

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

James 3:17

- God’s teachings bring wisdom, peace and purity
- The fruit of all this can be seen—in our own lives and in that of the prophet
- Since hearing of God’s truth in your life what has been the fruit?

“Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.”

Revelation 13:11-13

- Try out some of the tests in this study on this passage.
- If you saw this happening in your lifetime how would you feel and react?

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 37

TESTING THE SPIRITS

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

1 John 4:1

- Not all ‘spirits’ are from God
- We are encouraged to test all spirits
- Should we also test what we have been taught from the Bible?

“Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him.”

2 John 9,10

- The aim is to follow the teachings of Christ. A true teacher or prophet sent of God will teach about Jesus.
- A person who brings false teachings is not from God
- We are to remain within the teachings we have found as true
- How would you treat a false teacher?

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:8,9

- Godly teachings or spirits from God will lead us into pure thoughts and actions
- The result of a spirit's work will lead us to personal peace—because God is with us. Any other response may indicate God is not present with us

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God”

1 John 4:1,2

- Many false prophets have gone out into the world
- A true spirit from a true prophet will acknowledge that Jesus has come in the flesh
- Would you use this test on its own?

“ If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him”

Deuteronomy 18:22

- You can test a prophet by finding out if what he or she says comes to pass.
- What do you do if their teachings do not come to pass?

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.”

Isaiah 8:20

- Truth will come from within the Scriptures
- New teachings will not be different from the old teachings.
- Should we keep our teachings relevant and up-to-date?

“If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”

John 7:17

- If we will do His will, we shall know which doctrines are from God and which are from man.
- If you followed Bible teaching would it have any affect on your life? Would this help me find out if the teachings are from God?
- If teachings are from God should we follow them all?