

# The Christian's Foundation: *Love and Truth.*

## Lesson 7: Trying the Spirits:

### 1 John 4:1 - 6

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

In the first three chapters of 1 John, we discovered seven truths. These truths were:

- The First Truth: The Word of Life – The Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Second Truth: God is Light – We are to Walk in that Light.
- The Third Truth: Christ Keeps the Saints.
- The Fourth Truth: The Saint is to Keep His Commandments.
- The Fifth Truth: The Saint is to Not Love the World.
- The Sixth Truth: Antichrists will be in the World.
- The Seventh Truth: The Saints Are to Love One Another.

Now we will discover the Eighth Truth of 1 John: Trying the Spirits. The saint is commanded to discover and know the spirits who disseminate the truth and the spirits who disseminate error.

#### **I. The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_: Verses 1 - 3**

***Verses 1 – 3: "(1) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: (3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."***

**A. The \_\_\_\_\_ Truth - \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirits: Verse 1.  
*Ezekiel 28:12 – 15; Revelation 12:3 -4; Ezekiel 28:16 – 17;  
Jude 1:6; Ephesians 6:11 – 12; 1 Samuel 16:14;  
Luke 8:27 – 33; Acts 19:12 – 16; Acts 16:16 – 18;  
1 Timothy 4:1.***

**B. The Test to \_\_\_\_\_ False Spirits: Verse 2.**

**C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the False Spirits: Verse 3.**

## **II. The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_: Verses 4 – 6.**

Verses 4 – 6: "(4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (5) They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. (6) We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

**A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Saint over the False Spirits: Verse 4.**  
*John 16:33; Revelation 2:7, 11; Revelation 17:14.*

**B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the False Spirit: Verse 5.**  
*John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4.*

**C. \_\_\_\_\_ between the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ and the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ : Verse 6.**  
*John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 2:12 – 14.*

## **CONCLUSION and APPLICATIONS:**

- The Eighth Truth: Test the spirits.
- The saint is to test the message given by any angel to see if it matches the truth in God's word.
- Satan, who was a cherub angel, led a rebellion against God and lost.
- One third of the angels join his rebellion and were cast out of heaven with him.
- These fallen angels are the demons of today, only some of them are roaming the earth today, and they cannot leave the earth as well.
- The demons do have great powers, but they are limited. God's power is unlimited.
- The Holy Spirit that indwells the believer is greater than the power of any demon.
- The saint is to recognize the power of demons but not to dwell in fear of them.
- The passage gives us a litmus test to determine if a spirit is God's angels or Satan's demons.
- The angels of God will acknowledge the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth.
- The demons of Satan will deny that the Lord Jesus Christ ever came to the earth.
- The saint has overcome the world, just as the Lord Jesus Christ overcame the world.
- The saint will recognize, understand and be ready to hear God's word at any time.
- The natural will not recognize or understand God's word. It is foolishness to him.
- We must endeavor to lead as many as possible to salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ so they can enjoy the blessings of being God's child through all eternity.

# “Elijah: Hiding in a Widow’s House”

## Text: I Kings 17:8-16

Sunday, March 14, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

**Introduction:** The life of Elijah is divided into two parts and around two God-given commandments: 1) in I Kings 17:3 his “private ministry” and 2) in I Kings 18:1 his “public ministry.”

Why did God send Elijah to Cherith? This was God’s place of preparation. God was preparing Elijah for something greater.

There are three matters that constantly challenge God’s people in their desire to live for Christ...His guidance (Psalm 37:23-24), discipline (Hebrews 12:3-11), and provision (Genesis 22:14).

In I Kings 17:7 the Brook Cherith dried up some say after about 1 year. Does this mean God failed? NO! It meant that God was about to lead Elijah down the next path. Where was God leading this time and for what purpose? Note three things in our text:

### **I. The Widow’s Unbelievable Distress (Vss. 10-12).**

- A. She had come to the end of her resources (vss. 10, 12).
- B. She was a follower of God yet she had trials (vs. 12a).
- C. She had lost all hope (vs. 12b).

### **II. The Prophet’s Unshakable Faith (Vss. 8-14).**

- A. He had faith to take God at His Word (vss. 8-10).
- B. He had faith to make an unusual request (vs. 13).
- C. He had faith to declare God’s faithfulness (vs. 14).

### **III. The Lord’s Unfailing Supply (Vss. 15-16).**

- A. The promise of the supply (vss. 9, 14).
- B. The duration of the supply (vs. 14).
- C. The sufficiency of the supply (vss. 15b, 16).

**Note: Verses 15 and 16 is an example of “Faith Promise Giving” at its best.**

**Conclusion:** From the life Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath learn these things. Though we are in the unbelievable distress we are to have unshakable faith and the Lord will give his unfailing supply for whatever is our need. Read Psalm 37:23-25.

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# “Elijah: Give Me Thy Son”

**Text: I Kings 17:17-24**

Sunday, March 14, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

**Introduction:** Now that Elijah was safely installed in her home and God was daily providing for all their needs, it would have been easy for the widow of Zarephath to think that at last all her troubles were over. But were they?

Notice that both these people, Elijah and the widow, were *believers*; they were living by *faith*, faith in *God*, and faith in God is *always tested*. In other words, if we are believers we must expect to be tested.

This whole matter of faith’s testing is brought before us in the story of the death of the widow’s son and of Elijah’s great prayer.

## **I. The Trial of Faith (Vs. 17; 12:24; I Peter 1:7; 4:12).**

This trial was unexpected, severe, and for a purpose.

## **II. The Collapse of Faith (Vs. 18; Psalm 139:23-24; Job 23:10).**

This trial caused the widow to remember her sin.

## **III. The Operation of Faith (Vss. 19-24).**

A. Faith keeps calm in a trial (vs. 19; James 2:1-20).

B. Faith trusts God when His purpose cannot be traced (vs. 20).

C. Faith relates the trial to God (vss. 20-21; Hebrews 4:16).

D. Faith asks God to do the impossible (vs. 21; James 5:13-15).

E. Faith is always honored by God (vss. 22-23).

**Conclusion:** The closing verses (vss. 23-24) show us the fruitfulness of true faith in God. When we trust God many things happen. He is glorified, our faith is strengthened, our character is purified, and others are helped in times of crisis.

As other people look at us in times of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, profit and loss, and especially in times of fierce trial, of bereavement, accident or illness, can they say verse 24 of us?

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