

1 John 3:10-24

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because 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 of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. ⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. *NKJV*

John the Apostle declares yet another powerful and succinct truth in 1 John 4:4 when he says, “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” **The Christian need not fear the confusing and convincing lies of the world with it’s schemes and religions.** God Himself testifies in the believer’s heart that as He is the source of Truth, the soul of the believer cannot be shaken.

The world is the spirit of the Anti-Christ. (v. 5) Already, in this world is an insidious philosophy and religion that is anti-Christ. What religion is it exactly? **John is careful to explain that it isn’t any one religion, but all religion that man devises that denies the person and work of Jesus Christ.**

God has given His presence through the Holy Spirit to each of His children to be able to discern through the alluring philosophies and religions of this world. John’s instruction includes the followers of Christ to have a template that they follow to know the veracity of the teachers whom they listen to.

The template includes these questions:

1. Do they confess that Jesus the Son of God, the Messiah, has come into this world in the flesh?
2. Do they confess that He alone is the Messiah?

3. Do they teach that God has come once into this world as fully God and fully man?
4. Do they teach that He accomplished the redemption of man through His work on earth in the flesh (both in the accomplishment of righteousness and the atonement for sin on the cross).

If the false teacher does not confess and teach these things of Christ they are not of Christ.

“ ‘We do not need another committee. We have too many already. What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all people, and to lift us out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man and be he god or devil, we will receive him.’—Paul Henri Spaak, the first president of the UN General Assembly, first president of the European Parliament, and onetime secretary general of NATO”

Source: *What in the World Is Going On?*, David Jeremiah

But, to the extent that a person believes on these truths, they are of God! (v. 4) That person is an “overcomer” because they have seen through the deceitful teachings of this world’s false religions. That One, God, Who is Greater than the World and every individual and combined elements of false

religions. He is the One Who has enabled you to overcome the lies of the world.

Because He is greater, He is everlasting. All of this world will soon pass, especially false religions. But the mark of distinction of those things which are of Christ is that they do not pass away with time.

- Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
- Mar 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.
- Luk 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.
- Jas 1:10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.
- 2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

God is and always will be the supreme being of which there is no equal. He is greater!

- Job 36:26 Behold, God *is great*, and we know *him* not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.
- Psa 36:6 Thy righteousness *is* like the great mountains; thy judgments *are* a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.
- Psa 47:2 For the LORD most high *is* terrible; *he is* a great King over all the earth.
- Psa 48:1 Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, *in* the mountain of his holiness.
- Psa 86:10 For thou *art* great, and doest wondrous things: thou *art* God alone.
- Psa 145:3 Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness *is* unsearchable.
- Psa 147:5 Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding *is* infinite.

Since God is Greater and the Spirit of God indwells the believer, there is no reason for doubt or fear when it comes to combating the world's (the false teacher's) doctrine—no matter how confident or successful the teaching appears to be! V. 4

The world will not endure the teaching of the Bible—this is evidence that the world and the Spirit of God are polar opposites. Vv. 5-6