



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.

5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Two weeks ago, 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.”

❖ Last week we considered the “Sound Wisdom” given to us in verse 2-3.

2. The Soundest Wisdom, 4:2-3

a. What is to be Demanded by Way of Confession,

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

(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:

(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...”

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

- ❖ We closed out the message by being encouraged of the fact that victorious living was dependent upon the Holy Spirit which dwells within believers.

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...”
- 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.

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, which is focusing upon the Incarnation. We are further encouraged by the fact of the Holy Spirit’s greatness over the “god of this world” which dwells within the believer (4:4.)

The next section enlightens believers about the difference between spirituality and worldliness. The false prophets and spirits have their source from “the world.”

B. The Worldly Spirit, 4:5-6

1. The Great Divide, 4:5-6a

a. Those With Secular Interests, 4:5

1 Jn. 4:5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

❖ There is a connection between the evil spirits and the world – “They are of the world...”

- ❖ The “god of this world” and his devils “speak...of the world” to promote heresy and confusion, as well as operating in conjunction to create spiritual warfare.
- ❖ The false spirit speaks from the world as a source for originality.
- ❖ The “god of this world” influences a wicked system that includes a worldly spirit and its consequential influence, and wicked interaction – “...they speak of the world, and the world heareth them.”
- ❖ Worldliness is an affront unto God.

Jas. 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

1 Jn. 2:15 **Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

- ❖ Unspiritual “Christians” act worldly and are accepted by “the world” because they are influenced by “the world.”
- ❖ Believers are to guard against conformity to worldly influences.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your* reasonable service.

2 And **be not conformed to this world**: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

CONFORM, *adjective* [Latin , form.] **Made to resemble; assuming the same form**; like; resembling. [*Little Used.*]

CONFORM, *verb transitive* [Latin , to form, or shape, form.]
To make like, in external appearance; to reduce to a like shape, or form, with something else; with to; as,
to *conform* any thing to a model.

More generally, **to reduce to a likeness or correspondence in manners, opinions or moral qualities.**

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son. Romans 8:29.

Be not conformed to this world. Romans 12:2.

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/conform>

Original Word: συσχηματίζω

Part of Speech: Verb – Present Imperative

Transliteration: suschématisó;

Definition: to conform to; **Usage:** I conform to.

sysxēmatízō (from *sýn*, "identified *with*" and *sxēmatizō*, "having *outward* shape") – properly, assuming a similar *outward* form (expression) by following the same *pattern* (model, mold).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4964.htm>

1 Pet. 1:13 Wherefore **gird up the loins of your mind**,
be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to
be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
14 As obedient children, **not fashioning yourselves
according to the former lusts in your ignorance:**
15 But as he which hath called you is holy, **so be ye
holy in all manner of conversation;**
16 Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**

❖ Believers are NOT to conform to the outward pressures of worldliness, but to be *transformed* by the inward influence of the Holy Spirit.

Original Word: μεταμορφόω

Part of Speech: Verb – Present Imperative

Transliteration: metamorphoó;

Definition: to transform; **Usage:** I transform, transfigure.

metamorphóō (from *metá*, "change after being with" and *morphóō*, "changing form in keeping with inner reality") – properly,

transformed *after* being with; *transfigured*.

[(*metamorphóō*) is the root of the English terms "metamorphosis" and "metamorphize."]

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3339.htm>

- ❖ Believers, growing in grace, are spiritually developing a lifestyle of holiness, the opposite of worldliness.
- ❖ Believers have spiritual discernment and are preoccupied with spiritual interests.
 - b. Those With Spiritual Interests, 4:6a “We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us...”
- ❖ Instead of, and in contrast to worldliness, believers “...are of God...” and *hears* spiritual truth.
- ❖ Spiritual fellowship is dependent upon spiritual believers being progressively growing in knowledge of truth, and, consequently, obedient to God and His Word.

2. The Great Disclosure, 4:6b “...he that is not of God heareth not us. **Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.**”

- ❖ “The Great Divide” leads to the explanation of “The Great Disclosure.”
- ❖ Unbelievers reject truth and reveal the difference in lifestyles, allowing believers to know and identify “the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”

1 Tim. 4:1 Now **the Spirit speaketh expressly**, that **in the latter times some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to **seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils**;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared with a hot iron**;

❖ The “spirit of antichrist” is manifested by “church desertion” before the Rapture.

1 Jn. 2:18 Little children, **it is the last time**: and as **ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.**

19 **They went out from us, but they were not of us;** for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

❖ Discernment between the “spirit of truth, and the spirit of error” is related to a believer’s obedience to God and His Word, learning by experience.

Heb. 5:13 For every one that useth milk *is* **unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.**

14 But **strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even** those who **by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

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.
- ❖ Spiritual growth includes spiritual discernment between worldliness and holiness, between the “spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”

Conclusion

Jas 1:22 But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and **straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.**

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, **he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**