

The Need for Discernment – I John 4:1-6

1. Do NOT believe every spirit (4:1).

2. We can discern the Spirit of God from deceptive spirits by considering what is being said about Jesus (4:2-3).

3. The Holy Spirit who is alive in us is greater than the deceptive spirits of the world (4:4).

4. The Holy Spirit leads us to listen to the apostolic message preserved for us in scripture (4:5-6).

Questions for Discussion & Application:

1. What was difficult, helpful, or challenging from this study of God's Word?
2. What does John mean by his instruction to "NOT believe every spirit"?

3. This teaches us that not every message that claims to be from God (even if somehow supernatural) is necessarily from the Lord. How have you needed to be spiritually discerning in your own life?
4. What helped you to be discerning?
5. What does the Holy Spirit lead us to believe about Jesus?
6. What modern-day false teachers or religious groups deny the truth about Jesus?
7. Why is it a comfort to know that the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us is greater than the deceptive and demonic spirits in the world?
8. How has the Holy Spirit helped you to listen to and understand the scripture and to reject false teaching?
9. What might a Christian be tempted to believe over and above scripture?
10. What does a person who consistently resists sound doctrine and clear Biblical teaching shows themselves to be?