

# Outline

- One Test
- Two 'spirits'
- Three cautions



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# One Test

Every spirit that acknowledges that :-

- Jesus
- Christ
- has come in the flesh
  is from God

flesh ...is from God v 2

#### One Test - Jesus

- Jesus is a name
- It is the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament name Joshua
- It means 'saviour' or more fully 'the Lord saves'
- In Matthew 1 v20-21 an Angel explains to Joseph what Jesus saves us from:-

"... you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

## One Test – Jesus the Christ

- · Christ is a title
- It is the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament term messiah
- It means 'anointed one'
- or perhaps easier for us to grasp ' God's chosen King'.

#### One Test

- Jesus of Nazareth
- Life story captured in the four gospels
- Non-Christian historical references to Jesus from 1st Century
  - Josephus (Jewish historian)
  - Tacitus (Roman historian)
- A real 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jewish man who lived for about 30 years and was really put to death by the Romans...

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# Two 'spirits'

- the spirit of truth
  - The Holy Spirit 3 v 24
  - Truth-full speaking and living v 2
- the spirit of falsehood
  - False prophets v 1
  - Spirit of antichrist v 3
  - speak from the viewpoint of the world  $\,$  v 5
  - Confusing, condemning, controlling

Can one person be influenced by both spirits?

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# Three cautions

- Don't be simplistic
- Don't be naïve
- Don't be afraid

# Three cautions

- Don't be simplistic
  - Unless you do it our way...
  - John's theology always requires real life evidence

## Three cautions

#### Don't be naïve

- What's all this 'spirit stuff' about?
- Fun at the movies!
- The spiritual realm is more 'real' than the physical


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## Three cautions

#### · Don't be afraid

- the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world v 4
- The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work 1 John 3 v 8
- We are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8 v 37-39