

FIRST JOHN 3:19-24

Carrying on in the theme of love, John addresses the serious issue of misplaced confidence. Most believers I've known have struggled with their sense of security, but John doesn't want his readers to do that.



¹⁹This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from Him anything we ask, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him. ²³ And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey His commands live in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.

Has your heart ever condemned you? Explain...

If Christians have turmoil in their hearts, who can put them to rest - and how can it be done?

What assurance are we given if we are at peace with God?

What does John say indicates that we're at peace with God?

What is God's command – and how does keeping it affect our relationship with Him?

FIRST JOHN 4:1-3

In this chapter John warns them yet again against false prophets and teachers. This is obviously a big concern for him.

¹ Dear friends, 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 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

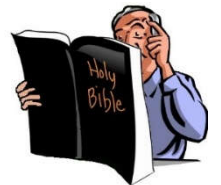
We are told here to test the spirits. From what John says what should be the first question on the test?

Notice that John says once more that the spirit of the antichrist was already among them. Is that spirit in the world yet today?

Points to Ponder

Have you found confidence in your obedience?

Is there any limitation as to what we can ask for if we feel good about our relationship with our Heavenly Father?



How does the indwelling Spirit give us confidence about our connection with the Father and help us to combat false spirits?