

## **1 John 3:24b-4:6 (Test the spirits)**

3:24b And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and spirit of error.

*Three-legged stool of Christian confidence: moral test, relational test and **doctrinal test (v2-3)**.*

### **Context: spirits**

Note: False prophets and the spirits behind them are interchangeable in 1 John.

#### **1. Check what they say (v2-3)**

Verse 2 (meaning): Every spirit that confesses, "Jesus is God-become-man!" is from God. [see also 2:22, 4:15, 5:1, 5:5.]

#### **2. Check who listens to them (v5)**

#### **3. Check with the Apostles (v6)**