

Don't Believe Everything You Hear

Series – A Study of I John

– I John 4:1-6 –

1. Be Careful

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

– vs. 1

2. Be Discerning

A. THE “WORD–MADE–FLESH” TEST (vss. 2-3)

B. THE “WORD–MADE–SCRIPTURE” TEST (vss. 4-6)

Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. In verse 1, notice again what John tells us *not* to do. In what ways would you say Christians are most in danger of doing this?
3. How do we become critical thinkers (discerning) without becoming critical and argumentative? In other words, how do we identify error and deal with it truthfully, even while maintaining compassion for those who believe it?
4. Read verse 4 again. How is it affecting the way you think and what you will do this week? Share one example in your life where you are fully trusting this? Pray for one another!
5. How attracted to Scripture are you in comparison to TV shows, music, or “spiritual” teachers? Is it possible you are giving demonic spirits a greater platform than the Holy Spirit? What do you need to do to hear the voice of Jesus more (John 10:24-27)?

