



# LOVE SO AMAZING

*"The Majesty of God's So Amazing Love"*

2022 THEME

1 Jn. 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.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth 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 is it 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.

Last week, we began a mini-series regarding “*The Majesty of God’s So Amazing Love*,” as found in chapter four of John’s First Epistle. The presentation of God’s love in this chapter is truly “so amazing.” Before going to the verses about His love, we observed the spiritual opposition that will be encountered. We began by considering “A SERIOUS WARNING TO CONSIDER” in 1 Jn. 4:1-6.

## I. A SERIOUS WARNING TO CONSIDER, 4:1-6

### A. The Wicked Spirit, 4:1-4

#### 1. The Sobering Word, 4:1

a. The Requirement, 4:1a “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God...”

b. The Reason, 4:1b “...because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

We considered that the Lord Jesus said in Mt. 7:21-23, that not all claiming to serve Him were actually known by Him, “...because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

This morning, we will continue looking at “*The Majesty of God’s So Amazing Love*.” We have been warned about the spiritual warfare and commanded to “...try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” The key to trying the spirits is to follow “the Soundest Wisdom” that is found in 1 Jn. 4:2-3.

## 2. The Soundest Wisdom, 4:2-3

### a. What is to be Demanded by Way of Confession, 4:2

1 Jn. 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

- ❖ During the Apostolic Age, believers were persecuted and in the midst of spiritual warfare.
- ❖ Consider the good example of the church at Berea:

Acts 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were **more noble** than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

❖ We “know the spirit of God” by knowing the Book that He inspired:

2 Tim. 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Psa. 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. ...

130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

❖ We “know the spirit of God” by “comparing spiritual things with spiritual...because they are spiritually discerned.”

1 Cor. 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, **because they are spiritually discerned.**

b. What is to be Disclosed by Way of Confession, 4:3

(1) What the Deceiving Spirit is Not,  
4:3a “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God:



❖ The doctrine of the Incarnation is implied here:

Jn. 1:14 And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us**, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

❖ One of the most important verses regarding the Incarnation is found in 1 Tim. 3:16:

## King James Bible

1 Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

## New International Version

Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: **He appeared in the flesh**, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

## English Standard Version

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: **He was manifested in the flesh**, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

## New American Standard Bible

Beyond question, great is the mystery of godliness: **He who was revealed in the flesh**, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

## Holman Christian Standard Bible

And most certainly, the mystery of godliness is great: **He was manifested in the flesh**, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

## Douay-Rheims Bible

And evidently great is the mystery of godliness, **which was manifested in the flesh**, was justified in the spirit, appeared unto angels, hath been preached unto the Gentiles, is believed in the world, is taken up in glory.

## New American Bible

Undeniably great is the mystery of devotion, **Who was manifested in the flesh**, vindicated in the spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed to the Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

## New World Translation

<sup>16</sup> Indeed, the sacred secret of this godly devotion is admittedly great: ‘**He was made manifest in flesh**, was declared righteous in spirit, appeared to angels, was preached about among nations, was believed upon in the world, was received up in glory.’

- ❖ There is NO manuscript evidence for “He;” there are 8 pieces of manuscript which have “who.” There are at least 300 manuscripts that have “Theos.”

## (2) Why the Deceiving Spirit is Named, 4:3b-c

(a) The Spirit of Antichrist has been Predicted, 4:3b “...and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come...”

- ❖ “...that *spirit* of antichrist...” is not the antichrist himself, but a spirit which is associated with him and his influence upon the world.
- ❖ Recipients of this epistle were warned, and believers today must be warned, against spiritual attack.

(b) The Spirit of Antichrist is now Present, 4:3c “and even now already is it in the world.”

- ❖ Contemporary with the Apostolic Age and the Apostle John, and also active today, is the work of the spirit of antichrist that requires believers to stay diligent against the “wiles of the devil.”

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

- ❖ The weapons of our warfare enable believers to live victoriously.

2 Cor. 10:4 (For **the weapons of our warfare *are not carnal, but mighty through God*** to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

❖ Believers dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit overcome the wicked one.

3. The Spiritual Warfare, 4:4

- a. We Are Invincible in the Struggle, 4:4a  
“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them...”

❖ The Lord has promised us victory when we are facing the enemy:

Mt. 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

Rom. 8:37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**



- ❖ When believers are to “try the spirits,” they must rely upon the victorious relationship that accompanies sonship.
- ❖ Salvation is the origin of overcoming spiritual domination:

Rom. 6:17 But God be thanked, that **ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**

Col. 1:13 **Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,** and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Gal. 4:3 Even so we, **when we were children, were in bondage** under the elements of the world:

Gal. 5:1 **Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free**, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

b. We Are Indwelt by the Spirit, 4:4b  
“because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

❖ At the moment of salvation, believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit:

Rom. 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

17 That Christ may dwell in your **hearts by faith**; that ye, **being rooted and grounded in love,**

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And **to know the love of Christ**, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

## Summary

- ❖ The Holy Spirit indwells the believers and provides knowledge that produces confidence of spiritual truth, enabling believers to live a victorious life in Christ.
- ❖ The spiritual reality includes a warning about spiritual warfare, requiring believers to test or try the spirits that are confrontational.
- ❖ Believers need to remember that overcoming spiritual bondage began at salvation and “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”
- ❖ Believers need to be aware of the wiles of the devil in facing spiritual warfare, being dependent upon the Holy Spirit and His sword and fighting the fight of faith.

## Conclusion

Psa. 44:5 **Through thee will we push down our enemies:** through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us.

Psa. 60:11 Give us help from trouble: for vain *is* the help of man.

12 **Through God we shall do valiantly:** for **he** *it is that* shall tread down our enemies.

(Psa. 108:12-13)