



Sermon Outline
November 22-23, 2025
Pastor Bryan Myers

**Discerning Truth in
a Deceptive World**

1 John 4:1-6

1. The default posture for Christians must be _____, not gullibility.

- * **Religious language doesn't equal _____.**
- * **"Do not believe every spirit"** – Not every teaching, influencer, or movement has God behind it.
- * **Even sincere people can be sincerely _____.**
- * **Today's world has endless voices:** *Podcasts, YouTube/ TikTok theologians, authors, preachers, spirits, philosophies.*
- * **Not everything trending is _____.** We need to be culturally relevant but Biblically reverent.

2. The _____ Test: *Does this teaching affirm the full identity of Jesus – God in the flesh?*

- * **False teachers: distort, diminish, or redefine Jesus.**

Galatians 1:7b - Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

- * **The antichrist spirit: anything that _____ Christ and enthrones self.**

Modern examples:

- * **Jesus as only a _____.**
- * **Jesus as a spiritual guru.**
- * **Jesus as a symbol, not a _____.**

Acts 17:11 - Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

3. The reality of a _____.

Ephesians 6:12 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Satan's battle plan:

1 Peter 5:8b - Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1. Subtle Distortion - "Did God really say...?"

** Satan doesn't lead with a bold lie, but a gentle nudge of doubt.*

2. An offer of false _____ and promises
- "You will not surely die."

* **Satan is the original _____,**
offering sin with no cost attached.

3. Question God's Motives - "God knows..."

* **If Satan can make God seem unkind or _____,**
sin begins to look reasonable.

4. The reality of our _____.

1 John 4:4 - 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.

* **Christ followers don't fight _____ victory.**
We fight _____ victory.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

* **Every message has a spiritual _____.**