

**Title:** It Ain't About Me

**Text:** 1 John 3:19-4:18

**Target:** Stop telling people and yourself you don't have what it takes because that's a lie.

- I. **Confidence that's Greater:** *"By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;"* (Vs. 19)
  - A. **Conviction of the Spirit:** *"for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything."* (Vs. 20)
  - B. **Clarity of the Spirit:** *"Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God."* (Vs. 21)
  - C. **Confirmation of the Spirit:** *"and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him."* (Vs. 22)
  - D. **Comfort of the Spirit:** *"Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us."* (Vs. 24)
- II. **Counsel that's Wiser:** *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,"* (Vs. 4:1a)
  - A. **Be Careful, Not Cynical:**
    1. **Reject False Teachers:** *"for many false prophets have gone out into the world."* (Vs. 4:1b)
    2. **Recognize False Doctrine:** *"and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God."* (Vs. 4:3)
  - B. **Be Informed, Not Ignorant:** *"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."* (Vs. 4:4)
    1. **Affirmed by the World:** *"They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them."* (Vs. 4:5)
    2. **Accepted by God:** *"We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error."* (Vs. 4:6)
- III. **Cause that's Bigger:** *"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."* (Vs. 4:9)
  - A. **Know God:** *"whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."* (Vs. 4:7)
    1. **His love for you:** *"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* (Vs. 4:10)
    2. **His loyalty to you:** *"No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us."* (Vs. 4:12)
  - B. **Make God Known:** *"And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world."* (Vs. 4:14)
    1. **Have Full Faith:** *"By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world."* (Vs. 4:17)
    2. **Have No Fear:** *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."* (Vs. 4:18)

**Takeaway:** What's on the inside has to get on the outside.