## First John 4:1-6

First John 4:1 – "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."

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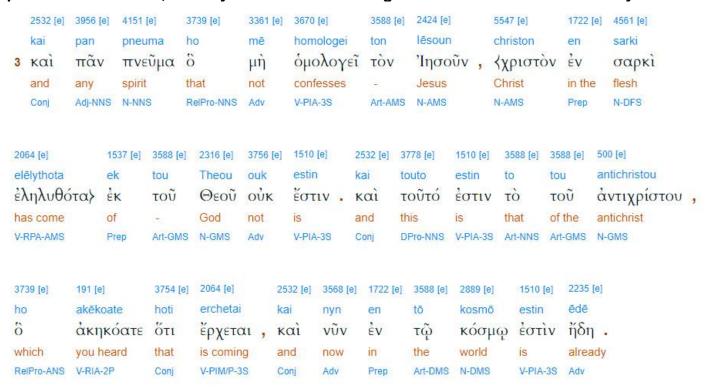
N-AMS

- 1. The two commands:
  - a. 3:23 believe in the name of God's Son Jesus Christ
  - b. 4:1 do NOT believe every spirit
- 2. True faith is not blind faith. True faith is placed in an object that has been tested.
- 3. "do not believe every spirit" is in the present tense which indicates the readers were tending to think uncritically and accept false teaching.
- 4. The secessionists also claimed to have the Spirit as John had told his readers in the previous verse they did.
- 5. If the person claims to have the Spirit of God the readers are to show discernment and test them.
- 6. Testing the spirits means to evaluate their utterances, their teaching or their doctrine.
- 7. There were already existing among the church MANY false prophets.
  - a. False prophets are convincing Matt. 24:24 and Rev. 13:13
  - b. False prophets appear genuine Matthew 7:15 wolves in sheep's clothing
  - c. False prophets lead people away Acts 20:28-30
  - d. False prophets introduce serious heresies 2 Peter 2:1
  - e. False prophets "have gone out into the world" to evangelize 1 John 4:1
  - f. False prophets find success in the world because they speak like the world 1 John 4:5
- 8. Test by:
  - a. Fruit Matthew 7:15-20
    - i. Righteousness 1 John 3:10
    - ii. Love 1 John 4:8
  - b. Doctrine 1 John 4:1-6
    - i. Deuteronomy 13:1-5
    - ii. Jeremiah 23:9-40 and 28 (Hananiah)
- 9. Similar command in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

First John 4:2 – "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God."

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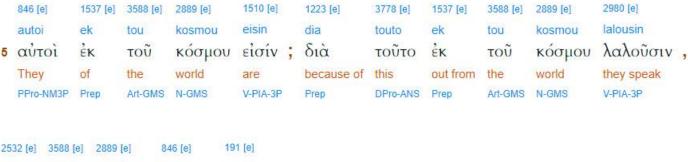
First John 4:3 – "and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."



First John 4:4 – "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

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## First John 4:5 – "They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them."



ho kai kosmos autōn akouei ó καὶ αὐτῶν ακούει . κόσμος and the world them listens to Conj Art-NMS N-NMS PPro-GM3P V-PIA-3S

First John 4:6 – "We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

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6	hēmeis ἡμεῖς	ek	tou	Theou Θεοῦ	esmen		ho			iöskön .νώσκων	ton TÒV		neon Dεὸν ,	akouei ἀκούει	hēmōn ἡμῶν
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37	39 [e]	3756 [e]	1510 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316	6 [e]		3756 [e	] 191 [e]	1473 [e]		1537 [e]	3778 [e]	1097 [e]
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he	who	not	is	of	-	Goo	d		not	listens to	us		Ву	this	we know
Re	IPro-NMS	Adv	V-PIA-3S	Prep	Art-GMS	N-G	MS		Adv	V-PIA-3S	PPro-G1F	9	Prep	DPro-GNS	V-PIA-1P

3588 [e] 4151 [e] 2532 [e] 3588 [e] 4151 [e] 3588 [e] 225 [e] 3588 [e] 4106 [e] planēs alētheias to to pneuma tēs kai pneuma tēs άληθείας καὶ πνεῦμα τῆς πλάνης. τò τò πνεῦμα τῆς spirit of truth the spirit of falsehood the and Art-ANS N-ANS Art-GFS N-GFS Conj Art-ANS N-ANS Art-GFS N-GFS