

Week 8 Study Guide - 1st John 3:23-4:6

Scripture

23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God] in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

1 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. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 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. 4 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. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 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.

Questions

Read 1st Corinthians 10:3-5. Where does spiritual war happen according to this text? (Answer 1 at the bottom)

C.S. Lewis said, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelief in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."

What do you think about that quote? Do you feel like you have an unhealthy or healthy view of the spiritual world?

What do you think John means when he says test every spirit?

What is the number one test to see if someone is a false prophet according to verses 2 and 3? (Answer 2 at the bottom) According to verse 6 what is another test? (Answer 3)

What do we have according to verse 4 to help us test the word of false prophets? Does that give you confidence? Why?

What are some spiritual wars that are going on in your mind?

Devotional

We have a two door car, which is horrible when you have a baby. It is so hard to get the carseat back there and get them strapped in properly. Last Sunday night my wife and I were leaving my parents house. Since she is almost 9 months pregnant it is easier for me to put my son in the back seat. I am carrying Bronson out to the car and can not fit into the back to strap my son in since I have my bookbag on. I take my bag off, set it on the ground, jump in and buckle him in. I get out of the back, jump into the driver's seat and back out of the driveway. As I am backing out run over a big bump. Immediately I know what it was, my book bag. I get out of the car, open my book bag to grab my laptop out. My screen had been completely cracked and broken! I am super upset. For some reason I want to blame my wife. I start thinking things like if my wife was not almost 9 months pregnant she could have buckled him or if she did not have so much stuff in the trunk I would have been able to fit my bookbag in the trunk! Was any of this her fault, of course not, but I wanted to make it her fault.

We often think that spiritual war is a battle that happens between demons and angels, and to some extent it is. But it is much more a war that happens in our mind. My sinful nature wanted to use my anger to sin against my wife. I am not sure how demonic forces play into that. I am sure they do, but the Bible is not clear on how. What I do know is that in that moment there was a spiritual war in my head between loving my wife and disrespecting my wife. We are all constantly fighting a spiritual war in our mind. Our actions show whether we win or lose that war. There is a spiritual war going on over your family, jobs, and relationships right now. How we win this war is by allowing the spirit to help us make the right choices. Satan wants to destroy our family, jobs, and life, but Jesus wants us to have life to the full. When you are in the middle of a war run to Jesus.

Think - What spiritual wars have I battled this week?

Pray - Pray for strength during your spiritual wars. Pray also God will give you eyes to see the spiritual war around you.

Do - Take a moment each day this week to remember the Gospel. It is by remembering what Jesus has done for us that we are able to combat against our sin in spiritual war. By remembering our relationship with Jesus, we give more room for the Spirit to fight on our behalf.

Answers

1. Spiritual war happens in our mind.
2. If they believe that Jesus was the God man who died for our sins.
3. If they believe the words and teachings of the Apostles.