

Letter to the Thessalonians:

To the church of the Thessalonians:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

-Paul-

1 Thessalonians 5

1 Thessalonians 5 Instructions for Church Life

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise prophecies,

21 but test everything.

Hold fast to what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

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1 John 4

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1 Beloved, do not believe every **spirit**, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false **prophets** have gone out into the world.

Irenaeus – *‘Against Heresies’* – apx. 180AD

Polycarp – 69AD–155AD (Disciple of John the Apostle)

Cerinthus – Gnostic Heretic

“There are also those who heard from [Polycarp] that John, the disciple of the Lord, going to bathe at Ephesus, and perceiving Cerinthus within, rushed out of the bath-house without bathing, exclaiming,

“Let us fly, lest even the bath-house fall down, because Cerinthus, the enemy of the truth, is within.”

And Polycarp himself replied to Marcion, who met him on one occasion, and said,

“Do you know me? I do know you, the first-born of Satan”.

Such was the horror which the apostles and their disciples had against holding even verbal communication with any corrupters of the truth;

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Four Scriptural Tests For Testing Prophecies:

Deuteronomy 18 –

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Four Scriptural Tests For Testing Prophecies:

Deuteronomy 18 – Accuracy

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Four Scriptural Tests For Testing Prophecies:

Deuteronomy 18 – Accuracy (applicable for predictive prophecy)

Deuteronomy 18

9“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.

10 There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer 11 or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,

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And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

Deuteronomy 18

13 You shall be blameless before the LORD your God,

14 for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners.

But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this.

divination

tells fortunes

interprets omens

sorcerer

charmer

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necromancer

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Three veils that God has put in place:

1. The spirit realm

2. The future

3. The grave

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Deuteronomy 29

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but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

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15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.

16 This is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said,

“Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God or see this great fire anymore, so that we will not die!”

17 And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.

18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers.

And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

Hebrews 1

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by His powerful word.

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20 'But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

20 But if any prophet dares to speak a message in My name that I have not commanded him to speak, or to speak in the name of other gods, that prophet must be put to death.”

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21“‘You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’

22“‘When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken.

The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

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1. It is a very serious thing for anyone to claim that they are speaking words that come from God.

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Exodus 20

7" You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Ezekiel 13

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

2“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying.

Tell those who prophesy out of their own imagination:

Hear the word of the LORD!

3 This is what the Lord GOD says:

Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, yet have seen nothing.

6 They see false visions and speak lying divinations.

They claim, ‘Thus declares the LORD,’ when the LORD did not send them; yet they wait for the fulfillment of their message.

Ezekiel 13

7 Haven't you seen a false vision and spoken a lying divination when you proclaim, 'Thus declares the LORD,' even though I have not spoken?

8 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says:

Because you have uttered vain words and seen false visions, I am against you, declares the Lord GOD.

9 My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and speak lying divinations.

They will not belong to the council of My people or be recorded in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel.

Then you will know that I am the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah 23

16 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

“Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.
They are filling you with false hopes.

They speak visions from their own minds,
not from the mouth of the LORD.

17 They keep saying to those who despise Me,

‘The LORD says that you will have peace,’

and to everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart,

‘No harm will come to you.’

21 I did not send these prophets,

yet they have run with their message;

I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied.

Jeremiah 23

22 But if they had stood in My council, they would have proclaimed My words to My people and turned them back from their evil ways and deeds.”

23 “Am I only a God nearby,” declares the LORD, “and not a God far away?”

24 “Can a man hide in secret places where I cannot see him?” declares the LORD.

“Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the LORD.

25 “I have heard the sayings of the prophets who prophesy lies in My name: ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’

Jeremiah 23

26 How long will this continue in the hearts of these prophets who prophesy falsehood,

and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart?

28 Let the prophet who has a dream retell it, but let him who has My word speak it truthfully.

For what is straw compared to grain?" declares the LORD.

29 "Is not My word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

30 "Therefore behold," declares the LORD,

"I am against the prophets who steal from one another words they attribute to Me."

Jeremiah 23

31 “Yes,” declares the LORD, “I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and proclaim, ‘The LORD declares it.’ ”

32 “Indeed,” declares the LORD, “I am against those who prophesy false dreams and retell them to lead My people astray with their reckless lies.

It was not I who sent them or commanded them, and they are of no benefit at all to these people,” declares the LORD.

1. It is a very serious thing for anyone to claim that they are speaking words that come from God.
 - The one source we know is from God is the written word.

Hebrews 4

12 For the word of God is living and active.

Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow.

It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

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Romans 12

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Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

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Ephesians 5

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

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Philippians 1

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,
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3. “Prophets” who “miss” on a prophecy should never influence us in the future.
 - This is a very objective test with a life sentence.

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