

"By What Spirit?"

1 John 4.1-6

"I am God's messenger -
God calls us to move to Guyana and drink sinide laced Kool-Aid"

"I am Jesus - Let's move to Waco, Texas and arm for Armaggedon"

3.24 THE SPIRIT OF GOD GIVES US KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

4.1 "do not believe every spirt, but tests the spirits"

UCC Pastor told me recently - NOTHING WRONG WITH HOMOSEXUALITY
WHY?? - Because in the Gospels, Jesus never spoke against it

ANOTHER UCC Pastor - Science has proven it is genetic

Pilate to Jesus "What is Truth?"

1. Call for Discernment

a. 2 Stages of Revelation

1) Forming: Oral

PROPHETS OF GOD GIVING HIS MESSAGE TO NEWLY FORMING CHURCH

BIBLE: ONLY OT, FORMING OF NT

DANGER: NOT EVERYTHING SUPERNATURAL IS FROM GOD

vs. 1,6

Deut 13.1-5

18.21,22

1 Cor 12-14

2) Final: Written ALWAYS GODS ULTIMATE INTENTION

Š RATIOINAL BEINGS - IN HIS IMAGE - MADE TO READ HIS WORD

TODAY - GOD SPEAKS BY HIS SPIRIT THROUGH HIS WRITTEN WORD

2.1,7,26

Deut 31.24

John 10.35

CANON "rule of faith" IS CLOSED - NO UNIVERSAL, TIMELESS MESSAGE

Eph 2.20

Jude 3

"The same Spirit who was active in those who wrote the apostolic □
letters must be active in those who read them"

1 Cor 2.14

William Grimshaw - 18th Century Christian leader

ON EFFECT CONVERSION HAD ON BIBLE READING:

"If God had drawn up his Bible to heaven, and sent him down □
another, it could not have been newer to him"

John Stott "I read the Bible daily before I was converted because □
my mother brought me up to do so, but it was double-Dutch to me. □
I hadn't the foggiest idea what it was all about. But when I was □
born again and the Holy Spirit came to dwell within me, the Bible □
immediately began to be a new book to me."

BIBLE NOT COLLECTION OF MUSTY OLD DOCUMENTS BELONGING IN LIBRARY

BIBLE NOT COLLECTION OF OLD FOSSILS BEHIND GLASS IN A MUSEUM

b. 2 Spirits v. 6

 CALLED TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT / BUT NOT EVERY SPIRIT

2.20,27

Exodus 8.6,7

1 Sam 16.13,14

Acts 8.9-11

§

1 Cor 2.12

12.3

 UNBELIEF AND BELIEF ARE BOTH SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

c. 2 Sources vs. 2,3

BEHIND EVERY PROPHET IS A SPIRIT - BEHIND EVERY SPIRIT GOD/ DEVIL

John 8.47

JOHN CALVIN "unless the Spirit of wisdom is present, there is □
little or no profit in having God's Word in our hands"

10.1-5,8,9,16,24-27

ILLUS - RADIO RECEIVER NEEDED TO PICK UP BROADCAST

J.I. Packer "without the Spirit's help there can be no grasp of □
the message of Scripture, no conviction of the truth of □
Scripture, and no faith in the God of Scripture"

AS CHARLES SIMEON APPROACHED SCRIPTURE HE SAID:
"I know only one thing - that I know nothing"

Avoid 2 Extremes: SUPERSTITION WHICH BELIEVES EVERYTHING
SUSPICION WHICH BELIEVES NOTHING

Acts 17.11

2. Content of Doctrine

STANDARD - NOT WHETHER MESSENGER IS:

interesting, popular, relevant, intellectual, spiritual, dynamic

IS IT TRUE?? - FAITHFUL TO SCRIPTURE?? -

GOOD PASTOR - funny, intelligent, interesting - BIBLICAL

"Do not believe it because I say it, but only if God says it"

a. Person of Christ

vs. 2,3

Š

IMPORTANCE OF YOUR VIEW OF CHRIST

4.2 WITHOUT JESUS - DO NOT HAVE THE SPIRIT

3.23 WITHOUT JESUS - DO NOT HAVE THE FATHER

John Stott "The Christian understanding of the Bible is □
essentially Trinitarian: the Bible is the witness of the Father □
to the Son through the Holy Spirit"

1.1

2.22

Coloss 2.9

OPEN AND BOLD PROFESSION OF FAITH IN THE INCARNATE LORD

b. Purpose of Christ

WE TEND TO THINK THAT JESUS CAME FOR WHATEVER CAUSE WE ENDORSE

Political party, Economic philosophy, Social Cause

v. 5 FALSE TEACHERS ARE TIED TO THIS WORLD - ORIGIN & AUDIENCE

New society, New world order, New Age Movement

Proclaim GLORY OF MAN - FULFILLMENT OF HUMAN DESIRES

CLINTON SPEAKS OF CHANGE NOT CHRIST - NEW COVENANT W/ NO GOD

GOSPEL DOES HAVE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL, □
ENVIORNMENTAL - RELATES TO ALL AREAS OF LIFE

DISTINCT FOCUS IS ON SALVATION

LASTING CHANGE BEGINS FROM THE INSIDE OUT

2.2

3.8

Mark 10.45

Luke 19.10

§

1 Tim 1.15

3. Character of Disciples

BELIEF AND BEHAVIOR ARE ALWAYS LINKED

CHARACTER IS AS REVEALING AS CONTENT

4 "you" All Xtians / 5 "they" False Prophets / 6 "we" Apostles

a. Confident

v. 4

AT FIRST GLANCE MAY SEEM TO BE FALSE

WORLD HAS FILLED THE CHURCH MORE THAN CHURCH HAS FILLED WORLD??

MANY CHURCHES - DENIAL Biblical truth, virgin birth, lit. resurr.

LIKE ELIJAH WE ARE NOT ALONE - 7000 WHO HAVE NOT KNEELED TO BAAL

BIBLE BELIEVING CHURCH AND CHRISTIANS ARE GROWING WORLD-WIDE

ABOUT 20 NEW CHURCHES ARE BEGINNING WEEKLY IN AFRICA TODAY

MARTIN LUTHER "the Holy Spirit is no sceptic, and the things He
has written in our hearts are not doubts or opinions, but
assertions - surer and more certain than sense or life itself"

"OVERCOME" - NOT MORAL BUT INTELLECTUAL - FALSE TEACHING

2.17

Romans 8.15

2 Tim 1.7

Jesus will build His church - Gates of hell we not prevail

MORE AFRAID FOR THE WORLD THAN OF THE WORLD

b. Critical NOT NEGATIVE, OBNOXIOUS, OR IGNORANT

v. 5

KNOWING "viewpoint of the world" REQUIRES CAREFUL LISTENING

KNOW WHAT YOU ARE CRITICAL OF - DANGER OF CARELESS JUDGMENT

§

2 John 10,11

Psalm 1.1

2 Tim 3.5

c. Conservative

v. 6

ONE DEFINITION: Reactionary, right-wing, fanatical

OTHER DEF: saving, holding to, keeping, constant

WE ARE TO BE BIBLICALLY POSITIVE ABOUT CHRIST

WE ARE TO BE NEGATIVE ABOUT ERROR

ORIGIN IS GOD - AUDIENCE IS THOSE WHO FOLLOW GOD

ARROGANCE?? "WHOEVER KNOWS GOD LISTENS TO US" APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

2.19,24,26

2 Tim 1.13,14

(d. Compassionate v. 7)