



I. Influence & Control

II. The Need For Discernment

1st John 4:1-6

v. 1

Healthy Skepticism

v. 2-3

The Standard

v. 4-6

Victory & Security

III. Grounded In The Truth

Personal Reflection

Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:

You are under a tremendous amount of pressure to distinguish between truth & lies. Forces seen & unseen are vying for your attention, energy & allegiance. The angelic messengers of God & the demonic forces which oppose Him are committed to the war of influence over the human race.

The spirit of Truth & the spirit of error (lies) are in constant contention & are sometimes difficult to differentiate between. Because of this, every truth claim you encounter should be tested. Christian faith is not about spiritual gullibility or blind allegiance—it is a willful response to the evidence revealed by God & confirmed in the life changes brought about by the Holy Spirit. You need the hope, renewal & security that God offers through the Lord Jesus Christ. You also need to be on guard against deception & lies that are presented as truth.

The solution to this problem is Holy Spirit empowered discernment which enables you to identify between the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Are you aware of the war that rages around you? Are you prayerfully, thoughtfully & biblically equipped to engage in the battle & take a stand for truth? Are you secure in your convictions or has your trust been a casualty in the conflict between righteousness & rebellion against God?

Prayerfully express your thankfulness to God that His Spirit is at work through His Church. Take a moment to reflect on the times He has delivered you from error & restored you through His mercy & grace. Thank Him for believing in you & loving you with an everlasting love. Be encouraged that God's victory over the spirit of error is imminent & certain. Commit to seek out your place in His plan & to serve Him with all your devotion until your death or the day of the Lord's return.