

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 70

Wednesday-July 22, 2026

This study guide explores the indicators of true salvation and the necessity of spiritual discernment as presented in the teachings of 1 John. It examines how the Holy Spirit works within a believer to produce "holy affections" and provides a framework for recognizing the difference between the truth of God and the errors of the world. By understanding the strategies of the enemy and the source of false doctrines, a follower of Jesus Christ can better navigate the spiritual battle for the mind.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. According to the text, what are the six specific "holy affections" that serve as indicators that a person is a child of God?
2. How does 1 John 3:24 describe the way a believer can be certain that God abides in them?
3. What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit's presence is expressed in the life of a Christian?
4. How is "spiritual warfare" defined in this study, and what is its primary objective?
5. Why is it common for false teachers to dislike having their proclamations scrutinized by the Word of God?
6. Describe the three-part strategy Satan used in the Garden of Eden to attack the Word of God.
7. What is the ultimate source of every religious idea or ideology according to the first verse of 1 John chapter 4?
8. According to 1 Timothy 4:1-2, why do some people fall away from the faith, and what has happened to their consciences?
9. Contrast the characteristics of the "wisdom from above" with the wisdom that is "earthly" and "demonic."
10. Based on 1 Corinthians 10:20, what is the spiritual reality behind the worship of idols and false gods?

Answer Key

1. The six indicators are love for other Christians, gratitude toward God for His grace, boldness in prayer, obedience to His commands, faith in Jesus Christ, and the internal ministry of the Holy Spirit.
2. A believer knows God abides in them by the Spirit whom He has given. This abiding relationship is a shared common life between God and His people through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
3. The Spirit's work is seen when a soul is made alive, when a person is led and instructed by the Word, and through the "fruit of the Spirit," which includes love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.
4. Spiritual warfare is defined as the battle for the mind, specifically the conflict between truth and error. It is not about chasing demons, but about bringing the truth of God to bear on those living in deception.
5. Error cannot stand the test of biblical scrutiny. False teachers avoid having their work tested by Scripture because the Word of God acts as a tool to expose lies and corruption.
6. Satan's strategy involves three steps: causing people to doubt what God said, distorting or twisting God's words, and flatly denying the truth that God has spoken.
7. The source is never merely human; every idea comes from one of two spiritual worlds. It either originates from the Spirit of God or from demon spirits led by Satan.
8. People fall away because they give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. The human teachers they follow have consciences "seared with a hot iron," meaning they feel no guilt or remorse for their lies.
9. Wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy and good fruits. Earthly wisdom is described as natural, sensual, and demonic, often leading to ideologies that lift themselves up against Christ.
10. While an idol itself is nothing but wood or stone, the reality behind it is demonic. Those who sacrifice to idols are actually sacrificing to demons rather than to God.

Essay Questions

1. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit as the "Teacher" of the believer. How does this internal ministry provide evidence of salvation and help the Christian understand the Bible?
2. Discuss the importance of love and obedience as the two primary "holy affections." Why are these two markers considered the most essential indicators of a true follower of Jesus Christ?

3. Analyze the concept of a "seared conscience." How does this condition allow false teachers to propagate "doctrines of demons" without feeling conviction or remorse?
4. Using the examples provided in the text (such as Moses, David, and the Apostles), explain why the Bible contains so many warnings about false prophets and deceit.
5. The text states that "any ideology, any philosophy, any theory... other than the truth is demonic." Explore why the author believes there is no such thing as a "benign" or neutral religious idea.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Abide:** To live or remain in a stable, permanent relationship; specifically, the mutual indwelling of God and the believer (1 John 3:24).
- **Discernment:** The ability to distinguish between the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error or falsehood.
- **Doctrines of Demons:** False teachings and lies concocted by evil spirits to lead people away from the truth of God (1 Timothy 4:1).
- **Fruit of the Spirit:** The visible evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in a person's character, including love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- **Holy Affections:** Internal indicators or desires—such as love for others and gratitude toward God—that prove a person is a true child of God.
- **Hypocritical Liars:** Human agents who spread false doctrine without feeling guilt, acting as mouthpieces for seductive spirits.
- **Providentially:** Relating to God's divine guidance and His ability to orchestrate events in a person's life to accomplish His perfect purposes.
- **Seared Conscience:** A conscience that has been "cauterized" or made numb by constant lying, making a person unable to feel remorse or the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- **Spiritual Warfare:** The ongoing struggle between the truth of Scripture and the deceptions of Satan; a battle that takes place primarily in the mind.
- **Wisdom from Above:** The pure and merciful truth that comes from God, which produces righteousness and peace (James 3:17).