

Who's the greatest of them all?

True Vine and the branches

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- There is one True Vine and others which are not Him
- We must choose to let Him be who He says He is in our lives in order for us to be branches of the True Vine

1 John 4

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

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 - The fact that they come does not indicate you are doing anything wrong

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 - Truth points to the ability of the Holy Spirit to grow us in that relationship until we leave this world and enter eternity (Redemption)

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 - Lies point to the ability of mankind to determine parameters that only God can establish

1 John 4

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them (lies), because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 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."

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 - There is only a question of surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives

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 - The world will think that following Jesus diminishes our intellect, potential, future
- The lies will be perceived as truth by the world and they won't hear us speaking the Truth of Jesus Christ

But we are of God...

- And we hear differently

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- And we cannot be anything other than humble about our differences
 - Grateful that we love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:10)
 - Prayerful and broken for those who have not yet received that love

And those who are of God...

- Hear us

And those who are of God...

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- Understand or try to understand us

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- Understand or try to understand us
- Support us

And those who are of God...

- Hear us
- Understand or try to understand us
- Support us
- Recognize the Truth

Take this promise to the bank...

- Through the power of the Holy Spirit that resides in us, we can:

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- Through the power of the Holy Spirit that resides in us, we can:
 - Intimately know what is Truth

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- Through the power of the Holy Spirit that resides in us, we can:
 - Intimately know what is Truth
 - Intimately know what is error or will lead us down the wrong path
- We must humbly seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit into a life of Truth

In other words...

We live our lives as
branches of the True Vine