1 John 4:1-6

A. Spirit - pnēuma - Breath, current of air; a supernatural, non-material being

1. Spirit - Speaks of the ultimate spiritual source of all things

   a) Two kinds of spirits: “Whether they are of God”

      1) Spirits that are “of God”

         a) John 4:24 (NKJV) 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

         b) Breath, current of air — pnēuma - The word for Holy “Spirit”

            i) Speaks of life that comes from God

               1) Genesis 2:7 (NKJV) - Breath of life

               2) John 3:6 (NKJV) - That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

            ii) Speaks of How God communicates with us:

               1) Romans 8:16–17 (NKJV) - Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit

         2) Spirits that are not “of God”

            a) John 8:44–45 (NKJV) - You are of your father the devil

            b) Revelation 16:13–14 (NKJV) — unclean spirits… spirits of demons,

            c) Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood

               i) Wrestle - palē — to engage in intense struggle, involving physical or nonphysical force against strong opposition; close hand-to-hand combat

            d) Are we helpless against them? What did Jesus do?

               i) Mark 1:25–27 (NKJV) - But Jesus rebuked him,

               ii) Luke 10:19 (NKJV) — authority over all the power of the enemy

B. “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits”

1. Believe - pistēuō - To have faith, put complete trust in or reliance on, firmly persuaded to a belief, position or course of action

   a) Romans 10:17 (NKJV) - Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God

2. Test - dōkimazō - To approve, examine, learn the genuineness of something, prove, inspect, verify

3. False prophets — psēudōprōphētēs - One who claims to be a prophet and is not and thus proclaims what is false; are not speaking under God’s direction

   a) Matthew 7:15–20 (NKJV) - Know them by their fruits

C. Confess - hōmōlōgēō - To profess allegiance to, covenant, agreement

1. homo - The same

2. logos - Something said, thought, reasoning or motive
D. **Overcome** - *nikaō* - To subdue, conquer, prevail, get the victory
   1. Victory doesn’t come without a confrontation
   2. Triumph doesn’t come without a trial
   3. Overcoming doesn’t come without coming over something.

E. **Greater** - *mēgas* - Big, great, mighty

F. **Error** - *planē* - Fraudulence, deception, to mislead or deceive