



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High
Title: Paul's Farewell Speech,
Part 7

Text: Acts 20:28-31
Date: Sept. 14, 2025
Lesson: 111

Elders have eight primary responsibilities.

1. To live a life worthy of imitation
2. To serve the Lord
3. To preach God's Word
4. To evangelize the unsaved
5. To be led by the Spirit
6. To oversee the Church
 - A. Practice personal vigilance
 - B. Shepherd the flock
 - C. Protect the flock

Acts 20:29–31 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

Four key tests to identify false teachers:

1. _____ Test

1 John 4:1–3 Beloved, 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 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2. _____ Test

Matthew 7:15–23 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

16 “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?

17 “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 “So then, you will know them by their fruits. 20 “So then, you will know them by their fruits.

Genuine preachers are evident by the soundness of their Christology and the visible results of righteous fruit.

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

3. _____ **Test**

1 Corinthians 14:37–38 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment. 38 But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

1 John 4:4–6 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

A teachers's authenticity can be discerned by their follower's interest in God's Word.

4. _____ **Test**

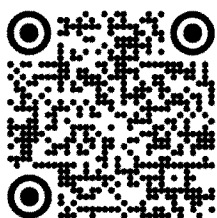
Galatians 1:6–9 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

We want to look for teachers who:

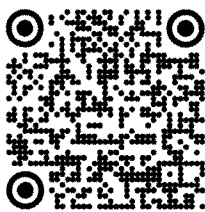
1. Proclaim an accurate gospel
2. Live lives that reflect Christlikeness
3. View Scripture as their ultimate authority
4. Preach a gospel of grace

Discussion Guide

1. What makes discernment so important when it comes to identifying false prophets?
2. What key doctrines must a true teacher affirm according to the Bible?
3. What kinds of “fruit” (behavior, character, impact) should we look for in a teacher to determine if they are genuine?
4. How can we evaluate whether a teacher submits fully to the authority of Scripture?



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ANSWERS: Doctrinal, Fruit, Scriptural, Gospel