

TESTING THE SPIRITS I JOHN 4:1

I Thessalonians 5:21 In this verse Paul is saying the same thing that John said, try or prove all things, whether they be from God or from the Devil.

II Corinthians 11:13-15 The reason for this and other admonitions in the bible is because there are many false prophets and teachers that work for Satan and deceive people with the spirit of antichrist.

Acts 17:10-11; I Cor. 2:12-13 The testing, or proving, is what the Bereans did when they heard the preaching of Paul. The bible alone is the perfect Word of God. The way to test the spirit of what you hear is to compare it with what the bible says about the teaching.

THE SPIRIT OF CONTENTION

Contention - (given to angry debate, quarrelsome, apt to provoke).

I Corinthians 11:16 Paul tells us that there is no room within the church for people who are constantly causing anger, hard feelings and quarrels.

Romans 8:15; Eph. 1:5 The church of Jesus Christ is a family. With any family there are disagreements, personality clashes, and different opinions that sometimes are hard to work out.

Acts 15:36-41 Even the Apostles were not always in total agreement as we see in the contention between Paul and Barnabas. Who knows for sure if this was God's will or a 'spirit of division'.

Galatians 5:15; James 4:1 Scripture is clear that God hates discord and fighting among His people.

THE SPIRIT OF STRIFE

Strife – (to argue with anger and hatred, to struggle for victory).

I Timothy 6:3-5 Paul shows that where strife is found there will also be envy, disputes, and pride. When people begin to mix pride and strife together in the church Paul tells us to withdraw from them.

I Corinthians 3:3 God is very clear in the scriptures that if a person or persons in the church is constantly causing strife it is an indication that they are carnal, baby Christians at best. Another important fact in this verse is this: where there is strife there is also envy and division.

Galatians 5:16-21 When we become involved with strife, envy and divisiveness we are telling the church people that we are carnal and walking in the old nature and are not right with God.

James 3:14-17 James writes that strife brings with it envying (resentful, jealous over someone else's possessions or qualities). James says this causes confusion and it is a 'spirit of evil'.

THE SPIRIT OF ACCUSING

Accusing - (the act of charging one with a crime or offense).

Revelation 12:10; Rm. 14:13 The 'spirit of accusing' comes from the great accuser himself, the Devil. The accusing spirit is always and antichrist spirit. It is the voice within that tells you that you are no good and your nor right with God. This 'accusing spirit' can also come from people we know.

II Timothy 3:1-3; II Corinthians 11:13-15 The 'accusing spirit' will use family, friends, church people and others to bring up past or current failures to bring about shame, unworthiness, doubts, a critical spirit, hopelessness, guilt and resentment toward others.

I Cor. 6:11; I Jn. 1:9 The 'accusing spirit' wants you to write off your faith and wants to wear you down spiritually. This 'evil spirit' wants you to forget about what God has done for you through Jesus Christ. This 'evil spirit' always points to you failures and not to the promises of God. It speaks of condemnation where God says “there is therefore now no condemnation...” (**Rm. 8:1**). It speaks of failure when God says “...we are more than conquerors...”(**Rm. 8:33-37**).