

# 1 John 4

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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### **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

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### Confess — ὁμολογέω (Homologeo)

To confess, acknowledge, agree

The Greek **homologeo** (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).

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### 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.

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### Propitiation — ιλασμός (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).

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## CROSS REFERENCES

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**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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