

Chapter 11
Testing the Spirits:
False Prophets

Testing The Spirits: B

**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.**

I John 4:1

Testing The Spirits And False Gifts

How do the following passages speak to false gifts? Some passages will speak directly to a false gift while others will infer the existence of a false gift.

Read the passage and then record your thoughts concerning false gifts in the space below the passage.

JER 23:32 "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied **false dreams**," declares the Lord, "and related them, and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the Lord.

LAM 2:14 Your prophets have seen for you **False and foolish visions**; And they have not exposed your iniquity So as to restore you from captivity, But they have seen for you false and misleading oracles.

EZE 13:9 "So My hand will be against **the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations**. They will have no place in the council of My people, nor will they be written down in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel, that you may know that I am the Lord God.

EZE 13:23 therefore, you women will no longer **see false visions or practice divination**, and I will deliver My people out of your hand. Thus you will know that I am the Lord. "

EZE 21:23 "And it will be to them like **a false divination in their eyes**; they have **sworn solemn oaths**. But he brings iniquity to remembrance, that they may be seized.

EZE 21:29 while **they see for you false visions**, while **they divine lies for you--** to place you on the necks of the wicked who are slain, whose day has come, in the time of the punishment of the end.

ZEC 10:2 For the teraphim **speak iniquity**, And the diviners see **lying visions**, And **tell false dreams**; They **comfort in vain**. Therefore the people wander like sheep, They are afflicted, because there is no shepherd.

MAR 13:22 for **false Christs** and **false prophets** will arise, and will **show signs and wonders**, in order, if possible, to **lead the elect astray**.

ACT 13:6 And when they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish **false prophet** whose name was Bar-Jesus,

1CO 15:15 Moreover we are even found to be **false witnesses** of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

2CO 11:13 For such men are **false apostles**, deceitful **workers**, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

2CO 11:26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among **false brethren**;

PHI 3:2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the **false circumcision**;

2TH 2:9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the **activity of Satan**, with **all power and signs and false wonders**,

2PE 2:1 But **false prophets** also arose among the people, just as there will also be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly introduce **destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2PE 2:3 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.

1JO 4:1 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.

REV 2:2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call **themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false**;

REV 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the **false prophet** who **performed the signs** in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Now look back over your observations on false gifts.

A. How difficult would it be to determine with your own senses and observations whether a gift or miracle is from God or from satan?

B. What indications are there from these passages of the dangers of deception?

C. What is the greatest protection a believer can have in terms of being misled by false gifts?

Bible Study

Many think that if a person does a miracle that he is from God. That if a spiritual manifestation occurs it is from the Holy Spirit. Read the following verses. What can you determine about miracles and spiritual manifestations from these passages?

Passage	From God or satan	Observation
Exodus 7:10		
Exodus 7:11 & 12		
Matthew 24:24		
Mark 13:22		
Mark 16:17 – 20		
John 6:2		
John 12:37		
Acts 2:43		
Acts 4:30		
Acts 5:12		

Passage	From God or satan	Observation
Acts 6:8		
Acts 14:3		
Acts 15:12		
Romans 15:18 & 19		
II Corinthians 12:12		
II Thessalonians 2:8 – 10		
Hebrews 2:3 & 4		
Revelation 13:13 & 14		
Revelation 16:14		
Revelation 19:20		

Many people assume that what a person does in worship indicates his spirituality or closeness to God. In the project below, compare what the servants of satan do with what the servants of the Lord do. How does this effect your evaluation of outward forms of worship?

Servant of the Lord

Servants of the devil

Isaiah 65:14

I Kings 18:28 & 29,

Luke 6:23

I Kings 18:26

Daniel 3:5,6; Matthew 4:9; Mark 3:11

Revelations 4:9 - 11

Hoseah 2:17; 11:2; I Corinthians 10:20

Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15 & 16

In the space below write a summary statement concerning the deceptive powers of satan and his demons when it comes to outward forms of worship...

Outward Gifts And Abilities...

Servant of the Lord

I Kings 20: 29 & 30

II Chronicles 32:1 – 8

Deuteronomy 31:20

II Samuel 7:1

Servant of the devil

I Samuel 16:20 – 23

II Kings 14:23 – 25

Psalm 73:3 – 7

II Kings 19:10 - 13

What errors can the church be lead into simply by evaluating a man by his outward gifts and abilities...

Consider the following two verses, how do they speak to this issue?

1 Sam 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Prov 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD
JEREMIAH 15:16
THEME: False Prophets and False Ministers

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 11:12 - 15

How does this passage relate to the theme?

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:**

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 2:2

How does this passage relate to the theme?

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:**

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Peter 2:1

How does this passage relate to the theme?

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:**

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD
JEREMIAH 15:16
THEME: False Prophets and False Ministers

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 24:24

How does this passage relate to the theme?

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:**

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Thessalonians 2: 8 – 10

How does this passage relate to the theme?

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:**

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 13: 13 & 14; 16:14; 19:20

How does this passage relate to the theme?

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:**

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?