

## **1 John 4.1-6** (English Standard Version)

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> 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.

### SERMON NOTES FOR **“How to Recognize God’s Voice”** TUNED IN

1 John 4.1 — 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. (ESV)

#### **From God?**

Job 33.14 — For God does speak — now one way, now another — though man may not perceive it. (NIV)

#### **From myself?**

Proverbs 14:12 — There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. (ESV)

#### **From Satan?**

2 Corinthians 11.14 — Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (NIV)

## HOW TO TEST AND IMPRESSION OR LEADING

**Ask...**

### **1. Does it agree with \_\_\_\_\_?**

1 John 4.2-3 — By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. (ESV)

Acts 17.10-11 — As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea.... Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (NIV)

Hebrews 4.12— For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (NIV)

Galatians 1.8 — But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! (NIV)

**Ask...**

### **2. Does it make me more \_\_\_\_\_?**

Romans 8.29 — For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son.(NLT)

Philippians 2.5 — In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. (NCV)

James 3.14-15 — But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. (NIV)

James 3.17 — But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. (NIV)

Ask...

**3. Is it consistent with how \_\_\_\_\_?**

Ephesians 2:10 — For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

Romans 12:6-8 — We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (TNIV)

Ask...

**4. Does my church family \_\_\_\_\_?**

Ephesians 3:10 — God's intent is that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known.(NIV)

1 Corinthians 14:29 — Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. (NLT)

Proverbs 11:9 — You can be ruined by the talk of godless people, but the wisdom of the righteous can save you. (GNT)

Ask...

**5. Is it CONVICTING rather than CONDEMNING?**

John 16:8-9 — When the Holy Spirit comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me. (NIV)

John 3:17 — For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (NIV)

1 Peter 5:8 — Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (ESV)

Revelation 12:10 — Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: "The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come. The accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accused them day and night before our God, has been thrown down." (NCV)

**Ask...**

**6. Do I sense \_\_\_\_\_ about it?**

John 14.27 — Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (ESV)

Colossians 3.15 — Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (NIV)