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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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The Reality of Spiritual Authority

1 John 4:1-6

Series: Reality Check – (re)Aligning Our Lives to the Way of Jesus

Central Passages

1 John 4:2–4 (ESV) — **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: **every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,** **3** and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. **4** 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.**

Spiritual Authority: A deep confidence in God’s presence in our lives, along with a growing clarity as to his purpose for our lives, that leads to greater confidence and compassion as we navigate our daily lives.

1 John 4:4 (The Message) — **4** My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world.

Romans 8:31 (ESV) — **31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Central Thought: As followers of Jesus, walking in the humble authority of his Spirit, we must be alert to, but never afraid of or deterred by those who deny Christ and that would seek to deceive, discourage and defeat us.

To Walk in Spiritual Authority...

❖ We need to be cautious regarding false teachers.

Matthew 7:15–16 (ESV) — **15** “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **16** You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

❖ We need to make a good confession regarding Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9 (ESV) — **9** because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Timothy 6:12–14 (ESV) — **12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, **14** to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

❖ We need to be confident as children of God.

1 John 3:1 (The Message) — **1** What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we’re called children of God! That’s who we really are. But that’s also why the world doesn’t recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he’s up to.

John 14:15–18 (ESV) — **15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. **18** “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.