

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.”

27 [e]	3361 [e]	3956 [e]	4151 [e]	4100 [e]	235 [e]	1381 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]		
Agapētoi	mē	panti	pneumati	pisteuete	alla	dokimazete	ta	pneumata		
1 Ἀγαπητοί ,	μὴ	παντὶ	πνεύματι	πιστεύετε ,	ἀλλὰ	δοκιμάζετε	τὰ	πνεύματα ,		
Beloved	not	every	spirit	believe	but	test	the	spirits		
Adj-VMP	Adv	Adj-DNS	N-DNS	V-PMA-2P	Conj	V-PMA-2P	Art-ANP	N-ANP		

1487 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1510 [e]	3754 [e]	4183 [e]	5578 [e]	1831 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]
ei	ek	tou	Theou	estin	hoti	polloi	pseudoprophētai	exelēlythasin	eis	ton
εἰ	ἐκ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἐστίν ,	ὅτι	πολλοὶ	ψευδοπροφῆται	ἐξεληλύθασιν	εἰς	τὸν
whether	of	-	God	they are	because	many	false prophets	have gone out	into	the
Conj	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-3S	Conj	Adj-NMP	N-NMP	V-RIA-3P	Prep	Art-AMS

2889 [e]
kosmon
κόσμον .
world
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,”

1722 [e]	3778 [e]	1097 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	3956 [e]	4151 [e]	3739 [e]	3670 [e]	
En	toutō	ginōskete	to	Pneuma	tu	Theou	pan	pneuma	ho	homologeī	
2 Ἐν	τούτῳ	γινώσχετε	τὸ	Πνεῦμα	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	:	πᾶν	πνεῦμα	ὃ	ὁμολογεῖ
By	this	you know	the	Spirit	-	of God	every	spirit	that	confesses	
Prep	DPro-DNS	V-PIA-2P	Art-ANS	N-ANS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Adj-NNS	N-NNS	RelPro-NNS	V-PIA-3S	

2424 [e]	5547 [e]	1722 [e]	4561 [e]	2064 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1510 [e]		
Iēsoun	Christon	en	sarki	elēlythota	ek	tu	Theou	estin		
Ἰησοῦν	Χριστὸν	ἐν	σαρκὶ	ἐληλυθότα	,	ἐκ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἐστίν	;
Jesus	Christ	in	[the] flesh	having come	of	-	God	is		
N-AMS	N-AMS	Prep	N-DFS	V-RPA-AMS	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-3S		

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.”

2532 [e]	3956 [e]	4151 [e]	3739 [e]	3361 [e]	3670 [e]	3588 [e]	2424 [e]	5547 [e]	1722 [e]	4561 [e]	
kai	pan	pneuma	ho	mē	homologeī	ton	Iēsoun	christon	en	sarki	
3 καὶ	πᾶν	πνεῦμα	ὃ	μὴ	ὁμολογεῖ	τὸν	Ἰησοῦν	,	χριστὸν	ἐν	σαρκὶ
and	any	spirit	that	not	confesses	-	Jesus	Christ	in the	flesh	
Conj	Adj-NNS	N-NNS	RelPro-NNS	Adv	V-PIA-3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS	N-AMS	Prep	N-DFS	

2064 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	3756 [e]	1510 [e]	2532 [e]	3778 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	3588 [e]	500 [e]	
elēlythota	ek	tu	Theou	ouk	estin	kai	touto	estin	to	tu	antichristou	
ἐληλυθότα	ἐκ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	οὐκ	ἐστίν	.	καὶ	τοῦτό	ἐστίν	τὸ	τοῦ	ἀντιχριστοῦ
has come	of	-	God	not	is	and	this	is	that	of the	antichrist	
V-RPA-AMS	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Adv	V-PIA-3S	Conj	DPro-NNS	V-PIA-3S	Art-NNS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	

3739 [e]	191 [e]	3754 [e]	2064 [e]	2532 [e]	3568 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]	1510 [e]	2235 [e]	
ho	akēkoate	hoti	erchetai	kai	nyn	en	tō	kosmō	estin	ēdē	
ὃ	ἀκηκόατε	ὅτι	ἔρχεται	,	καὶ	νῦν	ἐν	τῷ	κόσμῳ	ἐστίν	ἤδη
which	you heard	that	is coming	and	now	in	the	world	is	already	
RelPro-ANS	V-RIA-2P	Conj	V-PIM/P-3S	Conj	Adv	Prep	Art-DMS	N-DMS	V-PIA-3S	Adv	

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.”

4771 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1510 [e]	5040 [e]	2532 [e]	3528 [e]	846 [e]	3754 [e]	3173 [e]
Hymeis	ek	tou	Theou	este	teknia	kai	nenikēkate	autous	hoti	meizōn
4 Ὑμεῖς	ἐκ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἐστε	, τεκνία	, καὶ	νενικήκατε	αὐτούς	, ὅτι	μείζων
You	of	-	God	are	little children	and	have overcome	them	because	greater
PPro-N2P	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-2P	N-VNP	Conj	V-RIA-2P	PPro-AM3P	Conj	Adj-NMS-C

1510 [e]	3588 [e]	1722 [e]	4771 [e]	2228 [e]	3588 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]
estin	ho	en	hymīn	ē	ho	en	tō	kosmō
ἐστὶν	ὁ	ἐν	ὑμῖν	, ἢ	ὁ	ἐν	τῷ	κόσμῳ .
is	he who [is]	in	you	than	he who [is]	in	the	world
V-PIA-3S	Art-NMS	Prep	PPro-D2P	Conj	Art-NMS	Prep	Art-DMS	N-DMS

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

846 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]	1510 [e]	1223 [e]	3778 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]	2980 [e]
autoi	ek	tou	kosmou	eisin	dia	touto	ek	tou	kosmou	lalousin
5 αὐτοὶ	ἐκ	τοῦ	κόσμου	εἰσὶν	; διὰ	τοῦτο	ἐκ	τοῦ	κόσμου	λαλοῦσιν
They	of	the	world	are	because of	this	out from	the	world	they speak
PPro-NM3P	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-3P	Prep	DPro-ANS	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-3P

2532 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]	846 [e]	191 [e]
kai	ho	kosmos	autōn	akouei
καὶ	ὁ	κόσμος	αὐτῶν	ἀκούει .
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.”

1473 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	1097 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	191 [e]	1473 [e]
hēmeis	ek	tou	Theou	esmen	ho	ginōskōn	ton	Theon	akouei	hēmōn
6 ἡμεῖς	ἐκ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἐσμεν	ὁ	γινώσκων	τὸν	Θεὸν	, ἀκούει	ἡμῶν
We	of	-	God	are	the [one]	knowing	-	God	listens to	us
PPro-N1P	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-1P	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Art-AMS	N-AMS	V-PIA-3S	PPro-G1P

3739 [e]	3756 [e]	1510 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	3756 [e]	191 [e]	1473 [e]	1537 [e]	3778 [e]	1097 [e]
hos	ouk	estin	ek	tou	Theou	ouk	akouei	hēmōn	ek	toutou	ginōskomen
ὃς	οὐκ	ἔστιν	ἐκ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	, οὐκ	ἀκούει	ἡμῶν	· ἐκ	τούτου	γινώσκομεν
he who	not	is	of	-	God	not	listens to	us	By	this	we know
RelPro-NMS	Adv	V-PIA-3S	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Adv	V-PIA-3S	PPro-G1P	Prep	DPro-GNS	V-PIA-1P

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