

GREATER THAN (PART 1)

1 JOHN 4:1-6

1 JOHN

- **One of only two New Testament Epistles (letters) in which the author does not identify themselves (the other is Hebrews)**
- **We cannot know for certain, but authorship has most commonly been attributed to John the Apostle**
 - **One of Jesus' closest disciples**
 - **Probably the author of the four other New Testament books (The Gospel of John, 2 John, 3 John, Revelation)**
 - **Evidence for this includes: literary style, testimony as an eye-witness, authoritative tone, indication of close ties to Christ**
- **Purposes for writing identified in the text include...**
 - **To expose false gnostic teaching (and associated lack of morality), to identify Christ and to give assurances of faith**

SEE LIGHT, BE LIGHT

- **1 John 1 & 2:1-11**
 - We have light
 - We are light
 - We must walk in the light
 - Living out the truth = loving people ~ loving God

- **1 John 2:12-14**
 - Be Affirmed - of sins forgiven
 - Be Reminded - God is always The Lord
 - Be Encouraged - We evil by the Word of God



SEE LIGHT, BE LIGHT

- **1 John 2:15-17**

- Our priority is to love God over the corrupt and broken order of this world



- **1 John 2:18-29**

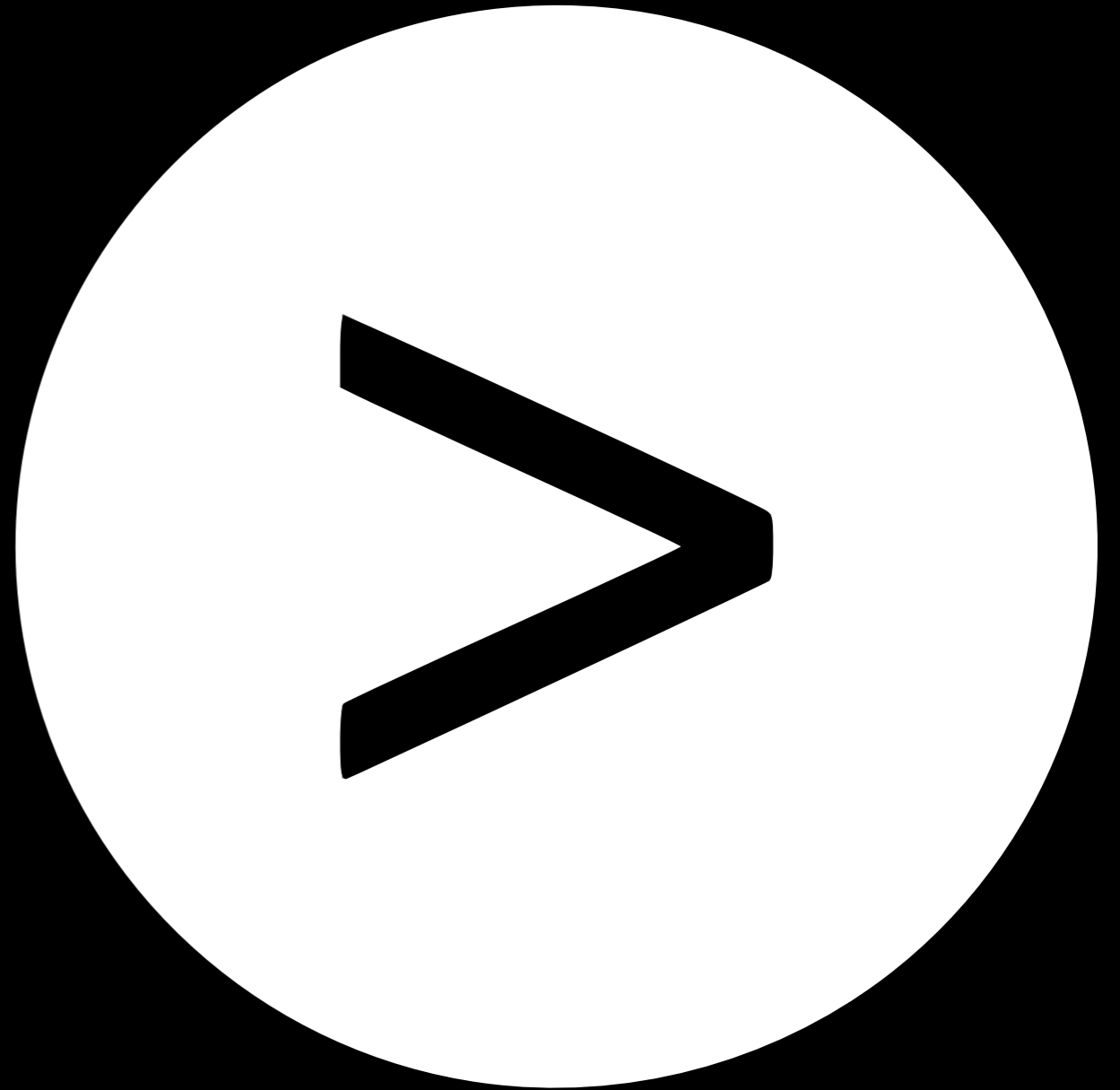
- This is a time to continue going higher in and closer to God
- Remaining in our homes does not mean we remain static in our faith



SEE LIGHT, BE LIGHT

- **1 John 3:1-10**
 - We are children of God
 - Christ has spoilt the work of the devil, the devil won't spoil the work of Christ in you
- **From 1 John 3:11-24**
 - Love Evidently
 - God has evidenced His love to us through Jesus
 - Our love for one another is evidence of salvation
 - The Holy Spirit reveals and guides us in truth



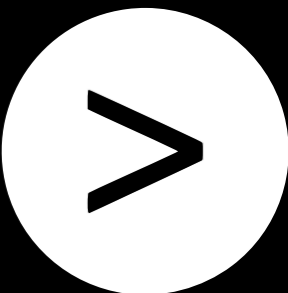


GREATER THAN (PART 1)

1 JOHN 4:1-6

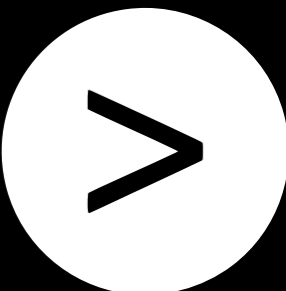
1 JOHN 4

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.



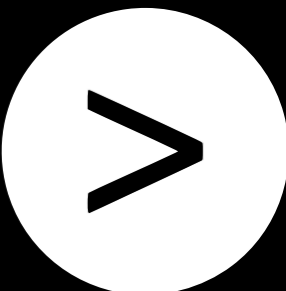
WE KNOW WHO WE ARE

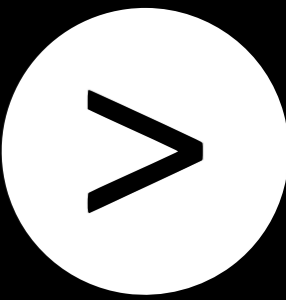
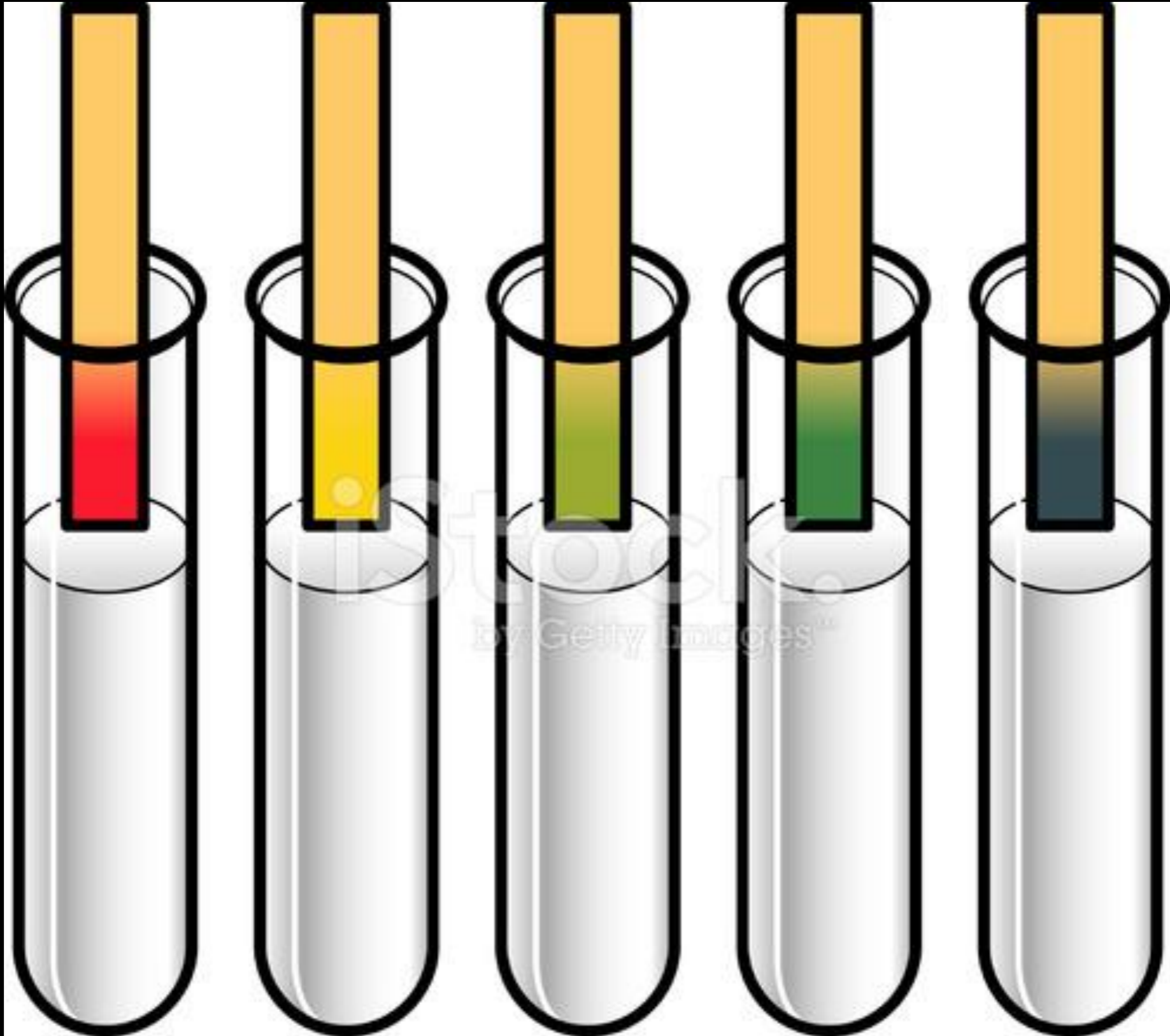
- **John has just told us that we know and recognise who we are because of 3 things...**
 - **The evidence of Jesus' love**
 - **The evidence of our salvation through our love of one another**
 - **The evidence and revelation of the Holy Spirit in us**
- **Clearly his original readers were asking questions**
 - **The false gnostic teaching that was infiltrating the church was causing doubt, confusion and conflict**



THE CHRIST-MUS TEST

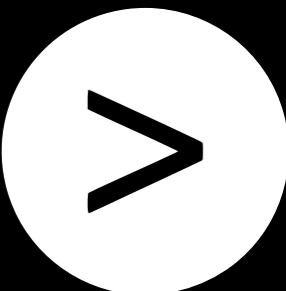
- **There are many prevalent falsehoods that have sprung up through the years**
 - They might look like church and sound like Christianity
 - But is the deny who Christ is **THEY ARE ANTICHRIST**
 - The greatest deception is that which convinces you it is the real deal!
- **Here John gives us a key to recognition of truth**
 - Do they confess the truth of who Christ is?
 - Does the truth of Christmas ring true?





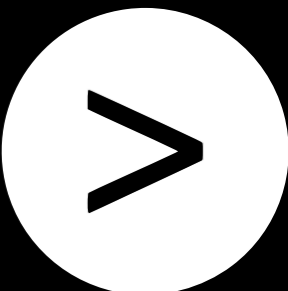
DOES IT PASS THE TEST?

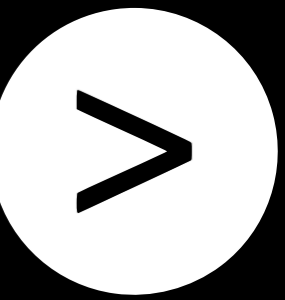
- **Faith in Christ's incarnation is the litmus test**
- **Denial that Christ came in the flesh = antichrist**
- **Acknowledgement of Christ as in the flesh =
godly**

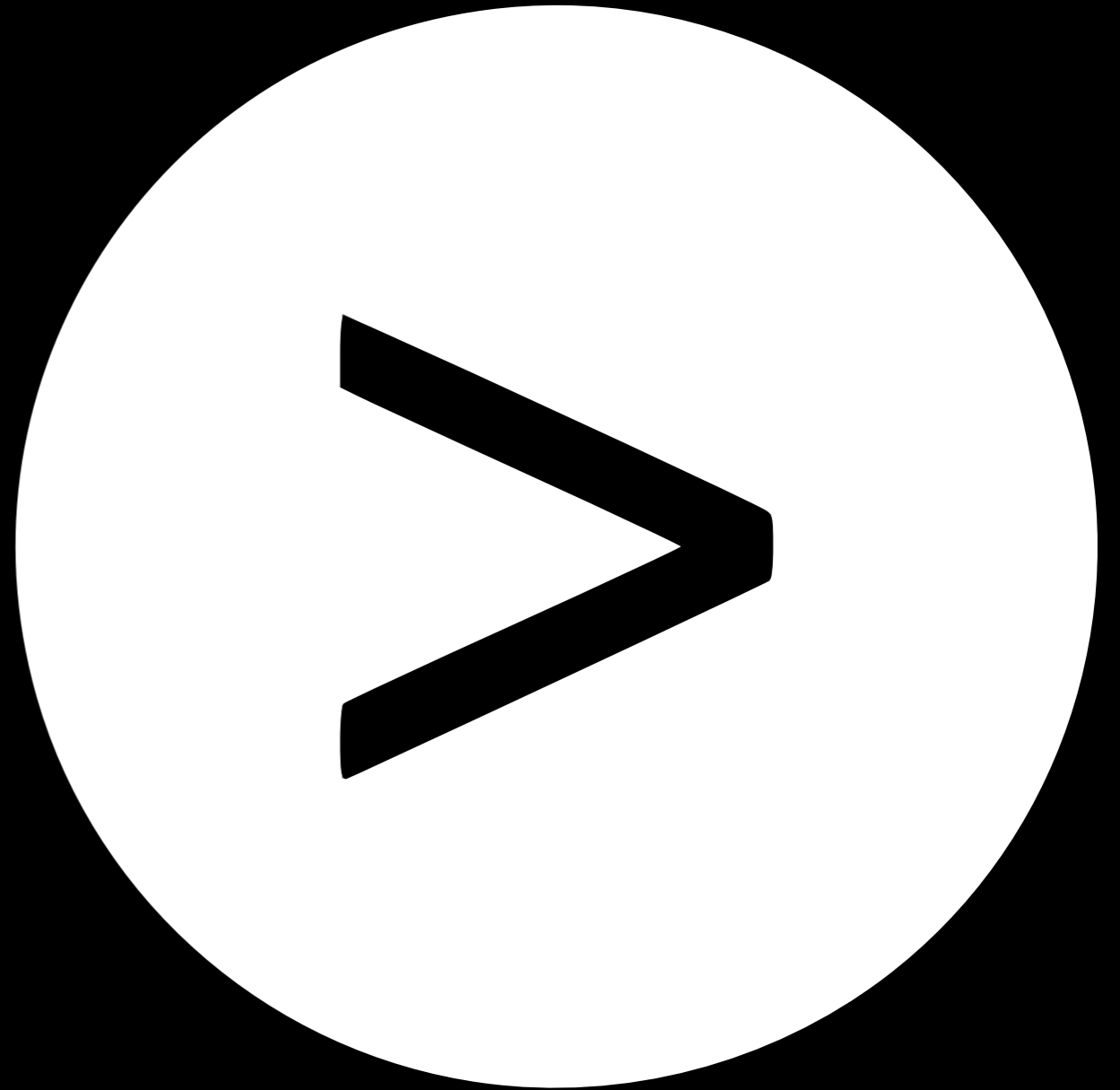


ANTI-CHRIST SPIRIT

- **Although the church was in its relative infancy, the antichrist spirit was already firmly at work and causing challenges for the people of Christ**
- **We should not be surprised that this spirit is still at work and still causes doubt, confusion & conflict**
- **But we should also not be afraid!**





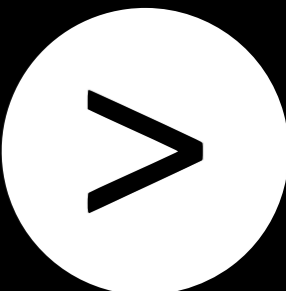


GREATER THAN (PART 2)

1 JOHN 4:1-6

1 JOHN 4

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognise the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

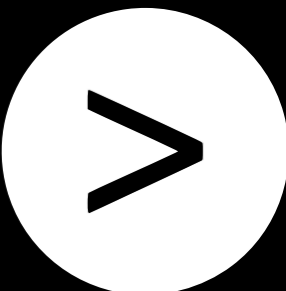


SIMPLE MATHS

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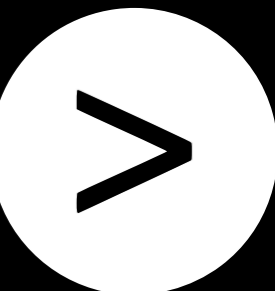


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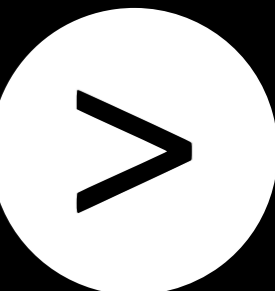


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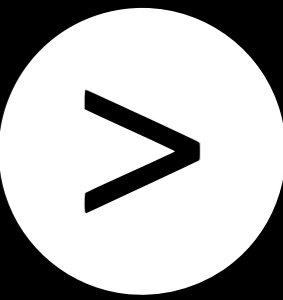
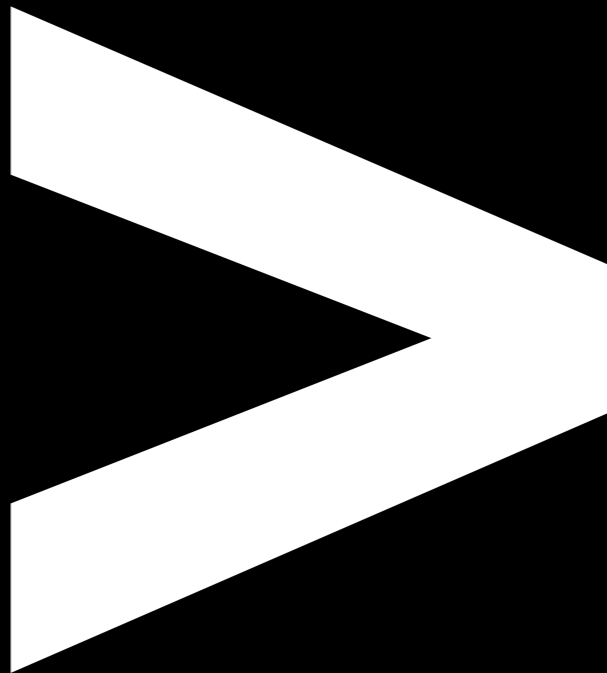


SIMPLE MATHS

Our God is

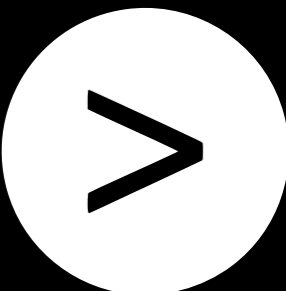


SIMPLE MATHS



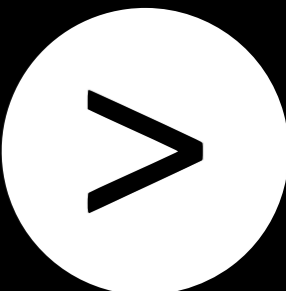
OUR GOD IS BIGGER

- John affirms us again in whose we are
- Fear of 'he that is in the world' and all he does has no place in the goodness of God
- God is greater, bigger, awesomer [sic], and stronger than all that is antichrist!
- Perfect love overcomes fear



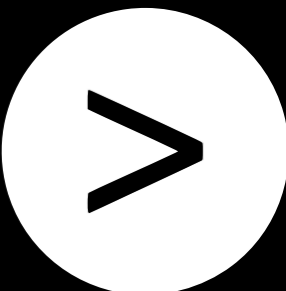
OUR GOD IS IN US

- **And this is the God that is IN us**
- **The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in us (Romans 8:11)**
- **Fear of the world and the spirit of antichrist cannot hang out in the same room as the the King of Kings - He is greater**



RECOGNISE THE SPIRIT

- **Recognise the Spirit that lives in you**
- **Recognise the spirit that works against Christ**
- **Be confident in which is greater**



GREATER THAN

- **Our Identity as Gods people > the lies of the world**
- **The Spirit of God in you > the spirit of antichrist**
- **The Truth in us > the falsehoods**

