

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)

Overcoming Evil

There is evil in this world, are you watching and on guard against it? Yes, I'm watching and on guard. What do I need to be on guard against? What do I need to be watching out for? **Those are good questions. You need to have an attitude of watchfulness. You need to have ears that are attentive to my voice. You need to be listening to all that I want to say to you. You need to be watching for all that I want to show to you. Does this sound like something that will be hard for you to accomplish?** It sounds easy. But, I'm not foolish enough to think that it will be easy. **Why is that?** It's easy to be absorbed in all the activities of life. It's easy to race through life and forget to listen to all that you want to say to me or to fail to watch all that you want to show to me. It's easy to become conformed to all the patterns, practices and values of the world. If I am not very careful, I could become unaware of how the world is continually trying to shape me into its mold. It's much harder to be attentive and watchful to all that you want me to hear and see. **Yes, it is.**

Let's talk about the focus of your attention. Alright, go ahead. You have my full attention. **Good, that's what I want. You have mentioned two possibilities. You can either focus your attention on the world or you can focus your attention on me.** If I focus my attention on the world I will have a very difficult time listening to what you want me to hear or watching what you want me to see. **Yes, that's exactly right.** I will have a very difficult time identifying what is true and what is false. **Does that sound like an understatement to you?** I will have an impossible time identifying what is true and what is false. **That's more like it.** If I have the focus of my attention on you, I will be able to know what is true and what is false because my eyes and ears will be open to you. **That is also correct.** As I continue to have my focus on you I will grow in my ability to listen to what you want me to hear and to watch what you want me to see. **How do you know that?** That has been my experience as I have had my focus on you. **That is very good.**

Let's talk about overcoming evil that is in the world. To overcome evil in the world I must be able to identify it. I also must have the strength and desire to resist it. **Can you identify or overcome evil if your focus is on the world?** Certainly not, if my focus is on the world then I will be wrapped up and enticed by evil. **That is not my will for you. It is my will that my Spirit living in you will make you able to overcome evil that is in the world. Do you believe that my Spirit living in you will make you able to overcome evil in the world?** Yes, I do. **Why do you believe?** You have changed the desires of my heart as I have had my focus on you. You have given me both the desire and strength to do your will. You have made me able to overcome evil in the world. **Yes, I have.**

Holy Spirit, thank you that you live inside of me. You have made me able to know what is true and what is false. You have made me able to recognize and overcome evil that is in the world. Help me to hear and really listen to you. Amen

Promises*The One Who Is In You*

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.

NIV

1 John 4:4-6

Promises*The Spirit Who Is In You*

But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them. But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

NLT

1 John 4:4-6

Promises*The One Who Is In You*

Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

NRSV

1 John 4:4-6

Promises*He Who Lives In You*

Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of the antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world. They proceed from the world and are of the world; therefore it is out of the world [its whole economy morally considered] that they speak, and the world listens (pays attention) to them. We are [children] of God. Whoever is learning to know God [progressively to perceive, recognize, and understand God by observation and experience, and to get an ever-clearer knowledge of Him] listens to us; and he who is not of God does not listen or pay attention to us. By this we know (recognize) the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error.

AMP

1 John 4:4-6

Promises*He Who Is In You*

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. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. 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.

NASB

1 John 4:4-6

Promises*He Who Is In You*

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

ESV

1 John 4:4-6

Promises*He Who Is In You*

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

NKJV

1 John 4:4-6

Promises*The Spirit In You*

My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world. These people belong to the Christ-denying world. They talk the world's language and the world eats it up. But we come from God and belong to God. Anyone who knows God understands us and listens. The person who has nothing to do with God will, of course, not listen to us. This is another test for telling the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of deception.

MSG

1 John 4:4-6

Promises*Someone In Your Hearts*

Dear young friends, you belong to God and have already won your fight with those who are against Christ because there is someone in your hearts who is stronger than any evil teacher in this wicked world. These men belong to this world, so, quite naturally, they are concerned about worldly affairs and the world pays attention to them. But we are children of God; that is why only those who have walked and talked with God will listen to us. Others won't. That is another way to know whether a message is really from God; for if it is, the world won't listen to it.

TLB

1 John 4:4-6

Promises*God's Spirit Is In You*

My dear children, you belong to God and have defeated them; because God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world. And they belong to the world, so what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. But those who are not from God do not listen to us. That is how we know the Spirit that is true and the spirit that is false.

NCV

1 John 4:4-6

The One Who Is In You

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – 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?)***

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

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

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

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

Holy Spirit, thank you that you live inside of me. You have made me able to know what is true and what is false. You have made me able to recognize and overcome evil that is in the world. Help me to hear and really listen to you. Amen

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

When has the Holy Spirit helped you to recognize when someone has said something that isn't from God?

Why will every true follower of God acknowledge that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh?

How are you being very careful to test everything you hear from everyone you follow in life?

Why will evil that is in the world always live in and speak from a worldly point of view?

When have you encountered spiritual resistance in people who refuse to listen to the truth of the Gospel?

How attentively do you listen to spiritual leaders that God has placed in your life?

How has the Holy Spirit living in your helped you to overcome evil that is in the world?

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

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to recognize and overcome evil 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 make you able to overcome evil 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 evil that is in the world.

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 you listen to the Holy Spirit so that you will be able to recognize and overcome evil that is in the world.

Prayer To Carry

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

Holy Spirit, I will listen attentively to all that you say to me so I will be able to recognize and overcome evil.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Holy Spirit, what evil do you want me to recognize and overcome today?
