES 2-3 WE HAVE THE CONFESSION OF THE DIVINE LORD EVERY PROPHET WHO AGREES WITH SCRIPTURE THAT JESUS HAS COME IN THE FLESH IS THEREFORE FROM GOD CONFESSING A TRUTH TAUGHT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS GOD INCARNATE OR GOD IN THE FLESH 1JOHN 1:1-3**

**EVERY SPIRIT OR PROPHET THAT DOES NOT CONFESS THAT JESUS IS GOD IN THE FLESH IS NOT FROM GOD THEN JOHN REMINDS THEM OF WHAT THEY HEARD THAT THE FINAL ANTICHRIST IS COMING BUT HIS FALSE PROPHETS ARE ALREADY IN THE WORLD THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST JUDE 4 TURNING THE GRACE OF GOD INTO A LICENSE TO SIN**

**IN VERSES 4-5 WE HAVE THE POSSESSION OF DIVINE LIFE AGAIN USES A TERM OF AFFECTION YOU ARE FROM GOD LITTLE CHILDREN GOD'S SPIRITUAL CHILDREN THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE ANOINTING 1JOHN 2:27 THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS AND GUIDES THEM IN THE TRUTH HE IS GREATER THAN THE SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST WHO ARE FROM THE WORLD AND THEY SPEAK AS FROM THE WORLD AND THE WORLD LISTENS TO THEM 1JOHN 2:15-21**

**IN VERSE 6 WE HAVE THE PROFESSION OF THE DIVINE LAW JOHN SAYS WE ARE FROM GOD THEY ARE TRUE PROPHETS AND THOSE WHO LISTEN TO THE TRUE PROPHETS KNOW GOD BUT HE WHO IS NOT FROM GOD DOES NOT LISTEN TO THE TRUTH BEING TAUGHT BY GOD'S PROPHETS JOHN 10:4-5 HIS SHEEP HEAR HIS VOICE AN THOSE WHO ARE NOT HIS SHEEP LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF STRANGERS**

**WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE PROPHETIC WORD 2PETER 1:19 IT IS MORE SURE THAN HUMAN EXPERIENCES IT ENDURES FOREVER 1PETER 1:25 IT IS TRUSTWORTHY MATT 5:18 IT IS UNCHANGING AND ETERNAL MATT 24:35 IT IS THE STANDARD OF TRUTH JOHN 17:17**

**GOD'S WORD IS THE STANDARD AND BY THAT STANDARD WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT JOHN 14:17 BELIEVERS WILL KNOW THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR**

**ACTS 17:11 WE EXAMINE THE SCRIPTURES DAILY EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS HIS WORD BEING A LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH AND A LAMP UNTO OUR FEET**