*1-6 Test the Spirits (they are of Christ or antichrist)*

(12) 1 Beloved, believe not every **spirit**, but test the **spirits** whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the **Spirit of God**: Every **spirit** that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every **spirit** that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of **antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and **even now already it is in the world**. 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have **overcome** **them:** because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the **world**. 5 **They** are of the **world**: therefore **they** speak of the **world**, and the **world** **hears them**. 6 We are of God: he that knows God **hears us**; he that is not of God **hears not us**. Hereby **know we** the **spirit** of **truth**, and the **spirit** of **error.**

Q – Are false prophets and false teachers interchangeable titles?
A – Yes, read 1 Corinthians 14:1 (prophesy), Ephesians 2:20 (old testament sense), and 2 Peter 2:1 (false teachers).

Note: Test the spirits as when King Jehosophat asked King Ahab to hear another prophet, Micaiah (1 Kings 22)

Overcome is used 7x in 1 John 2:12-14 (2x), 4:4, 5:4-5 (3x), to the 7 churches in Rev 2-3, and John 16:33. The word spirit is used 7x in 1 John 4:1-6.

Application: I know when I followed false teachers I had pride and experiences for a season. Although I and others were deceived by the web of lies mixed with the truth of the Holy Scriptures, God delivered me as Lot from Sodom.

 *7-21 Love is Perfected (with one another, “ love” is inspired 26x)*

(13)7 Beloved, let us **love one another**: for **love** is of God; and everyone **that loves is born of God**, and knows God. 8 He that **loves not** knows not God; for God is **love**. 9 In this was manifested the **love** of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 Herein is **love**, not that we **loved** God, but that He **loved us**, and sent His Son [to be] the **propitiation** for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so **loved** us, we ought also to **love one another**. 12 No man has seen God at any time. If we **love one another**, God **dwells** in us, and His **love** is **perfected** in us. 13 Hereby know we that we **dwell** in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of his **Spirit**. // John 15:1-5 // 14 And we have seen and do testify // 1 John 1:1-5a // that the Father sent the Son [to be] the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God **dwells** in him, and he in God. // John 15:1-5 // 16 And we have known and believed the **love** that God has to us. God is **love**; and he that **dwells** in **love** **dwells** in God, and God in him. // John 15:1-5 //

Q – What is propitiation?
A – When Jesus Christ took our place for the penalty of sin, which is death.

Note: Dwell is used 5x and instead of and after abide 13x. Both dwell and abide are the same in Greek. The translators use different words due to the context. Using dwell at this point in 1 John comes after abide used in chapters 2-3. Dwell is more familiar and loving. This reveals the insight and wisdom of the translators. Selecting the best word within the options and poetic style are two strengths of the KJV. Similar to the words unction and charity.

 *Judgment and Fear (future and present exhortation, Romans 12:6-8)*

(14) 17 Herein is our **love** made **perfect**, that we may have **boldness in the day of judgment**: because as He is, so are we in this **world**. 18 There is no **fear** in **love**; but **perfect love casts out fear**: because **fear** has torment. He that **fears is not made perfect in love**. 19 We **love** him, because He first **loved** us. 20 If anyone say, I **love** God, and **hates** his brother, he is a **liar**: for he that **loves** not his brother whom he has seen, how can he **love** God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him, That he who **loves** God **love** his brother also.

Note: Fear not is addressed 28x in the New Testament. My two favorites are 2 Timothy 1:7 “God has not given and Mathew 10:28 “Fear not them which kill the body . . .”

Perfect is to make complete, experientially complete in Christ (Col 2:10), be fully ripe as a fruit, to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14), and do things with excellence. Study the word perfect in the New Testament for the accurate definition of the word, used 43x.

Q – Is the day of judgment the same for all saints?
A1 – No, some will have boldness and some will have fear. Boldness and fear are opposites. We have boldness as we love God and our brother as Jesus does. We have fear when we do not love God and our brother as Jesus did.
A2 – There are degrees of boldness and fear which are evident in this life and at the judgment seat of Christ. Boldness is the opposite of fear. The day of judgment is when believers stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

QT hint: Daily time in Scripture and prayer help us love one another the same way as God and Jesus love us.