

CERTAIN ETERNITY



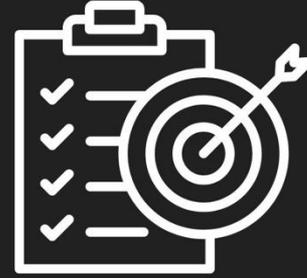
THE LETTER OF FIRST JOHN



GOAL 1:

Know and Live
A Certain Eternity

(Over 30 evidences of a transformed heart!)



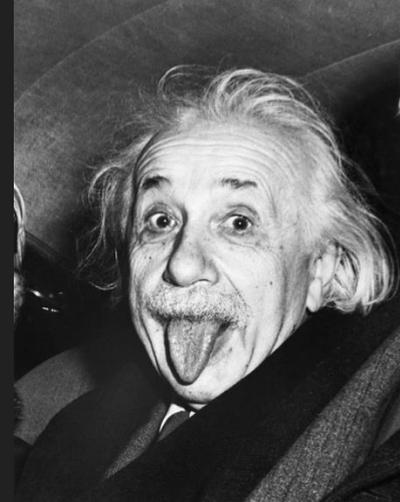
GOAL 2:

Know and Live
Yahweh's Kingdom
versus
the kingdom of the
world



GOAL 3:

Know and Live
Good Theology



Testing the Spirits

"1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

1 John 4:1-6



“The main connection between this chapter and the preceding one is that chapter three shows the necessity of proving our relationship to God by our actions; the beginning of chapter four continues the theme, but puts it another way, namely, that **confession of truth** attests the fact of relationship to God. The immediate connection between the two chapters lies in the mention of the Spirit of God.”

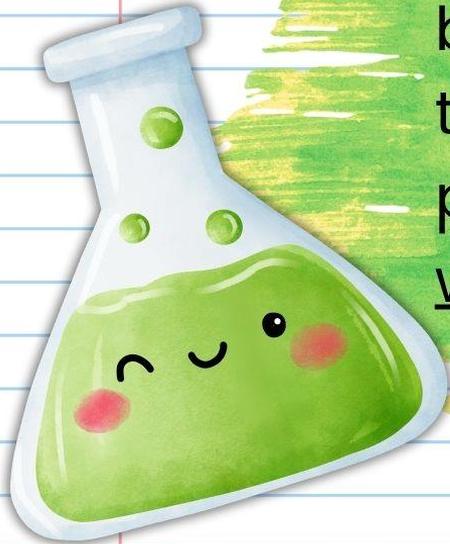
--W.E. Vine



Caution!

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."

--1 John 4:1



“Every Christian is also called to be an unbeliever. There is a time when unbelief is the right thing and the only right thing. The very same Scriptures which encourage us to believe likewise urge us not to believe. In fact, they not only urge us, they command us not to believe. This is no contradiction, any more than to say that in order to live it is necessary both to inhale and to exhale. These are contradictory things: You cannot inhale and exhale at the same time, but both are absolutely necessary to maintaining life. You cannot inhale unless you exhale, and you cannot exhale unless you have inhaled. It is the same with this matter of belief and unbelief. You cannot believe truth without rejecting error. You cannot love righteousness unless you are ready to hate sin. You cannot accept Christ without rejecting self. “If any man come after me,” Jesus says, “let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34). You cannot follow good unless you are ready to flee from evil. So it is not surprising, therefore, that the Scriptures tell us we are not to believe, as well as to believe.”

--Ray Stedman



Caution!

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

-- Ephesians 6:11-12

"The false teachers rise up within the church and present a system that subtly presents something instead of Jesus Christ. The false teacher may use the same label, "Jesus Christ," but he will not be the same Jesus that is presented in the Bible. If a gullible person takes the bait, he is led farther away until finally he is in total opposition to Christ. These false teachers, whom John labels antichrists, did not carry pitchforks and wear red suits with horns and a tail, or T-shirts saying, "Warning: I am an antichrist!" Rather, they arose in the churches. Some of them may have been elders or pastors, who for a while had taught the truth. Paul warned the Ephesian elders, "from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them" (Acts 20:30). Now these men were leaving the churches to form new groups, saying, "We have come into a deeper knowledge of the truth. Follow us and we'll let you in on this secret knowledge." False teachers invariably adopt Christian terminology and posture themselves as being Christians, but they are not. They usually begin within the church (1Jn 2:19) and at first, their teaching is orthodox. They often have attractive personalities and they build a following of people who seem to be helped by their teaching. But, eventually, they begin subtly to veer from the truth."

--Steven Cole

Caution!

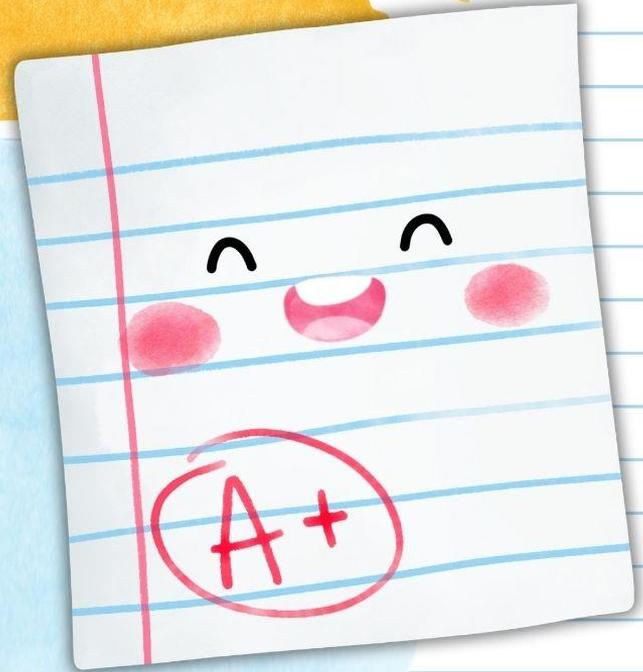
“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits...”
--Matthew 7:15-16



Challenge!

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test (dokimazō) the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

--1 John 4:1



Confession

homologeō



Christ's Person and Work v.2

"By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God"

Christ's Lordship v.3

"and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."

Confession of Fact

James 2:19 "...even the demons believe – and shudder"

Mark 1:24 ""What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.""

Mark 3:11 "And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God.""

Mark 5:7 "And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me."

Confession of Lordship

Romans 10:9–10 "9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

1 Corinthians 12:3 "...no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 10:32–33 "32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."



How to Try the Spirits A.W. Tozer's 7 Point Test



- 1** How does the teaching affect my relationship with God? Is He magnified and glorified, or diminished?
- 2** How does the teaching affect my attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ? Does it magnify Him and give Him first place? Or, does it subtly shift my focus onto myself or some experience?
- 3** How does the teaching affect my attitude toward Scripture? Did the teaching come from and agree with the Word? Does it increase my love for the Word?
- 4** How does the teaching affect my self-life? Does it feed self or crucify it? Does it feed pride or humility?
- 5** How does the teaching affect my relationships to other Christians? Does it cause me to withdraw, find fault, and exalt myself in superiority? Or, does it lead me to genuine love for all that truly know Christ?
- 6** How does the teaching affect my relationship to the world system? Does it lead me to pursue the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life? Does it lead me to pursue worldly riches, reputation, and pleasures? Or, does it crucify the world to me?
- 7** How does the teaching affect my attitude toward sin? Does it cause me to tolerate sin in my life or to turn from it and grow in holiness? Any teaching that makes holiness more acceptable and sin more intolerable is genuine.