

# Test 5: Testing the Spirits of False Teachers

## 1 John 04:01–06

### 1 *Test the spirits of teachers*

- a. Make sure they are born of God
- b. Because there are many false teachers

### 2 *Test the confession of teachers*

- a. The true spirit acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
- b. The false spirit does not acknowledge Jesus

### 3 *Test yourselves*

- a. Are you born of God?
- b. Have you overcome false teachers?

### 4 *Test the followers of teachers*

- a. False teachers are followed by worldly people
- b. True teachers are followed by people who know God

1 Dear friends,  
do not believe every spirit,  
but test the spirits  
to see whether they are from God,  
because many false prophets  
have gone out into the world.

2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God:  
Every spirit that acknowledges  
that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh  
is from God,

3 But every spirit  
that does not acknowledge Jesus  
is not from God.  
This is the spirit of the antichrist,  
which you have heard is coming  
and even now is already in the world.

4 You, dear children,  
are from God  
and have overcome them,  
because the one who is in you is greater  
than the one who is in the world.

5 They are from the world  
and therefore  
speak from the viewpoint of the world,  
and the world listens to them.

6 We are from God,  
and whoever knows God listens to us;  
but whoever is not from God  
does not listen to us.  
This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth  
and the spirit of falsehood.