

Lesson 3: Discerning the Spirit of Antichrist

1 John 2:18 NKJV - *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.*

1 John 2:22 NKJV - *Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.*

1 John 4:3 NKJV - *Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

2 John, verse 7 NKJV - *For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

I. Understanding Satan's Evil Agenda

A. The Devil's Goals for the Last Days

1. Satan opposes God and everything that God stands for and represents.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NKJV - ³*Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

oppose (anti keimai) – to be against; to lie in opposition to; to be contrary; an adversary

2. Satan's purpose from the beginning has been to blind people and to exercise control over the human race.

2 Timothy 2:26 NKJV - *...and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

3. One of the Devil's main objectives is to gain political control over the world and he will do that through the Antichrist.

Revelations 13:16-17 NKJV - ¹⁶*He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

4. The Devil's goal of control is that he wants to be worshipped. He even tempted Jesus with world power in exchange for worship.

Luke 4:5-7 NKJV - ⁵*Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."*

II. The Spirit of Antichrist

A. Discerning the Spirit of Antichrist

1. The primary sign of the Spirit of Antichrist is the denial of the deity of Jesus Christ.
2. Another indicator is the rejection of Jesus as the Christ or the Messiah.
3. The Spirit of Antichrist denies the sonship of Christ to God, as His Father.
4. The Antichrist Spirit does everything it can to undermine, deny, resist, and reject the truth about Jesus Christ.
5. The Spirit of Antichrist is the devil-inspired expression of lawlessness and rebellion against God and God's people.

B. The Spirit of Antichrist Seduces the Mind

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 NKJV - *²For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.³But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

1. The Spirit of Antichrist is always looking for a human being to seduce and control.
2. The thing about Eve is that she was tricked into disobedience. The devil changed her thinking.
3. God gives us revelation of Truth into our Spirit, but the devil gives us lies in our mind.

1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV - *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

4. The objective of the Antichrist Spirit in the Last Days is to blind people to the truth and to defile their mind and conscience.

Titus 1:15 NKJV - *To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.*

III. Understanding the Power of Salvation

A. The Basis of Victory

Colossians 2:13-15 NIV - *¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

1. Jesus has defeated Satan and all of the Spirit of Antichrist.
2. Because God's justice has been satisfied by the death of Christ, He can forgive us of all of our sins, removing the guilt of every trespass.

3. Jesus cancelled the “written code,” the Old Testament law, which was required for righteousness. By cancelling the law, faith is substituted for righteousness.

Romans 10:4 NASB - *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

Romans 5:1-2 NKJV - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

4. A triumph is the celebration and demonstration of a victory that has already been determined.

2 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV - *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*

5. The Antichrist is working, but it has no authority over a child of God.

John 19:10-11 NKJV - ¹⁰*Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”* ¹¹*Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”*