

I John 1:15 – “If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” In the world there are two spirits contending for preeminence – the Spirit of God and the spirit of the world. The spirit of the world was in the garden before the fall of man. Adam and Eve were tempted by the spirit of the world. They chose the visible which satisfied the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (I Jn.2:15-17). In the fall man became a slave to the power of the seen, so that worldliness became second nature us all. The greatest danger to the church comes from the spirit of the world. Nothing can free a believer from the world but being entirely possessed by the Spirit of God. The church that compromises with the world unconsciously comes under the power of the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). It is the spirit of the world in the church that hinders the Spirit of God. It makes revival an absolute necessity if the church is to recapture the power of Pentecost. The Love of the world has inundated the church with worldly messages, worldly methods, and worldly men. The love of the world makes the love of God impossible. You can't love God and the world. The church has embraced the spirit of the world to attract its members. Every move is orchestrated and timed. More attention is paid to comfort than the Comforter. The allure is success, possessions, and entertainment. Appearance matters more than substance. The 21st century church is nothing like the 1st century church. There is one major difference – the absence of the Holy Spirit. Self-denial and holiness are considered fanatical, and prayer is a nuisance. The wisdom of words and excellency of speech have replaced the message of the cross. There is no power, because there is no Spirit. Unless repentance accompanies our prayers, our hopes for revival are in vain. Andrew Murray once said, “Of all heresies the worst is the heresy of a worldly spirit. It dispossesses the Spirit of God and makes every truth powerless. It brings the church into subjection to the god of this world.” Lord, deliver us from the spirit of the world, from the god of this world. Help us not to love what keeps us from loving you. HA