

The Tests and Traits of True Saving Faith I John – Part 8

- I. Introduction
 - A. Before examining the next traits of true saving faith (4-7), we need to understand the context in which we find these traits.
 - B. 1 John 4:1-6
- II. Testing the Spirits – 1 John 4:1-6
 - A. False doctrine
 - 1. Satan works overtime to deceive
 - 2. It all started in the garden of Eden – Genesis 2 and 3
 - 3. Genesis 2:16 -17 = what God actually said
 - 4. Genesis 3: 1-13 – what Adam and Eve said God said after the conversation with Satan
 - a. Doubt – did God say?
 - b. Distortion – God didn't say that
 - c. Denial – you shall not surely die
 - d. Deceit – a,b, and c make up deceit
 - e. Death – result of deceit
 - B. Satan and his demons are behind all false doctrine
 - 1. Seducing spirits are behind all false doctrine – 1 Timothy 1:4
 - a. Demonism at its source
 - b. Person is only the mouthpiece
 - c. 1st demonic doctrine – Genesis 4
 - i. Cain and Able
 - ii. Works salvation
 - d. Idols are really demons -1 Cor. 10:19 - 20
 - i. Demons impersonating the god in the idol
 - ii. Deut. 32:17 – sacrificed to demons
 - iii. Psalm 106:37 – served demons
 - 2. Satanic activity – Rev. 16:13
 - a. Demonic plan to prevent Jesus from conquering
 - b. Active within the body of Christ
 - i. Acts 20: 28-30 – people arise to draw away
 - ii. 2 Peter 2:1 – destructive heresies
 - iii. Active against all doctrines of Scripture (sufficiency of Scripture)

C. Commanded to test the spirits – 1 John 4:1

1. Content of message – divine or demonic
 - a. Profess the divine Lord – incarnation (2,3)
 - b. Profess the divine life – regeneration (4)
 - c. Profess divine law – revelation (5.6)

2. Demons admit things about Jesus but not the Person
 - a. Mark 1:24
 - b. Mark 3:11
 - c. Mark 5:7