

CONGRATULATIONS FROM FACEBOOK!!!!

Facebook is one of the largest Social Networking site which valued more than \$100 Billion Dollars and also expecting its Ten Billion Users to come mainly from Mobile devices than desktop Users by this year 2019, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has decided to boost Users and Companies a WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY by Lottery Program and Initial Public Offer said in a press release.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM FACEBOOK!!!!

We are obliged to congratulate and notify you that your Face-Book profile that was used by you to register an Account with Facebook has emerged you as one of the Luck Winners in Category "A" which subsequently won you sum of (one million United State Dollars(\$1,000.000.00).) Your fund has been insured and its ready for the immediate release to you without hitches.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM FACEBOOK!!!!!!

The promo was done to serve as a means of appreciation to visitors on our site and also to help people to fight off poverty and to maintain the standard of living.

Meanwhile, a man sent a letter to our office few days ago, claiming to be your true representative.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM FACEBOOK!!!!!!

Please, do reconfirm to this office, as a matter of urgency if this man is from you. Note however that, you are not to send money to anyone to receive you funds as the authority is against that, and don't let people, impersonator fool you or scam you, otherwise you will regret it after wasting money and effort.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM FACEBOOK!!!!!!

If you are not interested please do not bother to
reply and CONGRATULATIONS ONCE AGAIN FROM
FACEBOOK!

Thanks,

Mr Mark Zuckerberg .

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The background features a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, ethereal shapes in shades of blue and orange. The blue shapes are more prominent on the right side, while the orange shapes are more prominent on the left. The overall effect is one of dynamic, fluid motion.

Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John

1 John 4:1-6

- *Spiritual Spam?*

1. Why shouldn't we believe every spirit?
2. Why should we test the spirits?
3. How do we test the spirits?

1. Why shouldn't we believe every spirit?

- John just told us the true children of God have been given the Spirit by God (3:24)
 - The Spirit confirms our abiding in Him
- He now tells us: “do not believe every spirit”
 - Because the Holy Spirit is not the only spirit that seeks to communicate with mankind (e.g. - Deut. 18:9-14; 2 Tim. 4:1-2)

1. Why shouldn't we believe every spirit?

- *Prophet*: one who claims to speak for a god
 - Not necessarily foretelling the future
 - A spokesman or mouthpiece
 - Experiences *supernatural* inspiration; either:
 - The Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20-21)
 - An angel (1 Kings 22:19-23)
 - A demon (1 Tim. 4:1-2)

2. Why should we test the spirits?

- Behind every prophet is a spirit
- Since a prophet is a mouthpiece for a spirit, in testing the prophet we are also testing the spirit behind the prophet (cf. 1 Cor. 12:1-3)
- To test the spirit we must test the prophet

2. Why should we test the spirits?

- Lit: *test the spirits if **of** God they are*
 - **Of** – not nec. origin, but *belonging to a realm, sphere, or system* (cf. **of** the world – 4:5)
- Do not to believe any spirit without testing first!
 - The Holy Spirit is not the only spirit who speaks *to or through* a prophet (E.g. – 1 Kings 22:19-23; Rev. 13:14-15)

3. How do we test the spirits?

A. The Sign Test

- “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst,...” (Acts 2:22; cf. Ex. 4:1-9; Acts 2:43; 4:30; 5:12; 14:3; 2 Cor. 12:2; Heb. 2:1-4)

3. How do we test the spirits?

B. The Fulfilment Test

- “When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, **if the thing does not come about or come true**, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.” (Deut. 18:22; cf. 1 Kings 22:28)

3. How do we test the spirits?

C. The Truth Test

- Does it conform to what has been revealed?
 - Deut. 13:1-5; Isa. 8:19-20; Matt. 4:1-11; Acts 17:11; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Thess. 2:5, 15; 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 John 2:21-24; 2 John 7-11
- If it does not conform to the truth, it will cause you to wander from the truth

3. How do we test the spirits?

C. The Truth Test

- Does it conform to what has been revealed?
 - 1 John 4:2-3 is a *contextual application*
 - John was dealing with pre-Gnostics who denied (or redefined) the Incarnation
 - *Confess* – not just *speak* or *acknowledge* but *continuously pledge affirmation (faith)*

3. How do we test the spirits?

C. The Truth Test

- The experience does not validate the message
 - It is possible to prophesy in Jesus' name and not even know Him! (Matt. 7:21-23)
 - It is possible to prophesy that "Jesus is accursed"! (1 Cor. 12:1-3)

3. How do we test the spirits?

D. The Hearing Test

- “**he who knows God listens to us**; he who is not from God does not listen to us” (1 Jn 4:6)
- Those *of* God hear what those *of* God have to say (“he who has ears to hear”)
- Those *of* the world hear what those *of* the world have to say (5; cf. John 15:18-25)

3. How do we test the spirits?

D. The Hearing Test

- “he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us” (1 Jn 4:6)
- “He who is of God hears the words of God” (John 8:43-47)
- “Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37)

3. How do we test the spirits?

E. The Fruit Test

- “Beware of the false prophets, ... **you will know them by their fruits.**” (Matt. 7:15-20)
 - What is the *good fruit* (see 21-23)?
 - Doing the will of the Father (cf. 1 Jn 2:17)
 - What is the *bad fruit*?
 - Practicing lawlessness (cf. 1 John 3:4-10)

Summary

False Prophets

- Spirit of antichrist
- Trying to deceive
- *Of* the world
- Speak *of* the world
- The world listens to them

Children of God

- The Holy Spirit (3:24)
- Overcome deception
- *Of* God (know God)
- Do not love the world
- Listen to the apostles
(who are *of* God)

Summary

- God has sent His prophets and apostles to take His message into the world (2 Pet. 3:1-2)
 - God's children hear and hold to that message
- The devil has sent his prophets into the world to deceive the world (2 Pet. 2:1-3)
 - Those *of* the world hear and believe his lies (cf. John 8:43-47)

So What?

- God calls upon us to evaluate everything we hear (read) according to His revealed truth
 - Whatever conforms should be accepted
 - Whatever contradicts should be rejected
- We must hold firmly to what the apostles taught so that we do not wander from the truth (1 John 2:21-24; cf. Gal. 1:6-9)

So What?

- How? Check what a speaker or author says with what the Word of God says (cf. Acts 17:11)
 - Be careful with *context* (2 Pet. 3:16)
 - Is it *of* God or *of* the world?
 - Does it promote the will of God (righteousness & love) or lawlessness (*self*)?

So What?

“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

(2 Pet. 3:17-18)