

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. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 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. 1 John 4:4-6 (NIV)

Recognize And Reject

What will you believe? What will you accept as true? You are living in the world. You are not of the world. My Spirit is living and dwelling in you. My Spirit has made you to be an overcomer. You will overcome the world. You will overcome what the world attempts to teach you. You will not accept it. You will not take it in. You will not make it your own. I'm not sure what you mean. How will you overcome the world? **Let's go back to my first two questions.** What will I believe? What will I accept as true? **Yes, that's right. The world will attempt to teach you its values. The world will want you to think, speak and act according to its principles.** How will you be able to recognize and reject what is false? **That is a very good question.**

I have given you my word. I have filled you with my Holy Spirit. I have placed you in a body of believers. These are what will teach you. Accept my word. Take my word in. Make my word your own. What does that mean? **Live your life according to my word. Let my word dwell in you richly. My Holy Spirit will help you to put my word into practice in your life. My Holy Spirit will bring my word into your remembrance and apply it to your life. My Holy Spirit will use my word to teach you and counsel you and guide you. As you study my word you will know the truth. As you study my word you will know what is false.** I understand. Your Holy Spirit will use your word to teach me. I will be able to recognize false teaching and false teachers as I compare the content of what I have been taught by you with what the world and its false teachers attempt to teach me. **Yes, that's right. But there is more. On your own you might be led astray. On your own you might accept what is false. On your own you might not recognize a false teacher. I did not make you to live alone. I did not make you to live in isolation. I have placed you in a body of believers. In my body of believers you will teach others and also be taught by them. You will encourage and strengthen each other. You will watch out for each other. You will guard and protect each other from false teachers and their false teachings. Together you will overcome the world with my word and my Holy Spirit living and dwelling in you. Now do you understand?** Yes Lord, I do.

Lord, thank you that the Holy Spirit living inside of me has made me able to recognize and reject false teaching that is in the world. Help me to listen attentively to all you want to teach me. Help me to both know the truth and put it into practice as I follow you. Amen

The One Who Is In You

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Knowing God – 1 John 4:4-6

In Context: Read 1 John 4

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you that the Holy Spirit living inside of me has made me able to recognize and reject false teaching that is in the world. Help me to listen attentively to all you want to teach me. Help me to both know the truth and put it into practice as I follow you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What teaching have you identified as being false and from a worldly point of view?

How has the Holy Spirit living in you helped you to recognize false teaching in the world?

How has the Holy Spirit living in you protected you from following false teaching that is in the world?

Why is it important to recognize that the Holy Spirit is your source of victory rather than yourself?

What role does the Holy Spirit dwelling in the body believers have in helping you to overcome the world?

How are continually making yourself available to listen to the truth that comes from God's word?

How can you identify false and worldly teachers by their character and the content of their message?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Rely on the Holy Spirit to help you to recognize and reject false teaching that is in the world.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Holy Spirit living in you will help you to recognize and reject false teaching that is in the world.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you have been able to recognize and reject false teaching.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May the Holy Spirit living in you help you to recognize and reject false teaching that is in the world.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, help me to recognize and reject false teaching that is in the world as I follow and serve you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what false teaching from the world do I need to recognize and reject?
