

Listening Guide, Pastor Frank R. Johnson

*First John: Authentic Faith for Jesus' People*  
#9: Developing Discernment in Confused Times  
1 John 4:1-6

Take a closer look at 1 John 4:1-6.

**I. A call to discernment: “the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ and the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_” (1, 6b)**

1. The problem: “stop believing every \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. The solution: “\_\_\_\_\_ the spirits to determine if they are from God.”
3. The evidence: “many false \_\_\_\_\_ have gone out into the world.”

**II. The criteria for discernment (2-3, 5-6), aka, The \_\_\_\_\_ test**

1. Those from God:
  - a. They acknowledge that “Jesus Christ has come in the \_\_\_\_\_” (2).
  - b. They listen to apostolic \_\_\_\_\_ (6).
2. Those not from God:
  - a. They do not acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_ (3).
  - b. They “speak from the \_\_\_\_\_ and the world listens to them” (5).
3. Warning: beware the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_, who is already in the world (3).

**III. The power of discernment: we \_\_\_\_\_ because “greater is the One in [us] than the one in the world” (4).**

*The person who overcomes is the one who is “from God,” because that person has been spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ with the very Son of God, Jesus Christ.*

Take it home (final applications).