



### FIRST JOHN 4:4-12

In this next verse John shares a truth that should give us great confidence and comfort. Give it very careful consideration...

**<sup>4</sup> You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.**

Who had the children of God overcome – and why?

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John is far from over with the challenge to “*test the spirits*” when it comes to teachings that we may hear. Take note of the signs that he says we should look for...

**<sup>5</sup> They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. <sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.**

Whose teaching should we compare to that of others?

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Who is the Spirit of Truth? Of falsehood?

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What characteristic identifies a teacher of truth?

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How did God show us His love?

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How should we respond to His love?

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How can God be “seen” in the world today?

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### *Points to Ponder*

*If someone denies the teachings of the apostles, what does that tell us about them?*

*What type of love identifies people as children of God?*

*Read John 17:20-21 carefully. With His words in mind, why do you suppose so many people disbelieve?*

