

1 John 4

Chapter 4 of 5 · 21 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Test the Spirits

¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

⁵ They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

⁶ We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

⁹ In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Confess — ὁμολογέω (Homologeō)

To confess, acknowledge, agree

The Greek **homologeō** (ὁμολογέω) means to say the same thing—agreeing with God about sin or truth. 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins' (1 John 1:9).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Judgment — κρίσις (Krisis)

Judgment, decision

The Greek **krisis** (κρίσις) denotes judgment—evaluation and sentence. All will stand before God's judgment seat (Romans 14:10), and Christ has been appointed Judge of the living and dead (Acts 10:42).

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Propitiation — ἱλασμός (Hilasmos)

Propitiation, atoning sacrifice

The Greek **hilasmos** (ἱλασμός) means propitiation—a sacrifice that satisfies God's wrath against sin. Christ 'is the propitiation for our sins; and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world' (1 John 2:2).

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

Truth — ἀλήθεια (Aletheia)

Truth, reality

The Greek **aletheia** (ἀλήθεια) denotes truth or reality—that which corresponds to actuality. Jesus declared, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6), embodying ultimate reality.

CROSS REFERENCES

1 John 4:1 **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:18; Luke 12:57; Acts 20:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Timothy 3:13; 2 John 1:7. **Prophecy:** 1 Corinthians 14:29; 2 Peter 2:1. **Faith:** Proverbs 14:15; 1 Timothy 4:1

1 John 4:2

Spirit: 1 John 4:3; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 Timothy 3:16. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:23; John 1:14.

References Jesus: 1 John 5:1

1 John 4:3 **References Jesus:** 1 John 2:22; 2 John 1:7. **References Christ:** 1 John 2:18

1 John 4:4

References God: 1 John 4:16; 5:4; 5:19; Romans 8:31; 1 Corinthians 2:12. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 4:13; Romans 8:37; Ephesians 3:17; 6:10; Revelation 12:11

1 John 4:5 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 17:4; Jeremiah 5:31; 29:8; Micah 2:11; John 3:31; 8:23; 17:14; 17:16; 2 Timothy 4:3; Revelation 12:9

1 John 4:6

Spirit: 1 John 4:1; Isaiah 29:10; Micah 3:8; John 14:17; 15:26; 1 Corinthians 14:37. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 8:20; John 10:27. **References God:** 1 John 4:4. **Truth:** John 18:37

1 John 4:7 **Love:** 1 John 2:10; 4:8; 4:12; Deuteronomy 30:6; Galatians 5:22; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Peter 1:22. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:29. **References God:** John 17:3; 2 Corinthians 4:6

1 John 4:8

Love: 1 John 4:7; 4:16; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 2:4. **References God:** 1 John 1:5; Psalms 86:15. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:9; 3:6; Psalms 86:5

1 John 4:9 **Love:** 1 John 3:16; 4:10; John 3:16. **References God:** 1 John 5:11; John 3:18. **Parallel theme:** John 6:51; 6:57; 10:10; Romans 8:32; Hebrews 1:5

1 John 4:10

Sin: 1 John 2:2; Daniel 9:24; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18. **Love:** 1 John 3:1; 4:19; John 3:16. **Parallel theme:** John 15:16

1 John 4:11 **Parallel theme:** Luke 10:37; Colossians 3:13. **Love:** 1 John 3:23; John 13:34

1 John 4:12 **References God:** 1 John 4:6; Genesis 32:30; John 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17. **Love:** 1 John 2:5; 4:20. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 3:24; Exodus 33:20; Numbers 12:8; 1 Timothy 6:16

1 John 4:13 **Spirit:** 1 John 3:24; 1 Corinthians 2:12

1 John 4:14 **Parallel theme:** 1 John 4:10; John 1:14; 1:29; 3:34; Acts 18:5. **Salvation:** John 4:42; 12:47. **Witness:** 1 John 5:9; John 5:39; 1 Peter 5:12

1 John 4:15

References Jesus: 1 John 4:2; 5:1; 5:5; Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:11; 2 John 1:7. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 3:24; Matthew 10:32. **References God:** 1 John 4:12; Luke 12:8

1 John 4:16 **Parallel theme:** 1 John 3:24. **Love:** 1 John 3:1; 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:9. **Faith:** Psalms 31:19; John 6:69. **References God:** Isaiah 64:4

1 John 4:17 **Love:** 1 John 2:5; 3:1; 4:12. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:28; 3:3; Matthew 10:25; John 15:20; Romans 8:29. **Judgment:** 2 Peter 3:7. **Creation:** James 2:22

1 John 4:18 **Love:** 1 John 4:12; 2 Timothy 1:7. **Parallel theme:** Job 15:21; Psalms 73:19; 119:120; Romans 8:15; Hebrews 12:28; James 2:19

1 John 4:19 **Love:** 1 John 4:10; Luke 7:47; John 3:16; Galatians 5:22. **Parallel theme:** John 15:16

1 John 4:20 **Love:** 1 John 3:17; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:8. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 1:6; 2:4; 2:9; 2:11

1 John 4:21 **Love:** 1 John 3:11; 3:14; 3:23; Leviticus 19:18; John 15:12; Galatians 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 3:8; 4:8. **Parallel theme:** Luke 10:37

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