

How to know if it's God  
1 John 4:1-6 - Part 5  
08/22/2022

- How to know if it's God
- Listen to the Whispers

*Romans 1:16 (NIV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*

- Good News!
- Grace of God
- God loves you just as you are, not as you should be because you'll never be as you should be
- Loving Jesus and loving each other

*1 John 4:1-6 (ESV) 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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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. 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. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 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.*

How to know if it's God:

1st) You **TEST** it.

*1 John 4:1 (ESV) 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.*

- Test the message your hearing

John gives us a **COMMAND** to test.  
*but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,*

John then gives us a **REASON** to test.  
*for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

- Eat the fish and spit out the bones

*Acts 17:11 (NIV) Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

2nd) You **MEASURE** it.

*1 John 4:2 (ESV) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,*

- The standard of measurement is Jesus
- Does what you're hearing glorify Jesus?
- Does what you're hearing make you want to follow Jesus closer?
- People that were very much unlike Jesus really liked Jesus
- Jesus really liked the people that were very much unlike him

*1 John 1:17-18 (NIV) For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.*

- To make God known
- What God is like
- I measure what I'm hearing by how it affects my relationship with Jesus

3rd) You **TRUST** the Truth.

*1 John 4:4 (ESV) 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.*

4th) You get to **KNOW** Jesus personally.

*1 John 4:6 (ESV) 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.*

*1 John 4:1 (LB) "Don't believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God; test it first to see if it really is!"*

- I want us to be a group of Christ followers who diligently seek God and learn to hear his whispers
- As you navigate life you're going to need direction from God!

*Matthew 18:2-4 (NIV) "He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven"*

**How to test a personal impression:**

Does the idea/message line up with the **BIBLE**?

*Luke 21:33 (NIV) "Heaven and earth will pass away but My words will never pass away."*

- Unintentional thought
- Go rob a bank.... it's not God even if you plan on giving it to the church
- Help that person who is struggling, maybe give them a call or send a card

Does it smell like **JESUS**?

*Ph. 2:5 (NCV) "In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus."*

*Gal. 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

- Encouraging or Condemning

*Romans 8:1 (NLT) "There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."*

Do I have **AGREEMENT**?

*Rom.12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Col. 3:16 (ESV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Does it fit me **PERSONALLY**?

*Romans 12:6 (LB) "God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well."*

*Rom. 12:4-5 (NIV) For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

Is it my **BUSINESS**?

*John 21:22 (NIV) Jesus: "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow Me."*

Do I have **PEACE**?

*Col. 3:15 (NIV) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

*A. T. Pierson. "The peace of God is that eternal calm which lies far too deep down in the praying soul to be reached by any external disturbance."*