

# Enquiring Minds #8

## How Do We Grow in Our Discernment?

1 John 4:1-6

March 5, 2023

Sermon Sketch: How do we fine tune our ability to discern between truth and error, good and evil?

Growing in our ability to hear the voice of Jesus is our first step...

- 1) How has the surety of the resurrection of Jesus impacted the way you have lived your life this past week? (Resurrection Sunday – What if Jesus Really Didn't Rise Again? 4/9/23)
- 2) Do you feel like you have a keen sense of discernment or is that an area you want to grow stronger in?
- 3) How have you experienced the love of God in the past week? What does it mean to you that you are “Beloved” of God (4:1)
- 4) “Do not believe every spirit” presupposes the reality that there are a multiplicity of spirits out there. Are you very tuned into the spirit realm around us or not? How do verses like 1 Corinthians 10:20-21, Ephesians 6:12, 1 Timothy 4:1, James 2:19, Revelation 12:4,9 inform your cosmology?
- 5) How vigilant are you in testing the thoughts that fill your mind (1 John 4:1 and 2 Cor. 10:3-5)?
- 6) Part of the application of “testing the spirits” is in the arena of deliverance ministry. Have you ever taken part in a prayer team working with someone needing deliverance? Would that prospect seem

scary to you? Do you feel like there is much need in our day and age for that kind of prayer counseling? Some scholars believe that upwards of a third (Matthew 4:24, 8:16, 12:28, Mark 1:32, 1:34, 1:39,) of Jesus' public ministry was given over to deliverance. If it was true of Jesus' day, would it be less so for us (Matthew 10:8, Mark 16:17)?

- 7) How do you walk in the reality that greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world (4:4)?
- 8) How well do you know the Written Word?
- 9) How well do you know the Living Word Jesus?
- 10) Who might you invite into the process of growing in discernment as a check and balance in your life (Proverbs 27:6, 17)? Who might you play that role for?