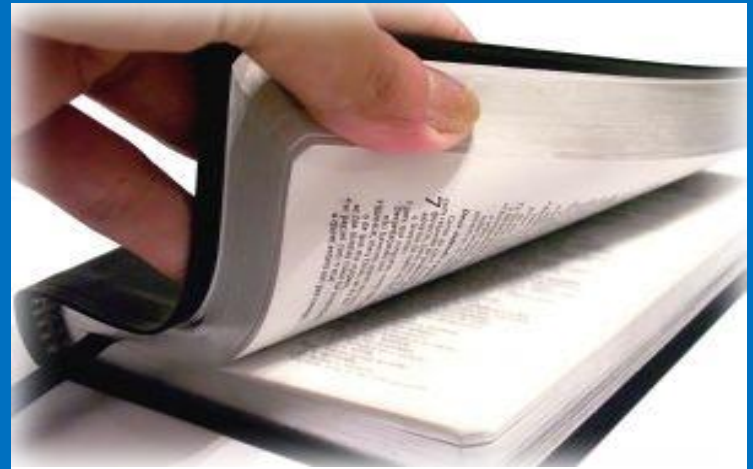


“but test the Spirits...”



1 John 4:1-6

God has given us a standard by which He demands we use to test the various teachings of men



Don't Believe Every Spirit

- **"SPIRIT"** is "the spiritual proclamation by a human personality"
 - "false prophets" are the human personalities with a spiritual proclamation – but not from God

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6





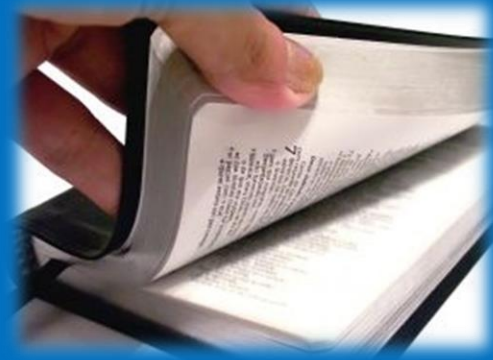
Test (prove) The Spirits

- **“test or prove”** – prove by testing the quality of something. To see if it is genuine or not (Acts 17:11)

“that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ” **1 Peter 1:7**



1 Corinthians 3:13; 1 Timothy 3:10



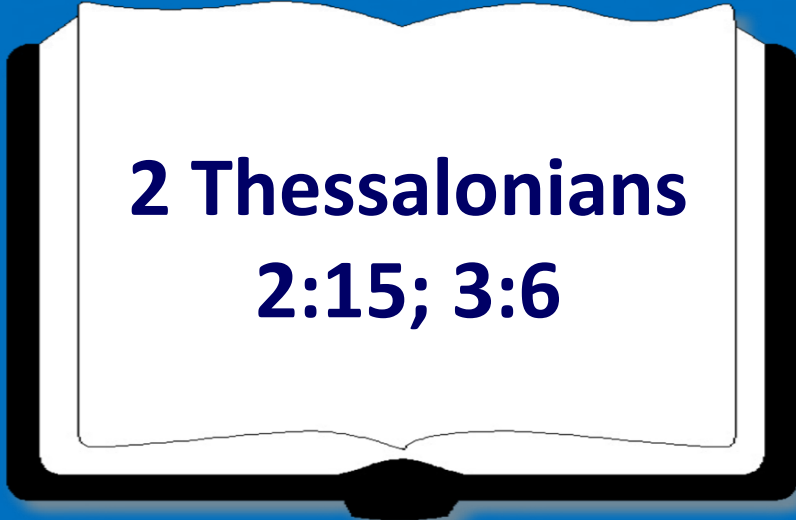
Test (prove) The Spirits

- Many false prophets are professing error
 - “spirits” have assumptions that need to be proven
- A genuine standard is demanded (V.6)
 - Apostolic authority
 - The character of the person is revealed



Test (prove) The Spirits

- **Apostles were guided by the Holy Spirit to present unquestionable truth**
 - John 16:13
 - We can confidently take the apostles teaching and apply it to determine the genuineness of the spirits



**2 Thessalonians
2:15; 3:6**

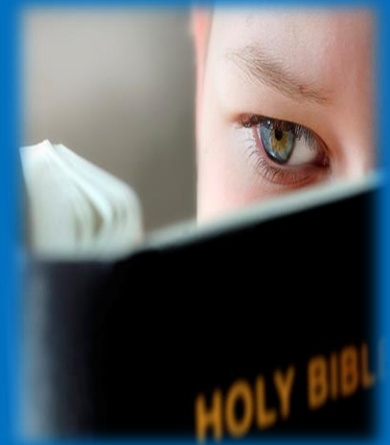


Test (prove) The Spirits

- The apostle's teaching is that which we can **"learn"** and apply to determine the genuineness of others

"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, **contrary** to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them." Romans 16:17

- Hold to the pattern set forth by the sound words of the apostles and apply what we have learned in order to **"test the spirits"**





God's Blessings Bestowed Upon Those Who "test the spirits"

- Children of God are distinguished from those of the world (V.4-5)
 - Children of God have overcome!
 - Devil is behind every false teaching
 - 1 John 5:19
 - He lies and twists the truth

Genesis 3:3-6; 2 Corinthians 11:13-16



God's Blessings Bestowed Upon Those Who "test the spirits"

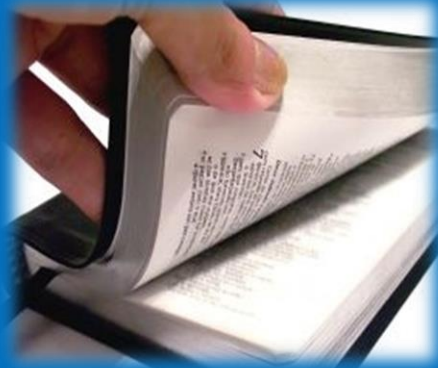
- God's Word provides the faithful standard to expose error

John 3:19-21
2 Timothy 4:2-4
2 Timothy 2:24-26





Behind every blessing is
the truth that we **CAN**
know and **understand** the
truth of God's word



Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you **abide in My word**, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**" John 8:31-32

The church will only remain pure and right in the sight of God when all the members are "**testing the spirits,**" ensuring that all are practicing only **God's will** for man