

June 4, 2023

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 John 4:1-6

“Doctrinal Test #2: Does the Spirit of God Abide in You? – Part 7”

- I. Prologue [Introduction] – 1:1-4
 - II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27
 - III. **Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #2 – 2:28-4:6**
 - A. The Moral Test – 2:28-3:10 – Family Resemblance
 - B. The Social Test – 3:10b-24 – Family Resemblance
 - C. **The Doctrinal Test – 4:1-6 – Family Resemblance**
 1. The Commands to Test (1)
 2. **The Content of the Test (2-6)**
 - a. Savior – Biblical Jesus (2-3) – The Person of Jesus Christ
 - b. Salvation – Biblical Gospel (2-3) – The Work of Jesus Christ
 - c. Scripture – Biblical Authority (4-6)
 - d. **S _____ - Biblical _____ (2, 6) – “By this you know the Spirit of God...” “...By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”**
- The **Person** of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10-13; Eph. 4:30; Is. 63:10; 1 Cor. 12:11; 3:16; Rom. 8:9; John 14:16f; Acts 5:3f; 10:19f)
 - The **Work** of the Holy Spirit
 - In the World (Jn. 16:7-11; Jn. 3:5; Tit. 3:5; 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:1-8; Gen. 1; 2:7; Jn. 16:14)
 - In the Believer (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Jn. 14:16f; 1 Cor. 12:13; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13f; 4:30; Eph. 5:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Acts 13:4; Eph. 4:1-6; 3:20; Phil. 2:12f; Gal. 5:22f; 1 Cor. 12:4-7; Acts 1:8; Eph. 5:19; Rev. 5:13; Is. 6:3; Rom. 8:14; 8:26; Jn. 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27; 3:24; 4:2, 6)
 - **What does this have to do with assurance of salvation and heavenly joy?**

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. What do you know about the **Holy Spirit**? Who is He? What are His attributes? What is His mission? Why is He called the Spirit of truth? How is He involved in the life of a believer? How do we know when a message is from the Spirit of God or from the spirit of antichrist?
2. Read **John 16:13-15**. What does it mean to be “**self-effacing**”? How is this true of the Holy Spirit and His ministry as recorded in the Bible? Where does the Holy Spirit want the focus to be? How does this square with a lot of TV preachers who emphasize the Holy Spirit and miraculous signs? What did Jesus say about people who always want signs? How might seeking miraculous signs impact our assurance of salvation?
3. The Holy Spirit wants true believers to have **assurance of salvation and heavenly joy**, even when they are persecuted (see Rom. 5:1-5; 8:1ff; 15:13; Luke 10:21; Acts 13:52; Gal. 5:22f; 1 Thess. 1:6f; Rom. 14:17; 1 Pet. 1:8-9). What role does truth play in our experience of assurance and joy? Give biblical examples of believers who stayed true to God no matter what it cost them (i.e. Heb. 11, etc.).
4. What is your current practice to make sure that your **walk, talk, topics of conversation, thoughts, actions, and singing** are all directed by truth from the Spirit of God? Can you identify any specific areas of your life that are inconsistent with being filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit of truth?
5. When **resolving conflicts** with others (family, friends, co-workers), how do you make sure you are led by the Spirit of God and the Word of God? Describe how you specifically use the Bible and submit to its authority when working through conflicts with others.
6. Assurance of salvation and heavenly joy comes from a proper understanding of and response to the Biblical Jesus, Biblical Gospel, Biblical Authority, and Biblical Spirit. Think of specific examples of cults and world religions that change one or more of those truths and how it impacts their ability to have assurance.
7. Think through the NT epistles and how often we are encouraged to think deeply on the Savior, Salvation, Scripture, and the Spirit. [See 1 & 2 Timothy for how the Apostle Paul pointed to these truths to help Pastor Timothy overcome his weaknesses and fears]
8. What is your current practice of **LISTENING** to the Scriptures? If you don't have a computer, tablet, or smart phone, practice reading the Bible **OUT LOUD** to yourself and others in your family. If you have a computer, tablet, or smart phone, download one of the **free apps** so you can listen to the Bible read to you regularly.
9. List **5 people** you know who believe in a false Jesus or a false gospel. Pray for them daily and seek an opportunity to talk to them about the biblical Jesus and the biblical gospel. Invite them to church.
10. **Memorize 1 John 4:1-6**. Apply these verses and grow in biblical discernment.

[Words for blanks in outline: *Spirit of Truth; Spirit*]