

## RESISTING THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD

### *Note to the speaker:*

For the third section below, identify the characteristics of the spirit of the world by opening to and using the *Reasoning* book, pages 390-3. Cover each point carefully, reasoning on the scriptures cited and using the additional references to reinforce your development

### **THE SPIRIT OF SATAN'S WORLD IS OPPOSITE TO GOD'S SPIRIT, OR ACTIVE FORCE** (7 min.)

It is impossible to have a good relationship with God while having "the spirit of the world" (1Co 2:12)

The spirit of the world is the selfish and sinful activating force that motivates the world of unrighteous human society

Those who have the world's spirit have certain basic attitudes that are common to the present system of things of which Satan is god (*rs* 389)

Spirit of Satan's world includes hatred of truth, works of the flesh, and opposition to all of Jehovah's right ways (Ga 5:19-21; 2Ti 3:1-5)

All worshipers of Jehovah must resist the spirit of the world and the course of conduct that it inspires (1Jo 2:15)

They cultivate the fruitage of God's holy spirit (Ga 5:22, 23)

Christians do not "speak what proceeds from the world" (1Jo 4:1-6; *w83* 10/15 19 ¶11-13)

### **SATAN USES THE EVIL WORLD TO OPPOSE TRUE WORSHIP OF JEHOVAH** (12 min.)

Religious part of evil world is Babylon the Great, which is used by Archdeceiver to blind and confuse mankind

All nations have been made drunk with her wine of false doctrines and spiritual fornication (Re 18:2-4; *re* 261-4)

Greedy commercial system, or big business, is another part of Satan's evil world

He uses this to develop spirit of covetousness and materialism in men's hearts (Lu 12:15; *pe* 210 ¶9)

The political element of Satan's world will actually battle against the Lamb of God in due time (Re 17:12-14)

Striking force of political system is the violent military establishment, which has caused the senseless killing of millions

The entire world of Satan is corrupted morally (Ro 1:24-27)

Jehovah's servants manifestly can have no share in it

Satan has blinded the nations to the truth of God's Word, and they are walking in mental darkness (Eph 4:17-19; *pe* 210 ¶10)

Sports, entertainment, and recreation have been allowed to degenerate into degrading, competitive, and often harmful activities

Added to these excesses are overeating and overdrinking, revelries, and loose conduct (1Pe 4:3, 4; *g89* 11/8 3-11; *g83* 10/8 6-8; *w79* 6/1 3-4)

Satan uses all such manifestations of spirit of world in his fight against God's people and their worship of Jehovah (1Jo 5:19; Re 12:9, 12, 17; *rs* 390)

### **WHAT ARE SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD AGAINST WHICH WE NEED TO BE ON GUARD?** (*rs* 390-3) (22 min.)

Breaking free from the spirit of the world requires getting to the root of the matter

One must reflect *God's* spirit and genuine love for his ways (1Co 2:12)

It is necessary to guard against attitudes that betray the spirit of the world:

(1) Doing what one wants to do, without regard for the will of God (*rs* 187-91; *w85* 11/1 5-7)

(2) Reacting to situations on the basis of pride

(3) Manifesting a rebellious attitude toward authority (*g74* 2/8 4-5; *w72* 261-4, 268-9)

(4) Giving free rein to the desires of the fallen flesh (*w85* 8/15 13-14; *w79* 6/1 6-8)

(5) Allowing one's life to be dominated by the desire to possess what one sees (*w88* 8/15 4-7)

(6) Showing off one's possessions and supposed attainments (*w86* 7/15 13 ¶18)

(7) Giving vent to one's emotions in abusive speech and violent acts (*w83* 2/1 7)

(8) Basing one's hopes and fears on what humans are able to do

(9) Giving to humans and things the worshipful honor that belongs to God

### **FIND TRUE HAPPINESS IN OBEYING JEHOVAH** (4 min.)

Jehovah provides us with gladness of heart by teaching us his Word and helping us to follow his right principles for living

He grants his people great blessings in using them to save the lives of others by preaching and teaching his Word

Obedient ones are generally protected from the harmful effects of bad association, loose living, use of tobacco, drug abuse, and drunkenness (Pr 10:22)

They keep busy and happy by preaching the good news

Evil world will be destroyed, dragging down with it all who support it and have its spirit (2Pe 3:7, 12; 1Jo 2:17)

All who are of Satan's world carry on sin and do not qualify for endless life (1Jo 3:8)

Children of God truly hate Satan, his wicked works, and whole evil world, but they love doing God's will

With Jehovah's help they are determined to fight against and gain victory over spirit of this world (1Jo 4:4, 6)

Those awaiting the new heavens and earth will conform their lives to the instructions of God's good spirit and Word (2Pe 3:13, 14, 17, 18; 1Jo 3:9, 10)

Those loving Jehovah will live clean, upright lives in order to gain his approval and to receive life everlasting in his righteous new world (Pr 2:21)

As a people, they go into the whole world preaching and teaching the good news so that others also may find the way to life (Mt 28:19, 20)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)