

Test the Spirits

a sermon in the series
Life in the Son

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I John 4:1-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and 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. 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

In the previous text, I John 3:24 John provided us with a clear message saying we must never let our assurance of salvation rest upon feelings, impressions or subjectivity. Let me read that verse for us.

“Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him and He in him and by this we know that He abides in us by the Spirit whom He has given us.”

In that text we explained the foundation of your assurance of salvation is not an experience you have. It is not a mystical experience that translates into overwhelming feelings. No, the foundation of assurance is that the Holy Spirit has been given to us and He makes certain changes in us. What are those changes? Namely, by abiding in Him and He in us, we love one another. Our hearts change in attitudes and affections toward other believers.

Before you were saved you may have had a love, a natural affection for some Christians because of a relationship with them, but you didn't like their Christianity. You might have loved mom and dad but you didn't like some of their practices of prayer, reading the Scripture to you or talking to you about God. But once you were saved, because the Spirit of God had done His work of regenerating—making you alive, giving you a new heart—you now love to talk about the things of God. You now want to converse with mother or dad, you want to be with God's people. You love them. Your whole worldview has changed about Christianity.

Here in our text this morning John follows that train of thought. That is not to say that faith in God has no experience or emotions. Thank God that's not true. Thank God we can experience

the Savior, and everyone who has been saved has experienced Him, though the experiences differ from one person to another. Some are quite dramatic; others are like a small still voice. Thank God, also, that's not the only encounter we have with the Lord; we grow in the experiencing of God. He comes to us in the night watches. He comes to us in hours where adversity and travail occur. He comes to us in moments of sunbeams and cheerfulness. God is there and we can experience Him. There are emotional sentiments that correspond. If you really have an encounter with God, you feel it to one measure or another. Christianity is very subjective but all subjectivity must bow at the feet of biblical fact. That is what the apostle is going to show us in our text today.

Additionally, the Apostle John states that not all spirituality is a product of the Holy Spirit. Not all spirituality is a byproduct of God's activity in your life, so therefore he exhorts the saints to test the spirits.

I have three simple headings today that I want to speak on. First, the point John is making. Then secondly, the implications of John's point. And lastly, the application of his point.

I. THE POINT JOHN IS MAKING

There are many spirits imitating the Spirit of Christ. That is what he is saying here. There are many spirits who will come to you imposing themselves upon your mind and heart imitating the Lord Jesus Christ. They will declare themselves to be Him and try to convince you they are. Now we know there have been many individuals that have gone out and said they were Christ and that is certainly a part of John's thinking, but I don't think that's the whole—or even the majority—of what John is warning. Rather he is warning every one of us, including me, that evil spirits will come to you as an imposter masquerading, imitating Christ. How many times in prayer have you heard a voice saying that it was the Spirit of the living God trying to convince you to do something that later, under the examination of Scripture, you find out it couldn't be God. I've had that happen. I've been tempted to believe the devil's voice to be the voice of God trying to mislead and misdirect me. We shouldn't be surprised if Satan's ambassadors appear as instruments of righteousness, for the devil himself appears as an angel of light, says the Apostle Paul.

Evil spirits will convey themselves as the Spirit of God speaking God's will to you to mislead and misdirect you. We must be very careful and the way to do that is to test all of these spirits. The church age in which we live, especially in America, is flooded with these evil spirits introducing to us all different kinds of "Jesuses." Why, there are "Christs" today that even dispute Jesus' work on Calvary, telling us all we need to do is pray a prayer and we'll be saved. That's counter to what Jesus did on the cross. Yet those spirits speak to us as if they are the true and genuine Jesus.

There are spirits pretending to be Jesus that speak and all they address is your health or wealth or your ability to enjoy life as it is now with no concern over the holiness of God or men's lost condition. There are spirits speaking even in this hour of preaching in many different places conveying a different Jesus than this Book, therefore we ought to beware. And just because the name of Jesus is cited does not mean we are to accept it without question. The Apostle John said we

are to test every spirit and he says that these spirits trying to imitate the Spirit of God are really the spirit of the antichrist.

Look at verse three:

“And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. This is the Spirit of the antichrist which you have heard was coming and is now already in the world.”

Well how can this be? Antichrist has not yet appeared. This man of lawlessness has not yet come to the world's stage and done what has been foretold about him. How therefore can these spirits be the spirit of antichrist? He who is yet to come, this lawless one, this man of iniquity is yet in the future. How can we understand this? The spirit that now operates in this world is the very spirit that will one day inhabit a man but his spirit is already here. One day that man will be filled with an evil demonic spirit, a spirit very powerful, supreme in the hierarchy of all demonic powers. He will be possessed with the very spirit of Satan himself and that is the spirit of antichrist that is now working in our world.

As we get into the thirteenth chapter of the book of Revelation we will show you how that spirit is even now working and has worked these last two thousand years. But it's very clear that any spirit that speaks contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the very spirit of antichrist.

These spirits deny the very essence of Jesus' person, His nature and mission. Look again at verses two and three:

“By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,³ and 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.”

In other words, the test is this: a false spirit will deny something about Jesus' personhood, the essence of His nature, and His mission. They may deny one or all three of these aspects of the Savior. They may say Jesus did not exist whatsoever, that it was all a hoax or a Christian myth. But the more subtle and dangerous spirits don't speak along those lines; they speak like this, “Oh yes, Jesus is very much real and you need Jesus. Let me introduce you to the Jesus you need.” And that spirit will always contradict something about His person, nature and mission.

The Spirit of the living God will not contradict our Lord's person, mission or nature because He is of the same nature and essence and is on the same mission: to glorify the Son and what He has done.

How can you know whether the spirit speaking to you is of God or the devil? Very simply and clearly—How does this spirit represent Jesus and His person? Does He deny that Jesus came in the flesh? This was the problem of John's day. Let me refresh your memory. Gnosticism was

a prevalent teaching at the time. It said Jesus really didn't appear bodily, but was a phantom. He looked like a real person but it was a phantom, a spirit, if you please, that looked so real it took on three dimensions. But they said it really wasn't a real body. The reason the Gnostics taught this was because they believed Jesus couldn't come in a body because anything that material was evil and since Jesus can't be evil He could not have a physical body. Notice how demonic powers work. They take a shred of truth and build upon it. Of course Jesus can't be evil. That's truth. It is true that God is holy like no one else, that this Son of God was absolutely spotless, innocent, pure, above all others, without the nature of sinful man, absolutely holy in character and in person. But that truth is mingled with the lie and deception.

Other Gnostics came and said, "No, that's a little far fetched. We agree with you that all that is physical is evil, we agree with that premise, and we do believe there was a Jesus and He was a man, but He wasn't deity. He wasn't God who always was. What happened was when John the Baptist baptized Jesus, the Spirit of the eternal Son of God was laid upon Him. But before He was nailed to that cross that Spirit departed from Him, because you know God can't die."

Again, a little shred of truth. Can God die? Well, by the very definition of eternity no, He can't die and that is a necessary attribute of God for Him to be God. Godness requires eternity. Yet a mystery, I cannot explain to any of you today, is that somehow as Jesus hung on that cross, God died. The man, Christ Jesus, who also was God, did die. Did God's Spirit cease to exist? Absolutely not. That's the quality and characteristic of Godness—eternity.

Even though I can't explain it to you, the Spirit of God has revealed that this is one in the same Jesus who was both eternal God and finite man and He possessed both natures and He hung on the cross for sinners. These evil spirits take a little truth then add with it a mixture of poison.

Friends, I don't care what Gospel you think might sound reasonable to your intellect, if it's 99 percent true but 1 percent false, let me assure you it is 100 percent wrong. There can be no mixture of truth and lies for there is no lie with God. It is impossible for God to lie, therefore impossible for His Spirit to lie. It is a lie today for people to say things like "Well, if you simply pray this prayer, or if you say you believe in Jesus then you are saved."

Well is there any truth that if you confess with your mouth upon the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved? Yes. That's Bible, Romans 10:9. But, does Romans 10:9 mean that everyone who says with his mouth "Jesus is Lord" is a Christian? No. You cannot logically assume it means that. It's built upon a false premise. Just to say the words "Jesus is Lord" does not make you a Christian anymore than sitting in the garage will make you an automobile. If your heart has been changed by the Spirit of God you will not only profess that Jesus is Lord you will surrender to Him as Lord.

These spirits who deceive and lie motivate and influence false prophets. Look at verse one,

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many

false prophets have gone out into the world.”

Where did they come from? It's the same phrase he uses in chapter two, he says in 1 John 2:19,

“They went out from us but they were not of us. For if they were of us they would have continued with us, but they went out that they might be manifest that none of them were of us.”

They've come out of something. What did they come out of? John is saying the church. These false prophets have arisen from the churches of that day. These Gnostics and false teachers were once professing believers that had been baptized and everyone was so happy at first and congratulating them as a new part of the family of God but later they proved to be false converts and left the church.

The greatest deception that is upon us at this hour in America is not the secular news media; the greatest deception that is causing men to be damned in their sins is coming from church houses and theological places of learning like seminaries and Bible colleges. This is where the problem is.

I can listen to the secular news media and discern for myself truth from fiction, a lot of it is fiction. I can listen to the White House and discern for myself truth and fiction. A lot of it is fiction. I can listen to the hallowed halls of Congress and hear a lot of truth and a lot of fiction, more fiction than truth. But that's not the problem. The problem is what is being proclaimed from desks like this one this morning.

At one time the church in America had great influence on the culture around it. It was salt and it was light. It was a preserving power within society. It had the power of preservation by giving society an impetus to be moral—a reason to live morally right and follow some idea of God's commandments. What is amazing is the fact that the church was always in the minority in those days. In other words, the church in America has never been the majority. We've always been in the minority, but there was so much light flowing out of the pulpits and the truth of God was proclaimed so powerfully from the church house that it had an affect on the dark culture around it.

Why is it not doing that today? One reason: we have turned out the light by preaching seducing lies. One of the things you and I ought to be concerned about is what Paul says in 2 Thessalonians as he's talking about this man of lawlessness, the antichrist, coming on the scene. Paul says one of the reasons he will be believed is because God will give people of the world over to believe a lie. He will give them over to a spirit of delusion. The power of a lie is granted by God almighty. God can either put down a lie or He can allow people to believe a lie. This ought to move us to pray. Our hearts ought to be burdened to pray for our children who hear truth over and over again and do not move towards that truth. We ought to be frightened. Could it be possible that God is allowing them to be given over to believe a lie, a spirit of delusion? *As long as they're moral, as long as they have some morality about them and live at least decent lives, then they will be okay.* That is a great deception and I fear many children of believers are being deceived by it.

Let me tell you, even if the pulpit is preaching the truth, evil spirits are still preaching in that local church. I've told you before, I know when I come to this place to share the Word of God that it's a battle. It's a battle for your minds to keep your attention and it's a battle for your hearts that you might believe the truth. Why? Because there is something going on here deeper than intellect and emotions. There is a spiritual component to all of this. Even right now, please listen, as I'm sharing with you there is a spiritual component. Not just the Spirit of God through me, I pray, but the spirit of the antichrist, the spirit that rejects Jesus. A spirit against Jesus is working even as I'm preaching. Lost people are hearing me right now, but something else is being heard in their inner heart, a voice that says *this may be good but not necessary. This may be the truth but not for you. This might be true for mom or dad but you don't need this.* And on and on the lies are told, over and over. That's why people don't get saved when they hear the Gospel, because there is a spiritual force working, it's not just the blindness of their own heart.

Please turn your Bibles to 2 Corinthians 4. Notice it's not just the blindness of an unbelieving heart but there is a separate spiritual blindness. Verse three,

"But even if our Gospel is veiled," it's hard to imagine Paul's preaching veiled, you'd think with Paul preaching everybody would get saved, but that's not true, *"it is veiled to those who are perishing whose minds the god of this age has blinded who do not believe."*

In other words, they don't believe. There is already a heart of unbelief and with that heart you were born. But on top of your unbelieving heart there is a demonic power working to keep your heart in unbelief, to keep you bound in the chains of not embracing with your life this Jesus who came to give His life for you.

This is not just a sermon, this is not just a time for a man in a suit and tie to get up and talk and wave his hands and get a little carried away with emotion now and again. No, there is something much bigger going on right now. Something you don't see but this Book says it's just as real as everything you're seeing and hearing with your ears right now.

There are demonic forces and powers speaking to you, talking to you and preaching as I'm preaching, only their message is completely different. Anytime you walk away and you think *"a more convenient time and then I'll give my heart to Jesus,"* you just heard a false gospel by a demon from hell. Every time. No coincidences. That's not just me trying to be melodramatic trying to scare you. Brother, you ought to be scared! We as parents ought to be scared that our children, because of the unbelief in our children's hearts, are opened to every wind of doctrine from seducing spirits even when we gather.

Therefore, I say as John does, test every spirit, including the Holy Spirit. You are to test God. *Oh no, pastor. Doesn't the Bible say we are not to tempt God?* Tempt God? No. Test God? Yes. Here the Holy Spirit tells you clearly in verse one that you and I are to test the spirits to see whether they are of God. Where does the Holy Spirit come from? From God. I am to test the Holy Spirit. Any angelic spirit that would speak to us we are to test even if it is the archangels Gabriel or Michael.

You say that would never happen to me, well, it happened in the Bible, why shouldn't it happen again today? If that shouldn't happen why does the Apostle Paul in Galatians I say, "If any other man or angel shall preach to you any other Gospel than what I preached to you let him be accursed."

Paul held out the possibility that an angel could come. An angel is simply what? A spirit. Some are from heaven and some are from hell. If an angelic being comes to you and says he is Gabriel the archangel and he has a word from God, God gives you permission, in fact He commands you to say, "Hold on just a minute, Gabriel, let me get the Bible. I'm going to test everything you say by this Book and if you will, respectfully understand, that if you say something that contradicts this Book I know you are not who you say you are." God commands us to do that. Test every spirit.

The test is doctrinal and definitional. Look at verse two, the last part,

"Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God."

This statement can be divided into two parts. The first part begs us to ask the question, is this spirit confessing that the eternal Son of God became a man, Jesus Christ? Jesus is the name that was given to the baby born of a virgin in Bethlehem. Christ is the name that means "the anointed one, the Messiah." This refers to His deity. Did the eternal Son of God come and become a man thereby proving both His humanity and His deity?

There are people today who profess to be Christians, a whole movement and denomination, a sect who claims to be part of Christianity that believes that although Jesus was a man He was not deity but He earned His deity. That, my dear friends, is a spirit contrary to Christ—antichrist. So we see the testing of any angel, any spirit, any preacher, to see what spirit is influencing them has to be first of all a doctrinal test. Does it meet with the truth of God's Word? Therefore brother, sister, you better not just rely on the preacher to know what this book says, you need to know it for yourself. Because how do you know I'm not misleading you? You don't know unless you know the Book.

We're living in an hour where men, lettered men, successful men are telling us what the Book says and they are misleading thousands upon thousands of people because they *sound* biblical. But the people listening don't have a clue to what the Bible says. I know as much as anyone that we live in a culture that doesn't like to read. I remember when blogs began. You could write a 1,500 to 2,000-word blog and people would read it. Now, if it's more than 200 words people won't read it. We communicate through Twitter, which uses not 140 words but 140 characters. There is no such thing as "sound bites" anymore, it's "sound crumbs." That's how we learn. That's how we get our information.

We don't like to read, we don't like to study, but God in His mercy, because He loved you, gave you His Truth and He put it into a Book so you could know it. So you could take it with you, so you could read it on your lunch hour, take it on your break, read it in bed before you go to sleep

at night or before you get out of bed in the morning. He gave you His Word so you can hear what He says and know it is the Lord God. He gave you His word so when you hear a demonic spirit you will know that is not of God. Or when you hear a preacher preach lies you'll know this man is not of God. It's doctrinal.

Secondly, this test asks if you wholeheartedly approve of the Apostle's doctrine? Look at verse six,

"We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

John said anybody who will not listen to him is of the spirit of the devil. Anybody that listens to him is of the Spirit of Christ. Now I can't say that. Why? Because I'm not an apostle having been inspired to help write God's Book. But I can say this: "follow me as I follow Christ." I can say this: whatever I say to you, if it is from the Word of God, carries the authority of God. I can tell you that!

I, along with you, am following these men whom God entrusted His Gospel witness to. Men who walked with Jesus, who handled Him. This is how John begins the first epistle of his book, "We have handled the Word of life," we saw, we hugged, we touched Him. We are His witnesses. They saw Him crucified, they saw Him resurrected and He gave them a divine commission and they became part of the foundation of the church. The church rests upon the ministry of these men: Christ the cornerstone and the Apostles and Prophets the foundational stones. So I can say to you that the tests of spirits, to test what is being proclaimed and spoken today, is a doctrinal test and it's a definitional test.

Does it define who Jesus is and what His mission was? Let me tell you what His mission was: that you might have life and more abundantly. How do I get that life? By death, and let no one convince you otherwise. The way to eternal life is through death. It's not by praying a prayer, it's not by joining a church, and it's not becoming a part of a certain organization. The way to eternal life is by death. You have to die to yourself. You must pick up the cross, the reproach of Jesus Christ, and follow Him in submission and obedience. Any other gospel that defines those terms differently than what I've just done to you is a lying spirit from hell. Don't believe it. We've got to know the definitions of these words and what this truth is. We said earlier today, I think one of the biggest responsibilities the church of Jesus Christ has in this hour is to define the word *faith*.

What does it mean to believe in Jesus Christ? There are so many people that profess to believe and they mean something completely different than what this Book means. So what's the test? It's doctrinal and definitional. If you don't know this Book you are subject to being deceived.

II. WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF JOHN'S POINT?

A. Subjectivity Must Always be Balanced With Truth.

Here is what I mean: any religious experience we might have must bow to the inspection of truth. That experience is not validated until this Book validates it. In other words, I don't care how many tears you cried. I don't care how many emotions you felt. I don't care how many cold chills you got. I don't care how encouraged you felt. If it did not lineup with this Book it is a lie. It is an experience bred in the pit of hell and it will take you there if you die without this truth.

Why am I so strong in these words this morning? Because how can you know if a spirit is from God if you don't have a marker? A standard? We cannot base our salvation on how we feel. We have an experience-oriented culture like never before. My grandfather, on the twenty-fourth of this month would have been 102. My grandparents lived and grew up in a time where truth and objectivity were still honored. They would not have understood the postmodern movement that says there is no truth, that it's all shifting sand and whatever you want the truth to be for you is fine. My grandfather would not have comprehended that at all and I don't blame him. I'm still trying to figure it out myself; it's so contrary to the image of God.

God is a God of no contradictions. Something can't be true here and not true there. If it's truth, it's truth—it's universal. It applies no matter what world you are in. Truth is truth. It is unchangeable. It is inflexible. We live in a time where even in church culture people have said about the Gospel, *I don't care what you keep telling me preacher; I know what happened to me*. In other words, their experience trumps the Bible, the Gospel. That person is deceived by a spirit of the devil.

B. Experience Must be Secondary to Truth.

None of these things can take precedence over the truth. I don't care how beautiful the man or woman speaks, the oratory skills of that person should not determine if that person is speaking the truth or not. Nor should it be success. Not only are we in a truth wavering time; we are living in a time of success is the craze. That's all it takes these days. If it's reaching people then it's got to be from God. Well, by that standard tell the Mormon Church is of God. They are the fastest growing "church" in America that claims to be Christian. Friends, if a man can pack out a stadium that doesn't necessarily mean he is telling you the truth. That has nothing to do with whether it is true or not. Some want to say that it's got to be the truth because you felt encouraged when you listened to that person. The devil will always encourage people. He's one of the greatest encouragers there are. If he can get you to be centered on what you feel, then he's got you in his grasp.

It doesn't matter how many miracles you see and I mean that. I've seen miracles. I've literally seen organic healings where there was a problem and the next moment you can see it gone. I've seen that. I believe in the miraculous. But I also believe the enemy can do things like that too. The Bible tells us of the great miracles performed by Jannes and Jambres who withstood Moses in the early chapters of Exodus. And the Bible tells us in the last days there will be many false signs from false prophets. So even if they are able to do a miracle, it has to be secondary to the truth.

III. THE APPLICATION OF JOHN'S POINT

If you have the Holy Spirit you will be led to believe and do the truth. That's what John is saying. The Spirit of Christ in us is sufficient to help us overcome the deceiving spirits of the mind. Every one of you have had your mind attacked by a deceiving spirit. I was reminded of that just a moment ago. As I was preaching a deceiving spirit said to me, "You're wasting your time, this is just a futile exercise." Where did that come from? I was being attacked at that moment. Here I am preaching about it and they think they can fly under the radar even while I'm preaching. They're not opposed to the preaching, they're opposed to you believing the preaching. They're opposed to me believing the truth. But the Spirit of the Living God is sufficient enough to keep us from being deceived.

This is not simply about what you know with your intellect. Please don't think I'm just talking about learning stuff. It's about how you live. You see, you learn the stuff so you learn how to live. Look at verse four again,

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

This is not just about what I believe but how I live because how you live determines what you believe.

My advice in this day and age, and I've given it so many times, is this: don't pay attention to what someone says as much as what he does because what he does tells you what he believes. I believe that and here is why, because what you believe in your core, your convictions, is what you will do. You cannot do anything contrary. If you say you believe that a man should be faithful to his wife and his wife should be faithful to her husband, but if you are not living according to that, then you don't really believe it. If you believe that a man ought not to cheat and always be honest but you're cheating, you profess one thing but in your heart of hearts you really don't believe what you say with your mouth.

If I truly believe that Jesus Christ is Lord then I know He has the right to tell me what to do and how to do it, and I will have to give an account to Him one day. That will motivate me to submit.

B. One Can be Deceived Not Just in Doctrine But Also into Disobedience.

Please listen. You can be the greatest theologian and scholar of the Bible, but that doesn't make you a Christian. If your life does not come into submission to the truth you are a deceiver because what you're doing by all of your teaching is deceiving people into thinking all they need is the head knowledge and they don't have to worry about practicing it with their hearts.

C. Rejection of the Truth is a Rejection of the Spirit of Christ.

If the test is the truth and you reject the truth, then you have to reject the Spirit of Christ because He is the truth. In other words, either you are a truth-lover or you are a truth-hater. There

is no in between. You can't just take the truth some of the time and some of the time you don't, if you are a truth-hater then you hate God. That's what John is saying. Remember you can believe the truth with your head and not practice it and that means you are a truth-hater and you really don't believe the truth.

You may respond to me and say, "Brother Michael, I don't hate God, I'm just neutral about Him. I don't hate Him but I don't love Him as I should. I know that. But I don't hate Him." Then I would say by your own admission that you are indifferent toward God. Would you consider that a fair statement? *I don't love Him, I don't hate Him, I'm just kind of neutral.* In other words, you are indifferent. May I say to you my friend, that indifference may be the worst form of hatred there is.

Let me illustrate. Suppose you receive a text message from someone of importance and I notice you don't open it but I did notice the name as it came on the front of your phone. So I ask you, "Who is your text from and why aren't you reading it?"

You answer, "I already know what he's going to say."

"Well how do you know what it says when you don't even open it?"

"He's sent me several texts before and they all say the same thing," you reply. "That's why I never bother reading them."

"Well, what do the texts say?" I ask.

"Something about how he wants to help me because he cares deeply about my future. He tells me he can get me out of my poverty and make me set forever. He promised me that if I just reply my life will be so much better."

"And you never reply? Sounds like a wonderful opportunity. In fact, I know who he is and whatever he promises he will do."

Then you say to me, "Nah, I really don't care what he promises."

The only thing I can deduce is that you really don't like that person. You must have something against that person. Your indifference is really a form of hatred. This is the exact way in which your indifference to God works.

Some of you have unsaved loved ones and they're not here to hear this message. May God give you the opportunity to share with them what I just shared with you one day. You can't be neutral towards God. Because today God has been so merciful to put you in a family, it is a gracious advantage to be in this church and hear this poor preacher, who stammers and stumble over his words, in order to get you the Gospel. Do you not understand that to not submit yourself to Christ Jesus is to reject the message and therefore it is a message to God that you hate Him and

you are opposed to Him? Your indifference is a form of hatred of the worst kind.

I pray in this moment the Holy Spirit of God, not that demonic spirit lying to you, pretending to be from God but the Holy Spirit, will show you that your heart is totally eaten up by the cancer of sin and a hatred of God so that you would ask God in mercy, "Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever new. Change me that I might love You." Amen.