



THE LETTERS OF JOHN

Testing every spirit in the fellowship P2

Session Number: 7 | Week: 1 | Day: 7

Bible Passage

1 John 4: 11-21

Introduction

In this session, 1 John Chapter 4: 11-21, we focus on understanding three spirits in the fellowship of God's people: the spirit of antichrist, the spirit of brotherly love, and the Spirit of Christ. These spirits should be tested to know if they come from God and how to integrate them where possible.

Session Objectives

By the end of this session, the learner will have:

- Compared the spirit of anti-Christ with the Spirit of Christ and the spirit of brotherly love by looking at their characteristics in the verses given.
- Described how the spirit of anti-Antichrist may affect our holy communion if not tested
- Described how the spirit of brotherly love affects the quality of Holy communion among the believers by listing the grounds of brotherly love and the dynamics of brotherly love.

Session Outline

- The Spirit of Antichrist,
- The spirit of brotherly love and
- The Spirit of Christ
- Testing every spirit in the fellowship

Connecting

- Study together in a group of two or more people.
- Begin with a prayer, asking God to bless your understanding.
- Read the passage at least twice using different Bible versions, then retell the story among your group members.
- Share the challenges and blessings from the previous day.

Comprehending

- What is the meaning of being cautious? (of a person) or being careful to avoid potential problems or dangers. Why should we be mindful of the spirits in our Holy Communion?
- What is the difference between the spirit of antichrist? the Spirit

of Christ? And the spirit of brotherly love in Christ)

- Read 1 John 4: 11-21. What is revealed about the love of GOD and
- What do the above verses say about brotherly love?

Committing

- Engage with the Bible—read, study, memorize, meditate, pray, listen, and live it out.
- List three lessons you learnt as an agent of change that you would practice and teach others about
- Take time and worship Jesus with the attributes revealed about Christ now.
- Engage SPACEPETS model, to do something after the session. Look for:
 - **Sin** to confess
 - **Promise** to claim
 - **Attitude** to change
 - **Command** to keep
 - **Error** to change
 - **Prayer** to make
 - **Example** to copy
 - **Truth** to obey and
 - **Something** praiseworthy

Communicating

- Identify one person and share the lessons you learnt in this session?
- Visit or call a new believer and Pray with them over the issues they are struggling with. Issue of attending the church.
- Form another group and repeat this study.

Audio Summary

1 John 4:11-21

- **Context:**
 - During Easter, John affirms Jesus' resurrection against heresies denying His incarnation, using Luke 15 brothers to reflect Jews/Gentiles needing true fellowship.
 - Focus on testing the spirit of brotherly love as a divine mark.
- **Brotherly Love's Source (1 John 4:11-12):**
 - Since God loved us through Jesus' sacrifice, we must love one another (v. 11); though unseen, God dwells in us when we love, perfecting His love (v. 12).
 - Mercy's love, from God, binds fellowship.
- **Love's Assurance (1 John 4:13-16):**
 - God's Spirit confirms mutual abiding with Him (v. 13);

acknowledging Jesus as Savior ensures God's indwelling, rooted in His love (v. 14-16).

- Mercy fosters confidence through love's presence.
- **Love's Perfection (1 John 4:17-21):**
 - Love perfected gives boldness for judgment, mirroring Jesus (v. 17); perfect love casts out fear, tied to punishment (v. 18).
 - We love because God loved first; hating a brother while claiming to love God is a lie—loving brothers is a command (v. 19-21).
 - Mercy's love, a divine replica, ensures fearless fellowship.
- **Application:**
 - Practice brotherly love as God's command, reflecting His sacrificial love—let it drive out fear, host His presence, and counter heresy's division in fellowship.