

Spirit of Antichrist
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In today's Bible study we're going to discuss the "spirit of Antichrist". What exactly is this spirit? Most brethren in the church today have little clue about it, even though it permeates (has spread throughout) most of God's church today. Yet, ironically, it's clearly and simply defined by the Apostle John.

In 1 John 4:1 we are admonished by John to try (or test) the spirits whether they are of God. Why? Because (he goes on to say) there are many false prophets gone out into the world. And as we will see in the very next two verses, those false prophets (the prophets who are not of God) can be identified by that spirit of antichrist.

Now let's understand the simplicity here, there are two spirits spoken of here by the Apostle John, the Spirit of God, and the spirit of antichrist. First he identifies Spirit of God:

(1 John 4:2-3) "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth (or acknowledges) that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that confesseth (acknowledges) 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.

So, if one acknowledges that our Lord has come in the flesh, they have that Spirit of God. But if one doesn't acknowledge that our Lord came in the flesh, then he has that "spirit of antichrist".

Acknowledge means = accept or admit the existence or truth of, or to recognize the fact or importance of.

So which spirit we are of, hinges on whether we believe that our Lord came in the "flesh" or not.

In (John 1:14) we are told: "And the Word was made "flesh" and dwelt among us."

That "flesh" that our Lord was made, was the same flesh as the rest of us. Strong's # 4561 human nature, human being, carnal.

Now if you ask the members of God' church if our Lord came in the flesh, most will quickly answer "yes" But most (especially most pulpits) don't believe it. They feel that the "flesh" that our Lord came to this earth in was different than the "flesh" of the rest of us.

They feel that our Lord could walk this earth upright, and refrain from sinning, but that it is impossible for us to walk upright, and completely change our sinful ways and refrain from sinning.

Now before we move on, let me say this so there is no misunderstanding here. As long as we are human, we will always have the potential to sin. And we can never say we don't sin, because that would be sin itself, pride. But, we are commanded throughout the Scriptures to stop sinning.

Now those with the spirit of antichrist do not believe that we (while still in the flesh) can stop sinning. Even many reading this right now think that it is impossible for us (while in the flesh) to stop sinning, and walk this earth like our Lord walked, upright.. Many feel that we will not walk upright until our change from flesh and blood human beings, into spirit beings in the Kingdom of God.

Brethren, there is no magic wand at the end of the day that will institutionally change our sinful natures, and create in us that Holy Righteous Character of the Father, that change of nature takes time, that Holy Righteous Character of the Father takes time to develop, it's a process. And a process that has to be completed now, while we are in the flesh.

The Scriptures not only say we can change from our old sinful ways and become 'pure' like our Lord while still flesh and blood human beings, but command us to do just that.

(1 John 3:3) (1 John 3:6-10)

The NIV puts it like this: "No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as He (our Lord) is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do

what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love his brother and sister.”

Brethren, we came into this world as sinners, with sinful natures, but our Creator wants to change our natures, and He has given us the Power to accomplish, His Powerful Holy Spirit. It's the same Power that our Lord and Savior used to refrain from sinning and walk this earth upright.

The Father wants to develop in us His Holy Righteous Character. He wants us to walk this earth upright like our Elder Brother and “Chief corner stone” Jesus Christ. But how will we accomplish that goal, if we think it is impossible, and out of our reach?

That's what the “spirit of antichrist” is, it's a spirit that gets us to believe that our Lord was not flesh like we are, that He was different, that He could overcome and walk this earth upright and refrain from sinning, but that we cannot. It's a bad spirit; a spirit that can prevent us from achieving our goal of overcoming.

All seven churches are told: To him that overcometh will I grant this and give that. Just “trying” to overcome doesn't cut it with our Creator, we have to succeed.
(Revelation 2:7) (Revelation 2:11) (Revelation 2:17) (Revelation 2:26)
(Revelation 3:5) (Revelation 3:12) (Revelation 3:21)

Brethren, don't believe the false teachers who say it is impossible for us to totally overcome, because it is possible. Oh, by ourselves it is impossible, but we are Not by ourselves if the Powerful Holy Spirit of our Father resides in us.

Remember our Lord says that even He could do nothing by Himself, but that it was by the Father that He accomplished all that He did. Even His miracles were accomplished by the Power given Him by the Father. Our Lord was a mere man like the rest of us when He walked this earth.

(Matthew 9:6-8)

Yes, God the Father had given our Lord (a man at the time) the Power to do great miracles, and the Power to walk this earth totally upright.

Brethren, if we have repented, been baptized, and had the laying on of the Apostles hands (which is the procedure given by the Father to receive His Holy Spirit) then

we also can walk this earth totally upright just like our Elder Bother walked, when He was in the flesh.

Let us Believe and understand the Scriptures. When our Lord was on this earth in the flesh for 33 1/2 years. He did not have the same nature as God at that time, for one thing, **God cannot be tempted with evil, but our Lord was tempted with evil, same as we are.**

(James 1:13) (Hebrews 4:15)

When our Lord walked this earth He emptied himself of His Godhead and was made “flesh” (Same human nature, same carnal flesh as you and me.)

(Philippians 2:7-8) Hebrews 2:9) (John 1:14)

The NIV puts it like this in Hebrews 2:17: “For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.”

Brethren, the “spirit of antichrist” is a bad spirit, it is a spirit that many (too many) in God’s church today are harboring in their minds. Let us recognize this bad spirit,

let us test the spirits, and make sure the Spirit that is in us is of God: because there are many, yes many false prophets not only in the world, but within the church of God today.

(2 peter 2:1-2)