

“... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”
2 Timothy 2:22

October 31st, 2021 - We Can Only Overcome Through God



1 John is clear. God takes false doctrine seriously. In the first century, it was common to describe someone's character by the spirit within them. A jealous person had a “spirit of jealousy” in them. We don't talk that way. It sounds too Ghostbuster-ish for our post-enlightenment minds, but they didn't mean you were overtaken against your will by some demonic spirit of jealousy. It was a description of what kind of spirit you allowed, by your own choice, to rule your life. The Bible uses language like this too. “*Their deeds will not allow them to return to their God. For a **spirit of harlotry** is within them, and they*

do not know the Lord.” (Hosea 5:4). “*For you have not received a **spirit of slavery** leading to fear again, but you have received a **spirit of adoption** as sons...*” (Romans 8:15)

In the 400 years of silence period, Jews talked a lot about people being influenced either by a spirit of truth or of falsehood. “*So understand my children that two spirits await an opportunity with humanity. The spirit of truth and the spirit of error. In between is the conscience of the mind which inclines as it will.*” (Testament of Judah, 20:1-3). When you understand how common this language was, John's wording in 1 John 4 isn't so strange. He says, “*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.*” (1 John 4:1) John knows all of us get to choose which spirit we allow to rule our lives. Will it be an evil, demonic spirit? Or the Holy Spirit of God? John says some teaching clearly originates from evil, Satanic spirits, and the best way to test the spirits is to measure their teaching against the teaching of the Holy Spirit inspired apostles. “*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 John 4:6)

I'm preaching a sermon today about a basic way to test the spirits using the apostles' teaching, but for this article I want to point out a key verse in this discussion. “*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.*” (1 John 4:4) Often when we think about testing the spirits or defending the faith, it feels overwhelming. We think about big debates with our friends and neighbors, we think about our ability to always have the right answers in the moment, we worry about being misled when we don't know enough, and we worry about awkward conflicts. In short, we make it too much about us.

John says the real reason we can overcome the evil spirits of the world is because the Spirit we have from God is greater than those spirits! The more we lean on God for strength, the more convicted we are about the truth of His Spirit's teachings, the more we ask Him for wisdom to understand His will, the better equipped we'll be to overcome this world full of false teaching from evil spirits. We can't do it on our own. We're not smart enough or strong enough. We must lean fully on God's help to overcome false teaching.

Leaning on Him will also keep us from pride. If we successfully convince a neighbor or friend about the truth of baptism in Scripture, it won't be because we “won” the debate by our own brilliance. It'll be because the Lord was working in us and through us, and we humbly allowed the brilliance of His truth to lead the way. We'll only overcome the false spirits of this world through God.

- BM

Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord's Supper Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Class
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Elders

Herb Hinely 407-339-4805
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

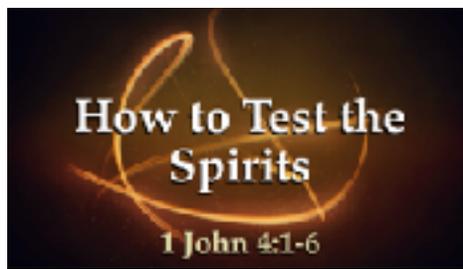
Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene
Emory VanCleaf

Evangelists

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517
Dwayne Gandy 214-724-5375

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.



To test the spirits, _____ your _____

1. Does it fit with the Apostles' Direct _____ or Commands?

- **1 John 2:3-4; 1:8; 4:2-3; Ephesians 4:26-27; Hebrews 13:4; Acts 2:38**
- Might be a _____ to ourselves not to talk about evil spirits in our modern world

2. Does it fit with the Apostles' Approved Examples?

- **1 John 2:6** - The examples from _____ life **Acts 2:42, 44-45; 4:19-20; 20:7** - The examples from the apostles and early _____ lives (good and bad examples)

3. Does it fit with the Apostles' _____

- A) Non-binding commands? (**2 Timothy 4:9; Romans 16:16a**)
- B) Non-binding examples? (**Acts 16:3; 20:8**)
- C) Generic vs. Specific commands and examples? (**Ephesians 5:19; Matthew 28:19-20**)
- D) God's _____ (Baptizing babies? Abortion? Instruments in worship? Jesus on homosexuality? - **Matthew 19:4-6** - Etc.)

Clarifications

This is not about earning Heaven, it's about loving God

(1 John 5:2-3; Deut. 6:5-6)

This is not about _____ vs. _____

This is how all _____ works

Discussion Questions for H2H

1. How else do you see evil spirits having their way with the world around us?
2. How does it help your perspective about life, relationships, and/or your Christian walk to know the evil (including the false teaching) in this world is being caused by evil spirits?
3. What resonated with you/helped you most from the lesson? Anything to add to the lesson?
4. What, in your view, are some common ways evil spirits can influence "us" in the Lord's church just as much as they do our denominational friends?

Announcements

Sunday, October 31, 2021

Please email all new announcements to announcements@psd.church.

MEMBER HEALTH ISSUES:

- **Terry Tokash** has made tremendous improvement over the last 3 days and is close to being fully recovered. He plans to return to work Wednesday, but has decided to remain home today, Sunday, out of an abundance of caution. He wants everyone to know that he is thankful for our prayers and the CONFIRMATION of our love for him and his family. He praises God for the answered prayers.
- **Debbie McCollum** is caring for her Mom in Merritt Island on the weekends. **Randy** is at home to care for **Mack** on Sundays.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- **Melissa Farrington**, Anne Welsh's sister-in-law, is dying from complications from a long battle with cancer. Please pray for her and the family. Sadly, she and her husband Mike are not Christians, so this is even harder on Tim and Anne.
- **Dave Thomas** had his stitches removed from his foot and the podiatrist is happy with how his foot is healing. He still wants Dave to stay off of his feet for at least a month. There is a GoFundMe page to help them while Dave is not able to work. Go to "[GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com)" and search for "Fundraiser for David and Jennifer Thomas."

TRAVELING:

- **Bob and Mary Burns** are in Hawaii to attend the funeral of Bob's brother. They will return Nov. 8.
- **Cheri Feist** is traveling in Europe until Nov. 11.
- **Dave and Linda Crowder** are traveling in Mexico until Nov. 6th.
- **Joe and Susan Rimmer** are in Tampa this weekend visiting Stephen, Savannah and grand-baby.
- **Kathy Lodge** is in Kentucky helping her Mother until Monday, November 8th.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Rachel Gunn is willing to take member photos** today and the next 2 Sundays. But, if you want to have your photo taken, please speak to her first and let her know. She will be able to take your photos, but **ONLY IF** you let her know you are ready for a photo. Otherwise she may not be on the porch.
- **For All Men Serving the Lord's Supper:** Beginning **November 3, and all Sundays following**, we will begin taking up the collection for the contribution after the Praise and Preaching Sermon/Invitation Song. Please line up in the back. There will not be a prayer for the collection, rather we will sing a song instead during the collection.
- **Have you joined a H2H group?** If you've not done so, there's still plenty of room! Sign up sheets are in the lobby
 - **Sundays @ 2:30 PM** at John and Amy Ciolkosz' house (Tim Welsh leading)
 - **Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM** at Herb and Trish Hinely's house (Herb Hinely leading)
 - **Thursdays @ 7:00 PM** at Jeff and Julia Hunt's house (Dave Weaver leading)

SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson, Geny Harrison, Peggy Hunt, Lynna Davis, Patsy Holt, and Pat Steele**

DATES TO NOTE:

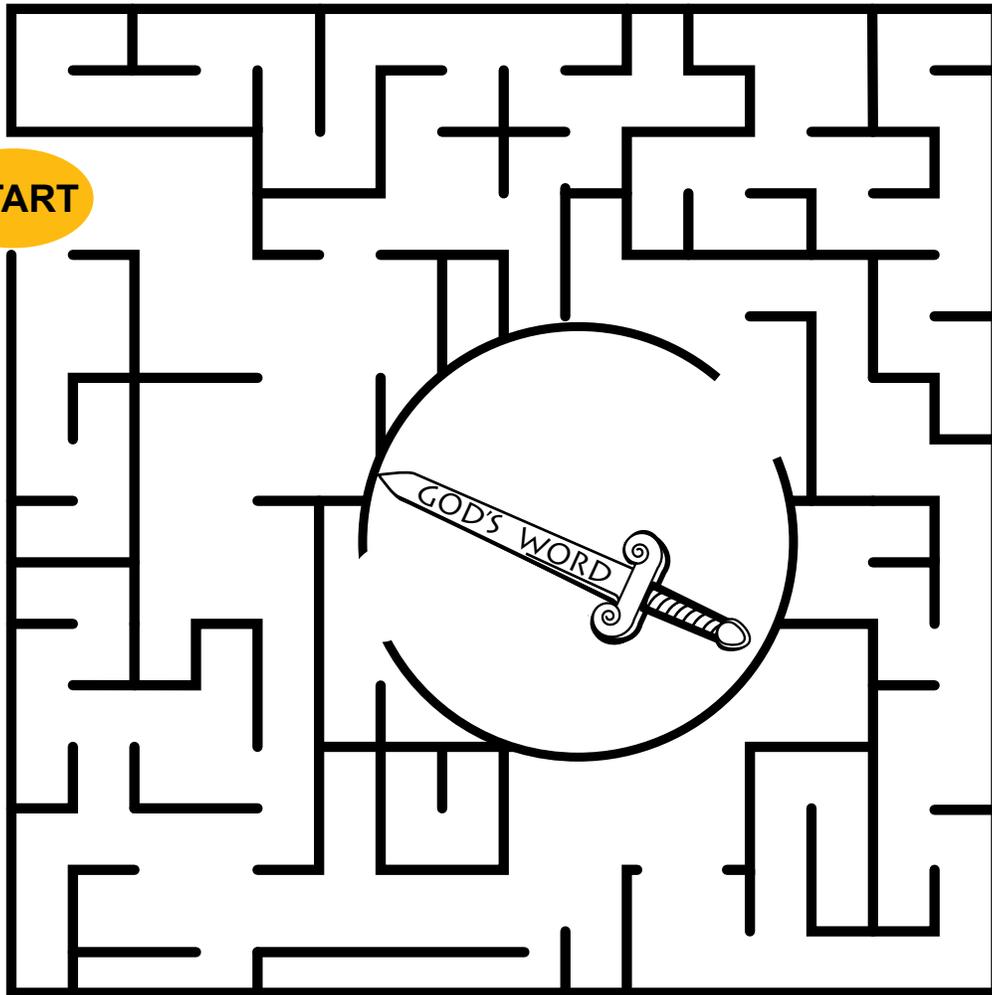
DATE	EVENT
TODAY	HOUSE2HOUSE WEEK #4
November 7, 2021	Time Change-Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 13, 2021	Bible Class Curriculum Workshop, 9:00-12: noon
November 28, 2021	Teachers Meeting, 2:00 pm
November 28, 2021	Deacons Preachers Shepherds Meeting 3:00 PM



Sword of God's Word Maze

Find your way to the center of the maze and claim the sword.

START



Memory Verse:

Ephesians 6:11 - *“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”*