

Maximum Joy: Cheap Imitations

May 23-24, 2015

1 John 4:2 (All Verses from New International Version 1984)

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

INTRODUCTION: Who is Jesus?

The Real Spirit Empowers Life

- 1 John 4:1 *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.*

Spirit-Empowered Witness: Know who Jesus is and know the difference Jesus makes.

- 1 John 4:2-3 *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.*

- John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Spirit-Empowered Community: Jesus brings people together to do life with God at the center.

- 1 John 4:4 *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.*

Spirit-Empowered Truth: Jesus is the source of truth and life.

- 1 John 4:5-6 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.*

CONCLUSION: The Original Gospel Truth.

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.



Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get each day's GPS downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link clcm-gps.com or subscribing through **Feedly.com** (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

Monday: Read *1 John 4:1*. John places great importance on recognizing the Spirit of God. How do you determine what is “garbage” and what isn't? Where is the danger of garbage getting in your soul? Where are you putting God's grace in your soul?

Tuesday: Read *1 John 4:2*. How does John tell us to determine whether a spirit comes from God? Why is that important still today? (See *John 1:14*)

Wednesday: Read *1 John 4:3*. Why is the spirit of the antichrist against Christ? John says such a spirit is active in our world. Where do you see such an antichrist spirit at work? How are you working for Christ? What impact is that making in your life and others? How does that lead you to pray for Christ to be at work through your life today?

Thursday: Read *1 John 4:4*. John says in the “southern paraphrase” of this verse “***the One who is in you all is greater than the one in the world***”? Why is being in community so vital to battling with the one who would pull us away from God and such a part of the One who builds us in our faith? As you look at your faith community of “you all” where are you connecting with other believers to develop adult faith relationships that prepare you for life’s battles?

Friday: Read *1 John 4:5*. Why are false teachers so popular? Where do you find yourself needing to be on guard against the voice of the world guiding your life? How is building on knowing who Jesus is providing a truth perspective for your life?

Saturday: Read *1 John 4:6*. Use John’s framework of the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of falsehood to evaluate the influences in your life. Where should you exercise concern about the influence of what is false? Where should you expect to experience growth from the Spirit’s power in what is true?

Books:

Podcasts:

TV shows:

Friends:

Music:

Movies: