

Chapter 1 : Holy Spirit: Testing the Spirits of False Prophets

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Now more than ever, we need to be on our guard against false prophets. Shepherds Are Responsible to Guard the Flock First of all, the Lord gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers Eph 4: And those who are in oversight of the church must guard the flock against these wolves. I simply mention that, because it is not really the responsibility of the newborn babe in Christ to be able to determine who is a false prophet or not. The responsibility primarily lies with the shepherds, not the sheep to defend the flock. So if you are in such a role in the church, whatever title you wear, then the onus is on you to test false prophets, who come into range of the flock you are tending. You cannot ignore the false prophets or neglect this duty of your ministry. God will hold you accountable. That said, each sheep does have a responsibility to grow up into the fullness of Christ, who is the head, so that they will no longer be tossed about by every wind of doctrine. If the ministry gifts are doing their duty, then the members of the church will mature in this way. Then the sheep will learn to detect potential wolves themselves. Picture by Bill Ebbesen Fruit Testing Jesus did not tell us to focus so much on the doctrine of these false prophets, although that is also very important. He taught us to test the messengers themselves, not just their message, because you cannot separate the message from the messenger! And the method He gave us for doing so is to test their fruit. Right after He warned us to beware of false prophets, He said, "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. What He meant here is that the false prophets are like bad trees, which cannot produce anything but bad fruit. Conversely, the true messengers of God are like good trees, which can only produce good fruit. So in order to determine if someone is a false prophet, examine their fruit. Jesus said He would cut down all the bad trees. And He also assured us that we would be able to identify them, when He said, "So then, you will know them by their fruits. Look at their lifestyle, their children, their disciples, their church, and their other works. Find out what the fruit of their works are. If you see good fruit coming forth from their life, then you can be sure that they are not a false prophet. On the other hand, if you find bad fruit, then you can be sure they are not a true prophet. Does that mean this person never makes a mistake? Even true men of God make mistakes. By showing his fruit, he felt he was able to prove his true apostolic calling. Fruit testing is essential and cannot be bypassed. Yet so many times I see people rejecting a message without bothering to check the fruit of the messenger. My friend, if you are a shepherd over a flock or actively serving the Church as one of the five ministry gifts, you cannot skip the fruit test! You have to do it. As the apostle John wrote: Notice he said, "test the spirits. Conversely, every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. Peter gave examples of some of the bad fruit that accompanies false prophets and false teachers. For example, they often "deny the Master who bought them," while others are involved in sensuality or greed. Paul also described some aspects he had seen, like pushiness, pride, control, and physical abuse 2 Cor This is not what Jesus taught. All you have to do is follow Matthew 7 to the end of the chapter and you will see what I mean. Likewise, Jesus wants us to check and see if a messenger obeys the words of Jesus, or whether he only calls Jesus "Lord," but does not do what He says. That is the true test of a false prophet, in my opinion. It is not simply making an intellectual evaluation of doctrine information , analyzing only what a man teaches, and comparing that to your own interpretation of Scripture. It is also not simply a matter of evaluating his gifts. Gospel of Matthew Passage Gospel of Luke Passage Not in Matthew "Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets. Will they not both fall into a pit? For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. Just because a person is hated and men ostracize them, insult them, and scorn their name as evil, it does not mean they are a false prophet. The true prophets of God were treated this way. If they have good fruit, truly living in a way that is pleasing to God, and they are hated, ostracized, scorned for the sake of their devotion to Christ, then they are blessed. Just because a person is well-liked and everyone speaks well of

him, it does not mean he is a true prophet. False prophets are usually treated this way, so you still need to check fruit. And ask yourself if all men speak well of you. If so, then woe to you! If you yourself are blind, you cannot lead others who are blind. So first be sure that you are not blind. If you say you can see, when in fact you are blind, the Lord will consider you guilty. I call this L. The Pharisees and other religious leaders of Jerusalem had logs in their eyes, and whenever they looked at Jesus, all they could see was logs or specks. In the end, they said, "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; what do you think? The final destiny of anyone who does not produce good fruit is the same as that of a bad tree -- thrown into the fire Mt 7: This is very serious! God will take care of that. You will know them by their fruits. Their fruit includes everything that comes forth from their life, including attitudes, deeds, and words. Do not disregard what someone says with their mouth. Their prophecy, vision, dream, teaching, or message will overflow out of the abundance of their heart, so you should check it for evil. They must preach what is in accordance with sound doctrine. Anything they say that contradicts the teachings of Christ and His apostles is bad fruit and is evil. However, the definition of evil is NOT simply anything you disagree with theologically. And listen to their words outside the message they give for the Lord. If they speak evil, then you know their heart is full of evil also.

Two Attitudes There are basically two, possible attitudes you could have when testing false prophets. One is the "Zechariah attitude" and the other is the "Mary attitude. As a result, Gabriel struck him with muteness until the prophecy was fulfilled. Conversely, when Gabriel told the virgin, Mary that she would conceive a child, she said almost the same words as Zechariah did. She initially said, "How will this be, since I am a virgin? Yet her attitude was not one of doubt like Zechariah. It was one of faith and obedience, because she later said, "may it be done to me according to your word. The angel and the Lord saw the difference, and she was blessed by God. When you listen to or read a message, and you are unsure whether it is true, approach it with a "Mary attitude" not a "Zechariah attitude. When Paul preached to the people of Berea, they checked what he said against the word. The Bible says, they were "examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. Yes, but again, your attitude in doing so must be the same as the Bereans. Their attitude was that they "they received the word with great eagerness. He warned us to test the spirits, and not to believe them all. He gave us a simple way to test them, saying, "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. By this you know the Spirit of God: According to this simple test, the way you know whether the spirit by which a person speaks is from God is that it confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. On the other hand, every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is a helpful test. The Mormons do not believe the Bible to be inerrant, complete or the final word of God; therefore, they have accepted false doctrines that nullify the Word of God. However, they too hold to false teachings, such as their belief that Jesus Christ was Michael, the archangel, who came in the flesh! They do not believe that Jesus Christ is God. We should view it as a basic, first-level test of the spirits.

Chapter 2 : The Messed Up Church: Shocking Crazy Things!!!

Alphabetical: But carefully everything examine fast good Hold is on Test that the to which NT Letters: 1 Thessalonians Test all things and hold firmly that (1 Thess. 1 Thes. 1Th iTh i Th) Christian Bible Study Resources, Dictionary, Concordance and Search Tools.

Some of them are minor, like what to wear and where to go for lunch. Others are major, requiring much thought and prayer. I know, Lord, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course. So correct me, Lord, but please be gentle. Do not correct me in anger, for I would die. The mature Christian goes where the Father wants them to go. When you are in the midst of making a major decision, you need to ask the Lord to give you grace to walk in holiness so that there will be nothing hindering you from hearing His voice. Unconfessed sin, including pride, unforgiveness, and anger can blind you. Also ask the Lord to help you live at peace with those around you. The more critical the decision, the more likely you will find the nest stirred, either to distract you, or to make you yield to anger, jealousy, or unforgiveness. But if you stumble into sin during these critical times remember the promises of God: There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit Romans 8: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness 1 John 1: Prayer is essential when you are facing a crossroads in your life. Keep a journal so that you can write down what the Lord speaks to you in these special times. During times of important decision-making, you may also want to fast as the Lord leads you. It is important, however, to understand that we cannot manipulate God into performing the way we would like Him to in any given situation. The Lord will often honor your efforts to become closer to Him, to be obedient to Him, and to strive to walk in a holy manner. Spend time in fasting and in prayer. They think that if God is speaking to us, there will be no fears or doubts whatsoever. The Bible does promise the peace of Christ, but it never guarantees complete peaceful feelings. There are often concerns in a decision, but the Lord gives us an underlying assurance that He will be with us and guide us through. Blaine Smith wrote the following about the peace of the Spirit: His peace is the grace that transcends our fears, allowing us to move ahead in spite of doubt. Emotional peace will not be experienced until after we step out in faith. Furthermore, waiting for absolute peace before making every major decision would be paralyzing. Biblical faith is the resolve to forge ahead, despite the fear of change. Once we have submitted ourselves to God, and made things right in a spiritual sense, it is time to practically consider the decision we are making. We have examined the decision in light of the seven keys: Before making a final decision, carefully examine the entire situation using your God-given intellect. Ask yourself these questions: Is this new direction biblical? Does it complement my spiritual gifts? Can I use my God-given talents and abilities in this new role? Does this new direction line up with the long-term desires of my heart? Do I have the personal resources to move forward in this direction? Do I have the experience necessary to excel in this new area of responsibility? Or is God asking me to go out and gain the experience needed to move into this new venture? Do I have the peace of Christ “not necessarily a complete and total freedom from concern” but do I have an assurance from the Lord that He will guide me in this new path? Will my decision fulfill a desire that has been planted in my heart? What are the key people around me saying about this new direction “parents, pastors, professors, mentors, and friends” how has my decision been balanced on the scales of their opinions? Are the circumstantial doors opened or are they closed? If the doors seem to be closed, does that mean I should back away, or do I have enough assurance through the other keys to wait in faith for God to bring the circumstances in line? If the doors seem to be open, do I have enough assurance through the other keys for me to move forward in this decision? Am I willing to die to my own desires if the Lord directs me in a way that I did not expect? Am I willing to allow God to give me the desires of my heart, even if it means new, possibly frightening challenges and a loss of my comfort zone? Just like He did with Peter, when you lift your foot over the edge of the boat and step onto the water in obedience to His call, grace will come on the scene and God will do what it takes to see His will accomplished in your life. Can God change your life? God has made it possible for you to know Him and experience an amazing change in your own life. Discover how you can find

peace with God. You can also send us your prayer requests Craig von Buseck is a published author, popular speaker and a contributing writer for CBN. Craig is also the author of NetCasters: Craig has extensive ministry and speaking experience. He travels often to minister in churches and speak at writers conferences and professional events.

Chapter 3 : THE WAY WITH WORDS: Examine Everything Carefully

Our job then is to examine "everything" carefully in the light of God's word (Psalm) to make certain it is good before we participate in it, and to refuse to participate in it if it comes in any "form" of evil.

It is couched in general terms all things , but, of course, has special reference to all things purporting to be manifestations of the Spirit. And how were these revelations to be tested? If they were not in accordance 1 with the original tradition 2Thessalonians 2: A truly religious life is a life of constant joy. And we should rejoice more, if we prayed more. Prayer will help forward all lawful business, and every good work. If we pray without ceasing, we shall not want matter for thanksgiving in every thing. We shall see cause to give thanks for sparing and preventing, for common and uncommon, past and present, temporal and spiritual mercies. Not only for prosperous and pleasing, but also for afflicting providences, for chastisements and corrections; for God designs all for our good, though we at present see not how they tend to it. Quench not the Spirit. Christians are said to be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire. He worketh as fire, by enlightening, enlivening, and purifying the souls of men. As fire is put out by taking away fuel, and as it is quenched by pouring water, or putting a great deal of earth upon it; so we must be careful not to quench the Holy Spirit, by indulging carnal lusts and affections, minding only earthly things. Believers often hinder their growth in grace, by not giving themselves up to the spiritual affections raised in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. By prophesyings, here understand the preaching of the word, the interpreting and applying the Scriptures. We must not despise preaching, though it is plain, and we are told no more than what we knew before. We must search the Scriptures. And proving all things must be to hold fast that which is good. We should abstain from sin, and whatever looks like sin, leads to it, and borders upon it. He who is not shy of the appearances of sin, who shuns not the occasions of it, and who avoids not the temptations and approaches to it, will not long keep from doing sin. This trial was usually made by fire. The meaning here is, that they were carefully to examine everything proposed for their belief. They were not to receive it on trust; to take it on assertion; to believe it because it was urged with vehemence, zeal, or plausibility. In the various opinions and doctrines which were submitted to them for adoption, they were to apply the appropriate tests from reason and the word of God, and what they found to be true they were to embrace; what was false they were to reject. Christianity does not require people to disregard their reason, or to be credulous. It does not expect them to believe anything because others say it is so. It does not make it a duty to receive as undoubted truth all that synods and councils have decreed; or all that is advanced by the ministers of religion. It is, more than any other form of religion, the friend of free inquiry, and would lead people everywhere to understand the reason of the opinions which they entertain; compare Acts Hold fast that which is good - Which is in accordance with reason and the word of God; which is adapted to promote the salvation of the soul and the welfare of society. This is just as much a duty as it is to "prove all things. He is not at liberty to throw it away, as if it were valueless; or to treat truth and falsehood alike. It is a duty which he owes to himself and to God to adhere to it firmly, and to suffer the loss of all things rather than to abandon it. There are few more important rules in the New Testament than the one in this passage. It shows what is the true nature of Christianity, and it is a rule whose practical value cannot but be felt constantly in our lives. Other religions require their votaries to receive everything upon trust; Christianity asks us to examine everything. Error, superstition, bigotry, and fanaticism attempt to repress free discussion, by saying that there are certain things which are too sacred in their nature, or which have been too long held, or which are sanctioned by too many great and holy names, to permit their being subjected to the scrutiny of common eyes, or to be handled by common hands. In opposition to all this, Christianity requires us to examine everything - no matter by whom held; by what councils ordained; by what venerableness of antiquity sustained; or by what sacredness it may be invested. We are to receive no opinion until we are convinced that it is true; we are to be subjected to no pains or penalties for not believing what we do not perceive to be true; we are to be prohibited from examining no opinion which our fellow-men regard as true, and which they seek to make others believe. No popular current in favor of any doctrine; no influence which name and rank and learning can give it, is to commend it to us as certainly worthy of our belief.

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary 21, Some of the oldest manuscripts insert "But. The means of testing them existed in the Church, in those who had the "discerning of spirits" 1Co Another sure test, which we also have, is, to try the professed revelation whether it accords with Scripture, as the noble Bereans did Isa 8: Locke says, Those who are for laying aside reason in matters of revelation, resemble one who would put out his eyes in order to use a telescope. As the result of your "proving all things," and especially all prophesyings, "hold fast Lu 8: Do not accept even a professedly spirit-inspired communication, if it be at variance with the truth taught you 2Th 2: The same which the apostle John requires: And though there was a peculiar gift of discerning of spirits, 1 Corinthians The apostle speaks here to the saints in general, and so doth the apostle John, 1Jo 4: As we ought not easily to reject the authority and faith of the church, so not to believe with a blind faith, or obey with a blind obedience. Holdfast to that which is good: And though all truth hath a goodness in it, yet especially Divine truth, and the doctrine of the gospel, which the apostle calls, that good thing committed to Timothy, 2 Timothy 1: It is good with respect to the soul, and so better than any bodily good; and good that refers to eternity, and so better than any temporal good. The same word is used concerning the good ground that held fast the seed of the word, Luke 8: So 1 Corinthians It is a duty much pressed by the apostles in their Epistles to the saints and churches that had received the gospel, that they would hold it fast, 2 Timothy 1: And there is holding fast the truth as well in practice as opinion, and which may be the ground of the name given to such as opposed the errors of antichrist before the word protestant was known, called fast-men. That are said by the prophets, all the doctrines which they deliver; hear them, though they have not the gift of tongues, and all desirable advantages; do not reject them on that account, and refuse to hear them, for so, many useful men may be laid aside, and the Spirit of God in them be quenched; try their gifts, and attend to their doctrines, yet do not implicitly believe everything they say, but examine them according to the word of God the test and standard of truth; search the Scriptures, whether the things they say are true or not. Not openly erroneous persons, and known heretics, are to be heard and attended on, but the ministers of the word, or such who are said to have a gift of prophesying; these should make use of it, and the church should try and judge their gift, and accordingly encourage or discourage; and also their doctrines, and if false reject them, and if true receive them. Hold fast that which is good; honest, pleasant, profitable, and agreeable to sound doctrine, to the analogy of faith, and the Scriptures of truth, and is useful and edifying, instructive both as to principle and practice; such should be held fast, that no man take it away; and be retained, though a majority may be against it, for the multitude is not always on the side of truth; and though it may be rejected by men of learning and wealth, as Christ and his doctrines were rejected by the Scribes and Pharisees, and rulers of the people; and though it may be reproached as a novel, upstart notion, or a licentious one, since these were charges against the doctrine of Christ, and his apostles; and though it may be attended with affliction and persecution, yet none of these things should move from it, or cause to let it go. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. That, moreover, this testing can only proceed from those who are themselves illuminated by the Holy Spirit was evident to the apostle. The fundamental principle of rationalism, that the reason as such is the judge of revelation, is not contained in these words. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good] Some of the best ancient authorities read, But prove all things. In any case, this exhortation, while capable of the widest application, arises out of the subject of the last. And St Paul gives a criterion for the purpose in 1 Corinthians Pulpit Commentary Verse This exhortation is closely connected with the preceding. There was a special gift of discerning spirits in the primitive Church 1 Corinthians But although the words primarily refer to the testing of prophetic utterances, yet they have a general application. We should not rest our faith on the authority of others. The right of private judgment is the characteristic and privilege of Protestantism. We ought thoroughly to examine all doctrines by the test of Scripture, and then, discerning their reasons, we shall be able to take a firmer hold of them. At the same time, the fundamental principle of rationalism, that reason as such is the judge of the doctrines of revelation, is not contained in these words, and cannot be inferred from them. That which is good; the good, the beautiful, the honorable; a different word from that rendered "good" in ver. We are to retain whatever is good in those "all things" which we are to prove or test, namely, in the prophesyings. See on discerning of spirits, 1 Corinthians In lxx, Proverbs

Chapter 4 : A BrAnd NeW Life: how do ppl sees me?

Editorial: Examine everything carefully Derek Morris The apostle Paul gave important advice to Christians living in Thessalonica and also to each one of us today: "Examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thess. , NASB).

It is couched in general terms all things , but, of course, has special reference to all things purporting to be manifestations of the Spirit. And how were these revelations to be tested? If they were not in accordance 1 with the original tradition 2Thessalonians 2: Pulpit Commentary Verse This exhortation is closely connected with the preceding. There was a special gift of discerning spirits in the primitive Church 1 Corinthians But although the words primarily refer to the testing of prophetic utterances, yet they have a general application. We should not rest our faith on the authority of others. The right of private judgment is the characteristic and privilege of Protestantism. We ought thoroughly to examine all doctrines by the test of Scripture, and then, discerning their reasons, we shall be able to take a firmer hold of them. At the same time, the fundamental principle of rationalism, that reason as such is the judge of the doctrines of revelation, is not contained in these words, and cannot be inferred from them. That which is good; the good, the beautiful, the honorable; a different word from that rendered "good" in ver. We are to retain whatever is good in those "all things" which we are to prove or test, namely, in the prophesyings. Matthew Henry Commentary 5: A truly religious life is a life of constant joy. And we should rejoice more, if we prayed more. Prayer will help forward all lawful business, and every good work. If we pray without ceasing, we shall not want matter for thanksgiving in every thing. We shall see cause to give thanks for sparing and preventing, for common and uncommon, past and present, temporal and spiritual mercies. Not only for prosperous and pleasing, but also for afflicting providences, for chastisements and corrections; for God designs all for our good, though we at present see not how they tend to it. Quench not the Spirit. Christians are said to be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire. He worketh as fire, by enlightening, enlivening, and purifying the souls of men. As fire is put out by taking away fuel, and as it is quenched by pouring water, or putting a great deal of earth upon it; so we must be careful not to quench the Holy Spirit, by indulging carnal lusts and affections, minding only earthly things. Believers often hinder their growth in grace, by not giving themselves up to the spiritual affections raised in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. By prophesyings, here understand the preaching of the word, the interpreting and applying the Scriptures. We must not despise preaching, though it is plain, and we are told no more than what we knew before. We must search the Scriptures. And proving all things must be to hold fast that which is good. We should abstain from sin, and whatever looks like sin, leads to it, and borders upon it. He who is not shy of the appearances of sin, who shuns not the occasions of it, and who avoids not the temptations and approaches to it, will not long keep from doing sin.

Chapter 5 : 1 Thessalonians NASB - But examine everything carefully; hold - Bible Gateway

Williams New Testament. but continue to prove all things until you can approve them, and then hold on to what is good.

We may not always get our priorities right the 1st time, but as long as our vision is strong we can reset! When we have truly established our priorities based on the big picture, there will naturally develop a deep sense of urgency, for nothing will be more important than following through on that which has proven to be most important! Thou shalt NOT Covet. The 10th Commandment like the 1st is an internal commandment “no one can really know if you are living a covetous life because this takes place in the heart and mind. Coveting is expressed on the outside only when it is firmly rooted on the inside! Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith Habakkuk 2: Urgently strain forward towards that which is most valuable! Here we can see the vision and priorities in place and the deep urgency to fulfill them. Success in sacrifice is most often born out of failure. What deadline do you have??? They represent what must be in place in our hearts and minds to back up and execute the vision, priorities and urgency we have chosen. The secret for redeeming the time related to living an inspired life is to find those things which inspire your spiritual growth “drink them in! Inspiration works best when we have someone whose struggle can be observed. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands of Biblical accounts, promises and prophecies that we are at liberty to make our own, for the sake of inspiring us to redeem the time. And what about the lives of our own brethren? Look at who inspired the Apostle Paul. The Apostle Paul drew strength from his brethren “Can we not do the same Brethren?! Jesus exemplified to everyone there that his strength came from our Heavenly Father! Inspiration is not necessarily delivered in exhilaration and victory. On the contrary, it is often found in those lonely and desperate times of struggle, doubt and fear and it quietly carries you through your present tempest to where you can again find secure footing. Over these 14 years, inspiration has come in many ways: But inspiration alone cannot keep us there! Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Nothing replaces hard work. We hear the adage “work smarter not harder and this is true, yet for the New Creation we are to work smarter that is through the spirit “and therefore be able to work harder and more productively at those things of greatest importance. Why would we be willing to sweat? The more fully engaged we are in the work, the more we find that the greatest effort is often not the work itself, rather it is the effort to position and condition ourselves for that work. One of my greatest personal lessons from the radio work is this: We all have perceived limits of what we are capable of giving in service. With the perspiration of complete engagement in place, there remains but one thing to give a complete picture of redeeming our time. It is a simple thing, yet often overlooked when we set our minds to a service.

Chapter 6 : 1 Thessalonians - NAS - But examine everything carefully; hold fast to

Tag: examine everything carefully Redeeming the Time "15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil " (Ephesians , 16, KJV).

Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world. To do so, is to invite error and deception into our lives. God requires us to use our mind and reason and education in matters of faith. For example, John challenges us to learn to discern between truth and error, and to identify deceivers and avoid them. This is not presumption but a Scriptural command. It means examining, scrutinizing and investigating spiritual matters. It also means appraising spiritual things so that we value what God values, love what he loves and hate what he hates. A Christian is a spiritual person who by the Holy Spirit has some insight into the plans and purposes of God. Reader, how discerning are you in matters of faith and spirituality? Although the Bible presents Christianity as a way of life to be personally and corporately experienced and not just a theory to be believed, its writers are not naive or uncritical about the nature of all spiritual experiences. Believers are not to be naive about claims of spiritual authority, and gullibly accept all such claims. The Christian faith is not to be mistaken for credulity and naivety. The OT frequently warned Israel of the importance of distinguishing an authentic prophet from a counterfeit and the danger of listening to false prophets. In the NT Jesus and the apostles were not the only miracle-workers. The presence of false prophets claiming the authority of the Holy Spirit underlines this necessity. Behind every preacher is a spirit that is either of God or the devil. The extremes of gullibility and cynicism are both to be avoided. There is an urgent need for discernment among Christians. Many cults and charismatic leaders have gained popular support, often among disenchanting former church members. It is a tragic mistake to have a misguided tolerance toward false teaching. Only healthy teaching can result in healthy living. The question of who does and who does not speak for God is an issue relevant to every generation. To identify the true from the false, we must examine their message and their moral life and character. The New Testament teaches in 1 Corinthians To be healthy a church needs to feed on sound teaching, and the members of a church, as well as its ministers, should be discerning lest they be led astray by false teaching. The next image is of ship drifting helplessly at the mercy of a storm and tossed by varying winds. It was used of spinning tops and feeling dizzy. Some Christians have not carefully examined their beliefs and consequently accept every new opinion and follow uncritically the guidance of every new teacher. Whereas we should carefully examine what is truth and become firmly grounded in what the Bible teaches. Then Paul changes to another image: It is a picture of anything that happens by chance as in the throw of dice. It describes a Christian whose beliefs seem to be the result of mere chance and not careful study of the Bible. For example, NT prophecy was limited 1 Corinthians Paul regulates prophecy in order to avoid confusion and establish a balance in the worship service 1 Corinthians His guidelines concern not only what the prophets say but also the spirits of the prophets as well. This judgment involves its content, especially in its relation to Scripture, its spirit, and its relevance to that particular meeting. Ryle, the nineteenth century Anglican Bishop of Liverpool said: Prove all things by the Word of God. All ministers, all teaching, all preaching, all doctrines, all sermons, all writings, all opinions, all practices, prove all by the Word of God. Compare all with the standard of the Bible. Weigh all in the balances of the Bible. Examine all by the light of the Bible. Test all in the crucible of the Bible. That which can abide the fire of the Bible, receive, hold, believe, and obey. That which cannot abide the fire of the Bible, reject, refuse, repudiate, and cast away. It does not expect them to believe anything because others say it is so. It does not make it a duty to receive as undoubted truth all that synods and councils have decreed, or all that is advanced by the ministers of religion. The apostles Paul and John have given the criteria for knowing when a statement, either in normal speech or in a prophetic utterance, is a message from God and when it is not, in 1 Corinthians It is important that believers do not accept unquestioningly everything that is told them by teachers of the Bible but discern between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Throughout this epistle, the author states that a proper understanding of Christ is a mark of genuine Christianity. This doctrinal test is not sufficient in every situation as mere verbal confession of a doctrinal

statement does not guarantee genuineness. Only the Holy Spirit can enable us to submit to the lordship of Christ. Genuine prophecy is positive and encouraging, rather than negative: New Testament prophecy was limited 1 Corinthians Paul says that only two or three prophets should speak in a service, and let the listeners i. He prays that their enthusiastic love to God and people might overflow from the emotional to the intellectual part of their character and become a means of spiritual insight. He wanted their love to be more balanced and enriched by moral discernment and by a critical ability to discriminate between what was right and wrong and what was good and evil. Love, Paul says, must comprehend with accuracy and apply the truth with discrimination and discernment in all kinds of situations. The result of intelligent love is a right sense of values. He would not have them love and approve all spiritual things indiscriminately. The apostle wanted them to be intelligent Christians who understood the difference between truth and error in spiritual matters. 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, 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. John gives a caution about lying spirits, false prophets and the exposure of false teaching; demonic forces are behind these false teachers. John stressed the importance of right belief as an evidence of genuine Christianity. The apostle was speaking of people who claimed to be Christians but who spoke as deadly opponents of Christianity. John wanted to provide direction to distinguish between the true and the false. John directed his readers to test the words of those who claimed to speak for God because of the possibility of the presence of false prophets. All pretensions to divine inspiration, or to being authorized teachers of religion, were to be examined by the proper tests, because there were many false and delusive teachers who set up such claims in the world. He also indicated that the worldly message of the false prophets would attract an audience that was gullible in their acceptance of error verse 5. This verse emphasizes that believers are not to be naive about claims of spiritual authority, gullibly accepting all such claims. Instead, believers are cautioned to subject the spirits to testing to see whether or not they are of God. Timothy was not to be led astray by religious impostors. Verse 16 is one of the greatest verses in the NT to describe the inspiration of the Bible. The words of Scripture are to be received as from God. God breathed his truth into those who wrote the Bible, by the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit, so that it is an authoritative and trustworthy book. It is the yardstick or standard of comparison by which all doctrine should be measured. Put all things to the test: This verb has two main ideas: It was used of testing metals or coins, to see if they were genuine. The Greek tense used with this verb is the present imperative; it is a command to do something in the future and involves continuous or repeated action. They must not be accepted with credulity but are to be tested by the more objective revelation of the Bible, as the gift of prophecy was easily counterfeited and called for discernment. It is used, for example, in speaking of a moneychanger testing the genuineness of a coin. Inspired messages are to be tested in a similar way, to see whether their inspiration comes from the Holy Spirit or from the powers of evil. Genuine prophecy was not to be suppressed. Keeping what is good and avoiding every kind of evil are the two consequences of putting all things to the test. We should carefully check out what preachers and teachers say, accepting what is true and rejecting what is false. There are difficulties involved in evaluating inspired messages. Matthew Henry, , the English Presbyterian minister and Bible commentator comments on 1 Thessalonians 5: Every Christian has and ought to have, the judgment of discretion, and should have his senses exercised in discerning between good and evil, truth and falsehood. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. Apparently some of the wealthier members were not sharing their food with the poor v. This unworthy approach also involved divisions among the fellowship v. At Corinth this judgment of God had resulted in sickness and even death v. Note that the bread remains bread.

Chapter 7 : examine everything carefully –“ BIBLE Students DAILY

1 Thessalonians But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; Read verse in New American Standard Bible.

These are some of the Bible passages that are being strangely ignored by the Apostate Messed Up church: Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

Chapter 8 : 1 Thessalonians but test all things. Hold fast to what is good.

"But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil."---1 Thessalonians ,22 "The apostle Paul in this text is saying.

Chapter 9 : The Importance of Discernment â€“ CULTWATCH

21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil. Today is August 17, Please open your Bible and take the time to read Psalm uninterrupted.