

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

Have you tried the Spirit?

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 into the world.*

As believers we must be constantly aware that there is a spiritual realm that directly affects the natural realm. Since we operate in the natural realm, it is not a stretch even for the most mature believer to begin to justify and evaluate things only from a natural standpoint. We have to train ourselves to look at everything from a spiritual standpoint first, lest we be deceived by falsehood. We must evaluate everything, whether it is a prophet, friend, spouse, business partner or even people in the church. God gave us His Spirit to keep us from being deceived. We must rely on the Holy Spirit and not forget to utilize His help in this area of our lives.

In this text the Apostle John reminds us to evaluate things by the Spirit of the Lord who was given to us by Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the standard of measurement we must use to distinguish truth from error. Examine your relationships. Some have already passed the test, others have failed, and still others are still being examined. Train yourself to try every spirit by the internal Spirit of God that lives in you. The Spirit of God will always look beyond what you can see with your natural eyes. Time is a revealer and if you wait long enough, all things will reveal its true nature. God will spare us from unnecessary grief and drama if we listen to Him. We must be careful not to be yoked together with the spirit of error that's not of God. God doesn't necessarily want you to shun people that have the spirit of error. He may want you to minister to them and lead them into truth. He does however want you to recognize the spirit and not be deceived by it.

We are admonished to try every spirit. The word try in the text is the Greek word dokimazo. It means to test, examine, prove, and scrutinize to determine whether a thing is genuine. This is an interesting word because it is derived from the word dokimos. This word was used to authenticate coins and money. During biblical times coins would often be melted down and recast. Unscrupulous people who did not have integrity would melt down the coins and not add the proper weight and still attempt to trade the coins for the full value. The men who had integrity refused to trade or accept any currency that did not reflect the accurate weight and value. These men of integrity were called Dokimos. They were approved and if you went to them, you were assured of not being deceived or cheated when you did business with them. They were tried and had proven that they were true. This is the reason Paul wrote to Timothy and told him to study to show himself "approved" a workman that needed not to be ashamed. God's spirit has been given to us and helps us to test the spirit of people who may look, speak and appear to be authentic. It is only by trying the spirit by the Spirit are we able to know whether they are of God. Thank God for the safeguards He has provided us as we travel down the road to victory. Prove all things and make it a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill