FIRST JOHN 3:19–4:6
‘We know that we belong to the truth’
25 & 28 April 2024

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**Discourse structure**

Part 1: Our Fellowship with God 1.1 – 2.17

Part 2: Our Adversaries 2.18 – 3.18

Part 3: Our Christian Faith 3.19 – 5.5

**VIII. We Have Assurance 3.19-24**

 **ΙX. We have God’s Spirit 4:1-6**

 X. We Have God’s Love 4.7-13

 XI. We Have the Saviour 4.14-21

 XII. We have the Christ 5.1-5

Part 4: Our Confidence with God 5.6-21

**A.  We Have Assurance, 3.19-24**

**The troubled heart, 3.19-20**

Jesus said, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. … My peace I give to you. ... Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” *John 14:1, 27 ESV*

● We may believe truth, but we do not own it.

● It is natural to feel shame or guilt,

● because we can hide nothing from God.

● But we calm those feelings with God’s help

**The confident heart, 3.21-22**

Jesus promised, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth” *John 14:15-17 ESV*

For power through prayer:

● Get confidence before God.

● Keep his commands.

● Do what pleases him.

**His commandments, 3.23-24a**

● Command: How are two actions really only one command?

● Name: Son (unique) = Jesus (human) = Christ (king forever).

The Spirit whom he gave to us, 3.24b

Jesus promised, “The Spirit of truth… he dwells with you and will be among you.” *John 14:17*

● Lives: ~Dwells. Real Presence. He likes us.

● Spirit: What are some ways in which God’s Spirit operates among us?

● Dwells: What are some ways in which our church could experience more of this?

**B. We have God’s Spirit, 4:1-6**

**Test the spirits, 4.1**

Paul exhorted, “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.” *1 Thess. 5:19-21 ESV*

● Test: How?

● The spirits: What are these?

● False prophets: Who were and are some of these?

**The Spirit of God, 4.2**

Paul asserted, “No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.” *1 Cor. 12:3*

● Alternatively: Jesus is Christ come into the world in the flesh.

● Grammar: One confesses what a person is, not only something about that person.

● Logic: To say that Jesus Christ came in the flesh would hardly be a confession of faith, for even atheists and antichristian religions will admit that much.



**The antichrist, 4:3**

Paul warned, “In later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons” *1 Tim 4:1*

● spirit: prophets, preachers, teachers, their message, and their inspiration.

● Grammar: “the Jesus”  the Jesus who is Christ come in the flesh (verse 2).

**The one who is in you, 4:4-5**

Jesus warned, “Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.” Matthew 24:11

● You: who confess that Jesus is the Christ.

● They: who deny that Jesus is the Christ.

● We (4:6): who teach that Jesus is the Christ.

**We recognize the Spirit, 4:6**

Jesus promised, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.” John 14:16-17

● We: Jesus apostles who lived with Jesus.

● Cerinthius (c. 50-100 CE): taught that (a) Jesus was only human, (b) received the Christ at baptism,
 and (c) lost the Christ at his crucifixion.