

## Fast Facts #12: 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:4-6

1. In Chapter 3, John explains what is pleasing to God – keep His commands. He means the teaching of Jesus that they have received from Him and the other Apostles, who were with Jesus. Paul had a personal experience with Jesus on the Damascus Road.
2. Verse 4, we know by heart and have quoted it often. John is reminding his readers that they are from God and overcome them. That is, we have tested the spirits and teachings to see if they are true. The One, who is in us, the Holy Spirit, the Father, and Jesus, is greater than Satan and any of his henchmen.
3. Verse 5, Satan is in the world, and the false teachers and the false spirits are from the world. The sad thing is that the world listens to them.
4. Verse 6, John says, “We are of God”. In this context it means the Apostles, those who were with Jesus.
5. The Message that is true has 3 parts:
  - A. Jesus came in the flesh, the incarnation, refuting the Gnostics, who denied that. They taught that the Spirit descended on the human Jesus at His baptism and departed before He was crucified.
  - B. The necessity of the cross: When God chose the cross, a blood sacrifice of the innocent Lamb, He didn’t choose a good way or the best way. He chose the only way. No other way to be made right with the Father, but by the cross.
  - C. The call to love one another: They will know us by our love. Agape love wants and works for the best for the other person. The absolute best is that they are saved.
6. John says if you know God then you will listen to and agree with our teachings.