**Day 21 - Who Has Your Ear**

4:1-6

Before John can deal with perfect love, the main theme of this chapter, he must deal with the Gnostic’s false teaching that was in danger of deceiving his spiritual children. Read verses 1-6. Then read these verses again, answering the questions below.

1. What is the contrast in verse 1?

2. Why does John give this contrasting command? (v1)

3. According to verse 2, how can we know the Spirit of God?

4. How can we know the spirit that is not from God? (v2)

5. What do we learn about the spirit of Antichrist? (3) Did the recipients of the letter know it was coming? Where do they (and we) find the spirit of the Antichrist?

Note: This command is for us! “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God.”

6. Explain how you would test a spirit to see if it is of God.

7. According to what we have learned about Gnosticism, how is John refuting the Gnostics in verse 2?

Note: True prophecy and true teaching will present a true Jesus… the Jesus of the Bible, who is the God-man!

8. The false Christians of John’s day used two special words to describe their experience, “knowledge” and “unction”. They claimed to have a special unction (anointing) from God, which gave them a unique higher knowledge than other Christians. In chapter 2, John pointed out that all true Christians know God and have received the true anointing of God how?

9. In verse 4, what does John want the true child of God to know?

10. In verses 5 and 6, we have the contrast between those of the world and those who are of God. List what your learn about both. (Note: “us” is the apostles.)

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11. How do we discern those with the spirit of error from those with the spirit of truth?

**Application:** Do you know God’s Word well enough to be able to discern a false teacher? If not, what should you do about it?