

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

5.8.2022

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Try the Spirits

1 John 4: 1 – 4

The word of God teaches us, that as believers, we have been given the Holy Spirit as an assurance, to have confidence in knowing, that we have God within us. Therefore, our testimony is not only that God is in us but that he is also working through us. The Holy Spirit testifies to the reality of God in our lives so that we are not confessing Christ with our lips only, and God is not in it. No man can confess from the heart, that God has come in the flesh, and was crucified and resurrected, without the work of the Holy Spirit enabling it. Therefore, God helps us to recognize and understand the Holy Spirit in our life as we study and meditate upon his word. The work of the spirit in our life is to bring us into, and then keep us in the presence of Christ. The Holy Spirit does not only convict people to call upon the name of the Jesus Christ in faith believing, but also calls us into a specific work in God. In this, God is directing our footsteps and guiding our life according to his eternal purpose and plan. Therefore, instead of overlooking the Holy Spirit, we must take on the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, so that we may grow to have a better relationship with him.

John 6: 13,....when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak of himself....he will shew you things to come....

There is always much more for us to learn concerning Christ and his saving grace. For this reason, we have been given the spirit, to guide us into all truth, even some that have not yet been revealed. Our job is to listen to what the spirit says unto us through the word, so that we may not be deceived and misguided by the false wisdom and knowledge that is being presented in the world today, we must learn to try the spirits.

1 John 4: 1,....beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out in the world....

Why must we try the spirits? There are many false prophets, with false doctrines, who portray false teachings, that distort the gospel, and twist the truth of Gods word. This creates a confusion of two separate mindsets. The first being the divine spirit of truth which is given by God to all who will believe. The second being a false spirit of deception and deceit, introduced by Satan, through sinful worldliness.

Romans 8: 14 – 16,....as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God....ye have not received the spirit of bondage....but ye have received the spirit of adoption.....the spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God....

To often we do not claim what is ours by grace, through faith, and therefore we fall prey to worldly fear. This causes doubt and confusion in our spiritual life, which, if not confronted, can lead to falling prey to and following after one of these deceptive, but very persuasive spirits, so as not to believe every spirit that portrays itself to us.

How do we try the spirits? It must start through prayer and meditation in the word of God. When we fail to believe the truth of Gods word, then does worldly doubt begin to overcome our spiritual security, which will then lead to our inability to discern the spirits. How do we do this? We simply must ask God for the understanding to do so.

1 Kings 3: 5, 9 – 12,....the Lord appeared to Solomon....and God said, ask what I shall give thee....give therefore thy servant an understanding heart....that I may discern between good and bad....and God said....because thou hast asked this thing....I have given thee a wise and understanding heart....

Our prayer of understanding must start with the recognition of God as the supreme ruler of the universe. It is when we realize our own limitations that we are able to understand and discern the knowledge of God. Through Gods word which instructs us, and the Holy Spirit which guides us, are we able to mature in faith, and obey the one true spirit that indwells within us.

1 John 4: 2 – 3,....every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God....every spirit that confesseth not....is not of God....and even now already is it in the world....

The word speaks of two types of false teachers. Those who believe but distort and stay away from the truth of God's word. Then there are those who do not believe, but pretend to believe, with the intent to deliberately lead Christians astray from Gods word. This means that every person, including preachers, teachers, denominations, doctrines, and every spirit that does not acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ, through the cross, crucifixion and resurrection, proclaims a false gospel, and is therefore influenced by a spirit, other than the Holy Spirit of God. Christ is the word, that became flesh, to become the redeemer of the world, so therefore let us hold fast to the truth of Christ, and him crucified, and let us also confess it.

Acts 2: 38,....repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost....

There are many people who pride themselves on being the only ones to be true to God, when in fact they have wandered far from him, due to disobedience to his word, because of a lack of knowledge and understanding. Therefore, the word challenges all mankind to turn to God. This comes through faith believing in Christ and the cross, and also the Holy Spirit that is given to indwell within us.

Romans 8: 11,....if the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you....shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his spirit that dwelleth in you....

As Christians, we must come to learn the privileges we have when we learn to discover the amazing power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Therefore, the mindset of those walking in the truth of the spirit, know that by Gods grace, we have been made alive, through Christ, and live a life of spiritual peace. The Holy Spirit, who gave unto us spiritual life when we believed, is indwelling within us, and empowering our lives. Therefore, we must not become complacent concerning the spirit that is within.

1 John 4: 4,....ye are of God little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is within you, then he that is in the world....

Through salvation, we have moved from an earthly position in Adam, to a heavenly position in Christ. For this reason, we have been given the permanent gift of the Holy Spirit. The strength of the falseness of the world is great, but the power of the almighty God is greater. Therefore, we can be seen in the eyes of God as true believers who are those who have the ability to overcome the world with its false prophets, false doctrines, and deceptive spirits. Through the power and understanding of our salvation, and the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, are we able to try the spirits, and know whether they are of God.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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