

Be Wise and Mighty

1 John 4:1-6

Intro:

In our previous text, John had described how Christians can know that God lives in them. They can know this because the Holy Spirit bears witness to this (3:24). However, the problem lingers when those that are opposing your teaching are making this same claim. They were claiming that God's Spirit was speaking to them too. In fact, their "private revelations" from the Holy Spirit were leading to faulty doctrine and theology!

In today's text, John reveals the difference between God's Spirit and false spirits. He shares an answer with the recipients of this letter that help make it clear how to discern between those sharing the truth of the Gospel and those who do not...

Look Back:

High: What are you thankful for?

Low: What are you currently struggling with?

Who were you able to share your story/ God's story with this past week? What happened?

Vision: Read and remind group that they are to live out the Great Commandment (Mt. 22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

Pray: Ask God to help you to learn from Jesus' teachings, just as the disciples did!

Look Up:

Explore the text below by completing the following:

- Slowly and carefully read the text 2-3 times, reflecting on what is being said.
- Put a question mark beside words or phrases that are confusing to you.
- Underline the key thoughts that seem to be the main point(s) of the passage.

1 John 4:1-6 (NLT)

¹ *Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.*

² *This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.*

³ *But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.*

⁴ *But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people,*

because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

⁵ Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them.

⁶ But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

Discuss:

- What are some things we can learn about God/Jesus/His plan from this passage?
- What do we learn about people?

Look Forward:

- What does God want me to understand from these passages?
- What does God want me to do as a result of these passages?
- Who will I share my story or God's story with this week?

Prayer Time: