

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 71

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

This study guide explores the principles of spiritual discernment as presented in the lesson on 1 John 4:1-6. The text examines the ongoing conflict between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error, emphasizing that all religious information originates from either GOD or Satan. It highlights the importance of testing every message against the Word of GOD to avoid demonic deceptions and to remain steadfast in the faith.

Short-Answer Review Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2 to 3 sentences based on the information provided in the lesson.

1. According to the lesson, what are the only two possible sources for information regarding salvation and eternity?
2. Why is it impossible to make a lasting truce with Satan?
3. What does the lesson suggest about people who believe they are worshipping a "strange god" or an idol like a "goat god"?
4. How are "unclean spirits" described in the vision from Revelation 16:13-14?
5. What is the goal of the demonic spirits that gather the kings of the earth for battle at Armageddon?
6. How does the lesson define "open theism" and why is it considered a distortion of Christian doctrine?
7. According to the speaker, what is the most important responsibility of a Christian church?
8. What does the "anointing" from the HOLY ONE allow a believer to do?
9. In the context of 1 John 4:1, what does the Greek verb for "stop believing" imply about the audience?
10. How is the process of "testing the spirits" compared to metallurgy?

Answer Key

1. The lesson states that there is no "benign" information regarding salvation or eternity. All such information is either from GOD or it is from Satan.
2. Satan is never the same from one day to the next and is constantly changing his tactics to be effective. Because he and his demons are always moving and attempting to impact people in different ways, a truce cannot be made with him.
3. The lesson teaches that while the physical idol or "other god" does not actually exist, the worship is real and is directed toward demons. These demons concoct various forms of worship to capture the minds and souls of men.
4. The vision describes three unclean spirits that look like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. In the context of the writing, frogs were considered slimy, subterranean animals used to represent demons with disdain.
5. These spirits perform signs to seduce and gather the people of the world to battle against GOD on the great day of GOD ALMIGHTY. They lead people on what the lesson calls a "suicide mission" to try and stop JESUS CHRIST from setting up HIS kingdom.
6. Open theism is the belief that GOD does not know exactly what humans will choose before they choose it, leaving the future open and adaptable. The lesson argues this contradicts true doctrine because it denies the sovereignty and fixed certainty of GOD'S knowledge.
7. The most important task of the church is to be a pillar and ground for the truth and to proclaim the gospel. If the church loses the truth, it loses the message it is required to give to the world.
8. The anointing is the presence of the HOLY SPIRIT within a believer, given by the FATHER. This internal presence helps the believer to intrinsically know the difference between the truth and a lie.
9. The Greek verb indicates a forbidding of an action that is already happening. This means the people were currently being gullible and believing every spirit, and they were commanded to stop doing so.
10. The word for "test" is taken from the practice of melting gold and silver to check for purity. Believers are encouraged to put every teaching "through the fire" to see if it is pure or false.

Essay Questions for Further Reflection

1. Discuss the concept of "discernment" as described in the lesson. Why is it dangerous for a Christian to be gullible, and what tools does the lesson suggest for evaluating spiritual claims?
2. The lesson claims that "Christianity is not an experience; Christianity is a life process." Explain what this means in the context of resisting false teachers who use emotional or physical "experiences" to attract followers.
3. Analyze the role of the church as a "soldier in the battle for truth." How do false teachers attempt to attack Christian doctrines like the virgin birth or the sinless life of JESUS CHRIST?
4. Explain the significance of 1 John 2:19 regarding those who leave the fellowship of believers. How does the lesson interpret "remaining" or "abiding" as evidence of true salvation?
5. Compare and contrast the "spirit of truth" and the "spirit of error." How does the internal "anointing" of the HOLY SPIRIT protect a believer from being "thrown about by winds of false doctrine"?

Comprehensive Glossary of Key Terms

- **Agnostic:** A person who believes that there is not enough proof to either prove or disprove the existence of GOD.
- **Anointing:** The presence of the HOLY SPIRIT residing within a believer, providing the ability to discern truth from error.
- **Antichrist:** The direct opposite of JESUS CHRIST; a figure who leads deceptions and opposes the truth of GOD.
- **Atheist:** A person who believes that there is no GOD.
- **Benign:** Harmless; the lesson uses this to say that no religious information is "neutral" or harmless if it is not of GOD.
- **Discernment:** The ability to judge well or distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
- **Gnostics:** A group (starting around 130 AD) that claimed to have "secret knowledge" and spread false rumors about JESUS CHRIST.
- **Heresy:** A belief or opinion that goes against the established true doctrines of the Christian faith.
- **Inerrancy:** The belief that the Word of GOD is without error.
- **Metallurgy:** The science of working with metals; used as a metaphor for testing the purity of spiritual teachings.

- **Pentateuch:** The first five books of the Bible, also known as the Law of Moses.
- **Polytheist:** A person who believes in or worships many gods.
- **Skepticism:** An attitude of doubt or a requirement for proof; the lesson encourages being skeptical of any teaching that claims to be from GOD until it is tested.
- **Theosophy:** A system of religious beliefs; the lesson uses this term to describe Mormonism as a collection of various religious ideas sold as a new faith.
- **Tribulation:** A terrifying period of history mentioned in Revelation, occurring just before JESUS CHRIST returns to set up HIS kingdom.

Greek and Phonetic Terms

Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Dokimazo ¹	doh-kim-AD-zoh	To test, examine, or prove the purity of something, similar to testing precious metals in a fire.
Haramageddon ²	har-ah-mah-GED-on	A Hebrew place, also known as Armageddon, where the final conflict between the forces of GOD and the forces of evil occurs.

¹ Note: The lesson transcript refers to this as "Dokcomo," describing it as the Greek word for testing metals for purity. ² Note: The transcript uses "Haramageddon" to identify the Hebrew origin of the location for the final battle mentioned in Revelation.