

**STUDY GUIDE 8**  
**1 John 4**

*Study warm-up:* Do you consider yourself a theologian? Why or why not?

*OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!*

In chapter 4, John elaborates on the two parts of God's commandment that he gave near the end of the previous chapter. As you begin your study of chapter 4, review 1 John 3:23 to set the context:

*This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ,  
 and love one another, just as He commanded us.*

Read 1 John 4:1-6. Pay attention to every occurrence of *from God*.

1. How do you identify that a spirit is truly from God and is one which you should believe?

2. Read 1 John 4:4-6 again. Note the different pronouns with which each sentence begins. Complete the table:

<b>Subject Pronoun</b>	<b>Subject Pronoun refers to:</b>	<b>are from:</b>	<b>and are listened to by... (if applicable)</b>	<b>and are NOT listened to by... (if applicable)</b>
v. 4				
v. 5				
v. 6				

(If you need a little help with to whom the subject pronoun is referring in verse 6, look back at 1 John 1:1-4.)

Now let's look at what John expands about the second half the command from 1 John 3:23.

Read 1 John 4:7-21.







*APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!*

9. How comfortable are you distinguishing between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error? How does a Christian grow in the area of discernment?

10. How do you demonstrate *agape* to the difficult people in your life?

*FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:*

- I) Why is it so paramount to get our theology (“the study of God”) correct?
- II) How does the Holy Spirit safeguard us against the “spirit of error?”
- III) Does loving others ever require us to compromise truth for the sake of a different goal, say, *unity*?
- IV) Why do believers need to be commanded to love one another?

 *Cole Women's Bible Study Writing Team, 2023*

**Additional Scripture for Study Guide 8**

**☐ Mark 3:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and *also* from Judea, <sup>8</sup> and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard of all that He was doing and came to Him. <sup>9</sup> And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd Him; <sup>10</sup> for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed around Him in order to touch Him. <sup>11</sup> Whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "You are the Son of God!" <sup>12</sup> And He earnestly warned them not to tell who He was.

**☐ Romans 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**☐ 1 Corinthians 13**

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of* prophecy, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

□ **Galatians 5:13**

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

□ **Matthew 5:43-48**

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



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