

## 1 John: The Signs of Life

## 1:1-2:2 Summary ("Fellowship")

- 1:1-4, Objective: Fellowship
- 1:5-2:2, Obstacle: Sin

## 2:3-5:12, Exposition ("Know")

## 2:3-28, First Panel

- :3-6, Righteousness
- :7-17, Love
- :18-28, Belief

## 2:29-4:6, Second Panel

- 2:29-3:10, Righteousness
- 3:11-24, Love
- 4:1-6, Belief

## 4:7-5:12, Third Panel

- 4:7-19, Love
- 4:20-5:4, Righteousness
- 5:5-12, Belief

## 5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

# The Second Panel of Signs

## Things to Look For

- How many kinds of spirits are active in the world today?
- How can you recognize the teaching of the Holy Spirit?
- What other NT teachers warn of false spirits?
- How can we overcome the work of false spirits? Contrast the resources of the young men with those of the little children.
- Why do some people listen to the gospel, while others do not?

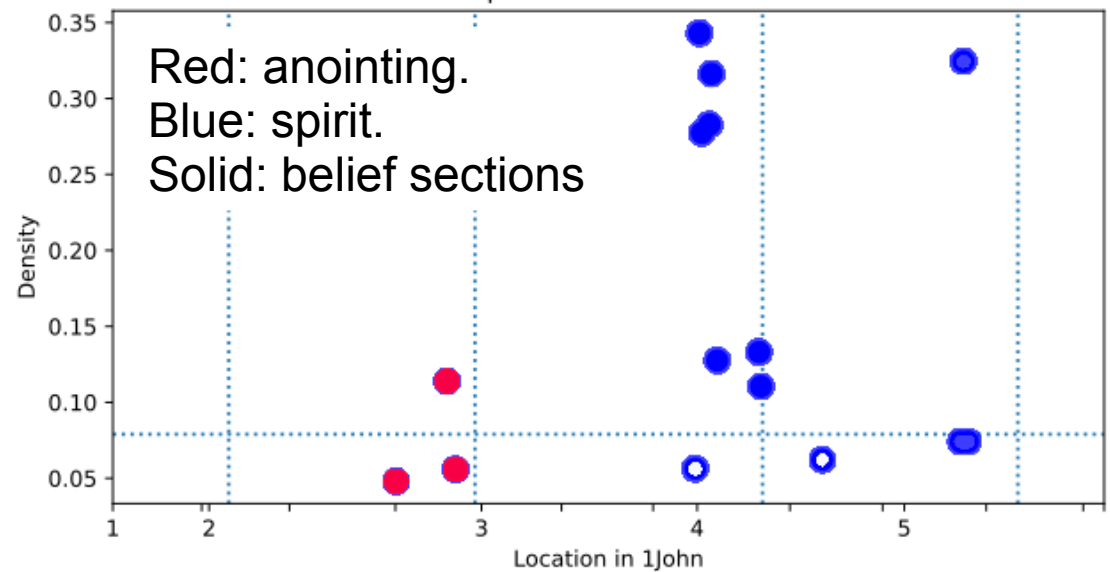
# The Spirit and the Sign of Belief

## In the Gospel (examples)

John 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the **Spirit** descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the **Spirit** descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the **Holy Ghost [Spirit]**.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the **Holy Ghost [Spirit]**, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.



## Other Instances of Spirit in 1 John

3:24 ... And hereby we **know** that he abideth in us, by the **Spirit** which he hath given us.

4:13 Hereby **know** we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his **Spirit**.

5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the **Spirit** that **beareth witness**, because the Spirit is truth.

5:8 And there are three that **bear witness** in earth, the **Spirit**, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

## Compare Paul:

Rom 8:16 The **Spirit** itself **beareth witness** with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

# Sign of Belief #2

4:1-6, the Sign of Belief

1-3, Diagnosis

- 1, Summary (vocative, reason)
- 2a, Hereby ye know
- 2b, True spirits
- 3, False spirits

4-6, Prognosis

- 4, Summary (vocative, reason)
- 5, False Spirits
- 6a, True spirits
- 6b, Hereby we know

Chiastic with intro to each half:  
X-ABC-X-CBA

4:1 **Beloved**, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: **because** many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 **Hereby know ye** the Spirit of God:

Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is **of God**:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is **not of God**: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

4 Ye are of God, **little children**, and have overcome them: **because** greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

5 They are **of the world**: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are **of God**: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us.

**Hereby know we** the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

# 4:1-3, Diagnosis

## 1 Believe not every spirit ...

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing spirits**, and doctrines of devils;

### Tests

1Jn 4:2 Every spirit that confesseth that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh** is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh** is not of God:

1Jn 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that **Jesus is the Christ**? He is antichrist, that denieth the **Father and the Son**.

### Tests of True Belief

	True Teacher	False Teacher
1 John 2:22	Jesus is the Christ ... Father & Son	Denies the true teaching
1 John 4:2-3	Jesus Christ is come in the flesh	Denies ... come in the flesh
1 John 4:15; 5:5	Jesus is the Son of God	
1 Cor 12:3	Jesus is the Lord	Jesus is accursed

1Jn 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that **Jesus is the Son of God**, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that **Jesus is the Son of God**?

John 1:14 And the **Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us

### OT Background

2Sa 7:14 **I will be his father, and he shall be my son**. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

Psa 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou art my Son**; this day have I begotten thee.

## Paul's Test of the Spirits

1Co 12:1 Now concerning **spiritual** gifts [things], brethren, I would not have you ignorant. 2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth **Jesus accursed**: and that no man can say that **Jesus is the Lord**, but by the Holy Ghost.

Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, **Cursed** is every one that hangeth on a tree:

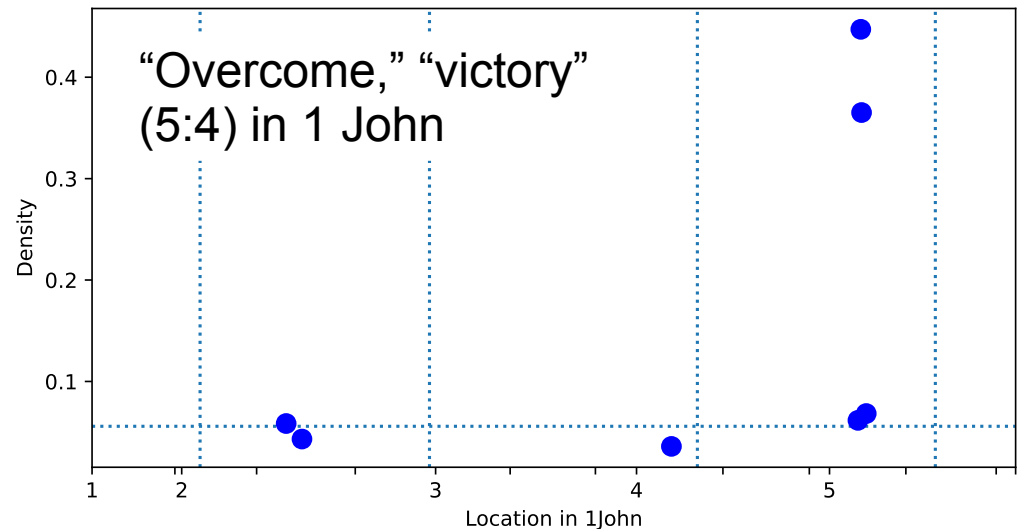
## The Promised Spirit of Antichrist

2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the **mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall **that Wicked** be revealed, ... :

## Overcoming

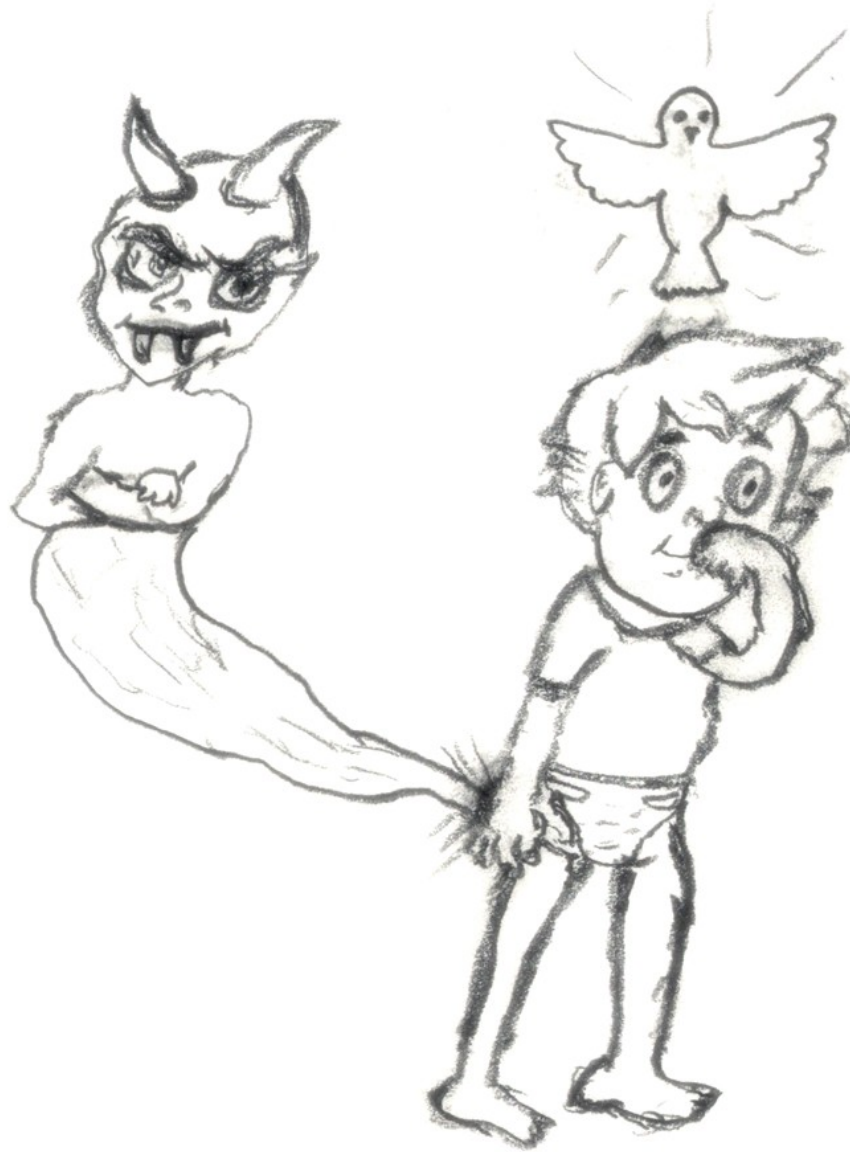
Verb νικάω *nikaō* G352, noun "victory" νίκη *nikē* G3529,

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have **overcome** the world.



	2:13-14	4:4
Who overcomes?	Young men	Little children
Who is overcome?	The wicked one	The false teachers
What brings victory?	Personal strength; indwelling Word of God	Indwelling Holy Spirit





1 John 4

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

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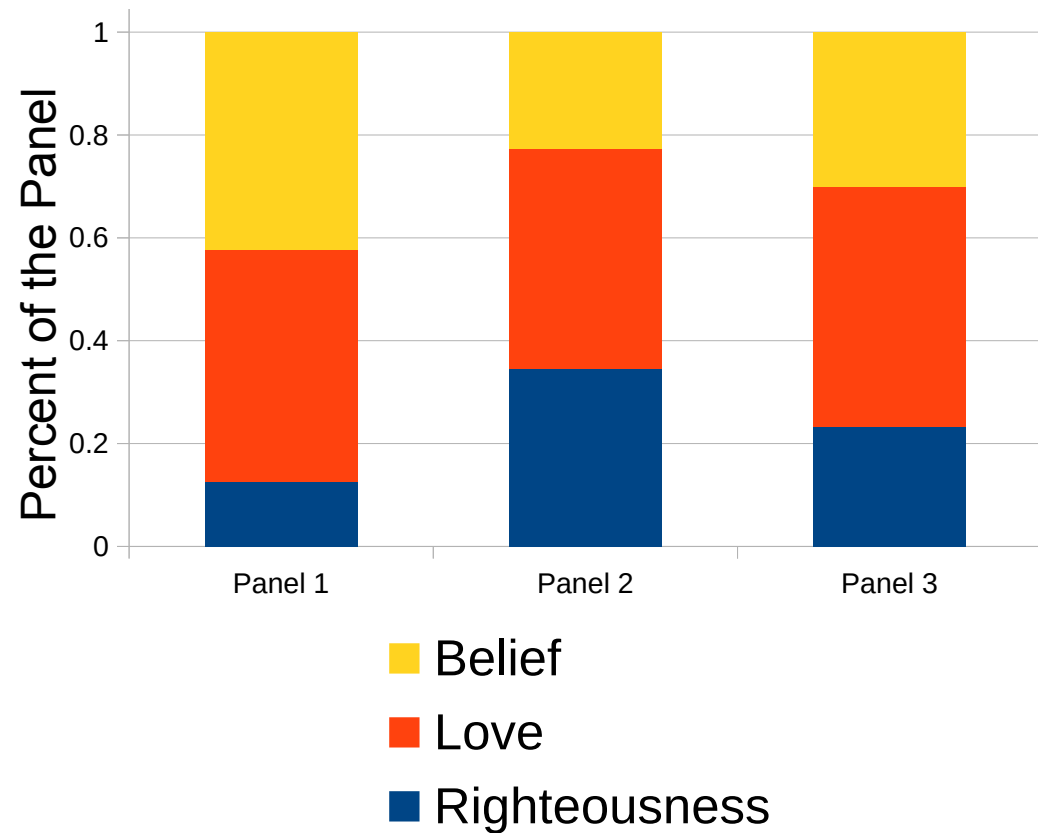
Why have the children of God overcome the false teachers?

6/8/2025  
Bilson Peters

# Comparing the Panels

## The Sign of Righteousness

	<b>2:3-6</b>	<b>2:29-3:10</b>
Vocabulary	Keep, Command-ments	Child, Begotten, Righteous(ness), Do, Sin, Devil
God's role	Lawgiver	Father



## The Sign of Love

	<b>2:7-17</b>	<b>3:11-24</b>
Vocabulary	Light	Heart
Assurance Section	Sins forgiven, overcomers, know Christ	God is greater than our heart

## The Sign of Belief

	<b>2:18-28</b>	<b>4:1-6</b>
Vocabulary	Anointing, Abide	Spirit(s)
Test	Jesus = Christ; Father and Son	Jesus Christ is come in the flesh