

1 John

Chapter Four

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter 4

SUMMARY: Verses 1-21

In this chapter John discusses the power of the Satan's kingdom at work, the presence of God's Spirit in our life vs. the spirit at work in the world. One sure way to recognize a spirit of falsehood vs. truth is through listening to truth and walking in love.

1. There is more at work in this world than God's kingdom. The kingdom of Satan is at work. Satan is not alone in his dealings on this earth. He has spirits that work with him and he works through humans via those same spirits.
2. Those evil spirits attempt to overcome God's kingdom and His people through deception, false teaching, denying Jesus is God in the flesh, and primarily work through false preaching and teaching.
3. Evil spirits can never overcome God's faithful saints. The way we overcome is to realize the God lives IN US. You can never overcome Satan's lies and deception if God is only a religious belief system. Christianity is a relationship. God is IN YOU and wants to work THROUGH YOU.
4. A test of true discipleship is to listen to those who are sent to you from God. Truth can come but it pays to know the life of those to whom you submit.
5. Since God lives in us LOVE should be the natural outflow of our lives because GOD IS LOVE. The love God has for us is made clear to us through the death of Jesus Christ. The manner in which God lives in you is to acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God. There is NO OTHER way for God to live in you.
6. Because of God's love first given to you, you do not have to fear God. But love isn't just ONE SIDED. Love is complete when God's lives in me and I live in Him. Our lives out to characterize His love as we live in this world.
7. You cannot love God and hate at the same time.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out the most to you? Why?
2. If John makes it so clear that evil and suffering come from Satan's kingdom, why do Christians blame so much on God?
3. How would you describe the spirit of antichrist working in the world? Do you see it working at present?
4. Have you ever come across a false teaching about Jesus, bible, or God? How do you handle things when you realize it may be in error?
5. Why is identifying false teaching so important?
6. How do you think the world's ways try to overcome God's people?
7. Why do you think John said, "whoever knows God listens to us"? (vs.6) Why would listening be a sign you know God.
8. How does the death of Christ for you compel you to show love to others?

APPLICATION

1. Can you identify any circumstances in your life that may be a result of evil spirits at work?
2. How do you know God is IN YOU? Make a list what takes place when God lives in you.
3. Have you ever found yourself being stubborn, not wanting to listen? What could you do to better listen to God's voice?
4. How do you handle correction when there may be error in your own life?
5. How would you explain this phrase, "God's love isn't one sided"?

