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# 1<sup>st</sup> John 4: 4-6

*Spirit of Truth* vs. *the spirit of error*

[part 2]



# I John 4: 1-6

*1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because 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, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*

**4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

# 1<sup>st</sup> John 4: 4

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You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world

## You are

the 'You' is EMPHATIC! Giving the meaning: 'You, yourselves' are

**out** (*ek*) from God; we are from God as our source of life, and our hearts or mentality/ framework finds its source in God

**Little *teknion*** - or little born ones, or little teachable ones, we are the spiritual offspring of our Father

**And have Overcome** = *nikaō* (Verb, **Perfect**, Active Indicative) – Victor; one who prevails, conquers. From the noun, *nikē*

Wuest: The verb is perfect in tense, speaking of a past completed victory, and a present state of being a conqueror

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**And have Overcome** = *nikaō* (Verb, **Perfect**, Active Indicative) Victor, prevailer; conquer

John uses 3x in 1<sup>st</sup> John: 1. *Young men, you have overcome the evil one,* 2. 5:4-5: *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

**Used of God** in Rom 3:4: *let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, “THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED.”*

**Used of Christ:** in John 16:33: *In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

And a few times in Revelation: such as 5:5:

*and one of the elders \*said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”*

Q: How have we, and how are we: overcomers, victors / conquerors?

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You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world

## because greater

We are overcomers because He who is in us > he who is in the world

**Greater** = **megas** = surpassing others in **nature** and **power** (of God); but also you may add: *higher, more exalted, more majestic*

**is He who is in us** – (God in us) this is a fact/result of regeneration, being born again and alludes to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in each believer. (It is also a fact statement of our identification)

**than:**

**he who is in the world** – who is the ‘he’? Being referred to here?

In context: from 4:1-3: it is ‘every spirit’, ‘many false prophets’; ‘every spirit that does not confess Jesus’; ‘the spirit of the antichrist... That is coming and is... Here’

**REVIEW:** what is the spirit of antichrist?



# 'Antichrist' as Defined in: 1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 21-23

Review:

of Epistle of 1<sup>st</sup> John's ***antichrist***: Whomever has the spirit/quality of:

- Departs from the Truth (2:19) (McCalley)
- Denies: Jesus Christ's: Messiahship (salvation, kingship) (1 Jn 2:22)
- Denies: the Father God (2:22)
- Denies: the Sonship of Jesus (2:22)
- Denies: the Deity / divinely sourced origin of Christ was God (1 Jn 4:3);
- Denies: Jesus' humanity (came bodily in the flesh) (1 Jn 4:2)

*Therefore: this is the 'he' of the 'he that is in the world (1 Jn 4:4);  
BUT: this spirit / mentality has a Progenitor, and who is that?*





“You had the seal of perfection,  
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.  
13 “You were in Eden, the garden of God;  
Every precious stone was your covering:  
The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;  
The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;  
The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;  
And the gold, the workmanship of your settings  
and sockets,  
Was in you.

**On the day that you were created**

They were prepared.

14 “**You were the anointed cherub who covers,**

**And I placed you there.**

**You were on the holy mountain of God;  
You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.**

15 “**You were blameless in your ways  
From the day you were created  
Until unrighteousness was found in you.**

16 “**By the abundance of your trade  
You were internally filled with violence,  
And you sinned;**

Dialogue of **GOD** to *Lucifer* in Ezekiel 28:  
The Progenitor of the antichrist, false prophet,  
worldly system:

**Therefore, I have cast you as profane  
From the mountain of God.**

**And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub,**

From the midst of the stones of fire.

17 “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;

**You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.**

**I cast you to the ground;**

I put you before kings,  
That they may see you.

18 “**By the multitude of your iniquities,  
In the unrighteousness of your trade**

You profaned your sanctuaries.

Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you;

It has consumed you . . .

# 1<sup>st</sup> John 4: 5

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They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.

## Conclusion of Verse 4:

- Greater is Christ in us than Lucifer/Satan and his system of old- because Lucifer/Satan is a creature, created by the One who indwells in us. God in us is greater in power and nature than his creation.

## Verse 5:

**THEY!!** (*another emphatic pronoun*): The spirits whom we are to test are (out from) – **ek** - the **cosmos**

RECALL: **compare to** who John said **we were** in 4:4: out from God

Of interest from 4:1: 'test' the spirits = **dokimazō**. – examine, as if through refining fire, with a view to approval

It is not that we judge the antichrist spirits we come into contact with, but pose questions, perhaps prod, confer with- to see if they are truly Christ deniers or in fact, fellow brothers.





# 1<sup>st</sup> John 4: 5

They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.

Wuest's Outline of 1 John 4:1-6 divides the *dokimazō* (ing) in this Section this way:

- **Overall:** False Teachers: Discernment of False Spirits (4.1-6)
- **Objective** Test: Doctrine (4:1-3)
- **Subjective** Test: The Witness of the Spirit (4: 4-6)

- We are now in the subjective realm of discernment in Verse 5

**THEY are from the world, therefore they speak as from the world -**

The 'they' here again is emphasized, 'they, themselves' are sourced from the world.

It follows that their speech is sourced from the same. "They are speaking" now as out from the cosmos system is the verb form: present, active, indicative

and the **World listens to them:**

Listens = incline one's ear to, hearken = *akouō* 'the world is presently listening to them' in the present tense

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They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.

**akouō** in Verse 5: the cosmos actively listening to the spirit of the antichrist / spirit of the age-

- and in this case- the definition is **to yield to, hear and obey, hear to one.** [Strong's]

The world knows and hears its own, its ears prick up when it recognizes the source voice of the antichrist spirit

or – when it hears the voice of the spirit of the false prophet or false teacher . . . .

Tuning out: completely the voice of the Holy Spirit

**Q: WHAT IS THE WORLD? (*cosmos*)**



# 1<sup>st</sup> John 4: 5

They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.

## Definition of: *cosmos* (greek) = 'world'

The cosmos is a vast order or system that Satan has promoted, Which conforms to his ideals, aims, and methods. It is a civilization now functioning apart from God.

This system embraces its godless governments, conflicts, armaments, jealousies, its education, culture, religions of morality, and pride.

It is the sphere in which man lives. It is what he sees, what he employs. To the uncounted multitude it is all they ever know so long as they live on this earth.

It is properly styled *the satanic system*, which phrase is in many instances a justified interpretation of the so-meaningful word, *cosmos*.

It is literally a *cosmos diabolicus*.

LEWIS SPERRY CHAFER, "ANGELOLOGY: SATANOLOGY: SATAN'S EVIL CHARACTER" IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY [DALLAS SEMINARY PRESS, 1947; 2:77,78.]



# 1<sup>st</sup> John 4: 6

We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

## We are from God; he who knows God listens to us:

We have seen in Vs. 4 & 5 all this information:

**WE**, ourselves! (**the apostles**) have our source as well- out from God - and he who is presently knowing God as well (**ginōskō**) experiential, growing in grace knowledge, hearkens to, yields to, obeys **our** divinely-sourced and singularly True, apostolic message *[my attempt my own: Wuest translation]*

Note the tie-in to the start of the epistle 1 Jn 1:3: *'what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.'*

## By this: we are (experientially coming to) know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error:

Jn 17:17: Sanctify them in the **truth**; **Your word is truth**;

Jn 15:26: **even the Spirit of truth**, which proceedeth from **the** Father, he shall testify **of** me:

Jn 10: 26-30: But you do not believe because **you are not (ek) of My sheep. My sheep hear (akouō) My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me**; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **My Father**, who has given *them* to Me, **is greater (megas) than all**; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."