896 1 JOHN. Iv.   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
 know that he abideth in us, by the | 4now that he abideth inus,   
 Spirit which he gave us. | AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 aseraxiz-8. TV, 1 Beloved, \* believe not every   
 by the Spirit which he hath   
 given us.   
 IV. 1 Beloved, believe   
 spirit, but © try the spirits whether| »ot every spirit, but try   
 they are of God: because \* many the spirits whether they are   
 ‘alse prophets are gone out into the| prophets because many false   
 world. 2 Herein know ye.the Spirit | tte world. \* Hereby know   
 Ha.) oh,   
 18, "2   
 section, ch. iv. 1—6, which is parenthe- explained by the fact that both the   
 tical, of the discerning of true and false Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error   
 spirits, and after which the main subject speak by the spirits of men who are their   
 of brotherly love is resumed again. And organs, So we have, in reference to pro-   
 in this we (all the children of God; not, phecy, 1 Cor. xiv. 32, “Zhe spirits of   
 as the Roman-Catholic expositors, the prophets are subject to prophets.” By the   
 Apostles, or the apostolic church, only) nature of the testimony of the human   
 know that He abideth in us, from (or by spirits, we shall know whether they are of   
 —out of the fact) the Spirit which He God or not; whether they are organs of   
 gave us (not, Aadh given, as A.V. The the spirit of truth, or the spirit of error.   
 giving here took place at a certain time, It will be observed that this interpretation.   
 by a definite act, viz. on the day of of “every spirit,” and the Apostle’s way   
 Pentecost, when the Father bestowed the of speaking, rest on the assumption of   
 Holy Spirit on the Church. And this word there being One Spirit of Truth, from   
 gave is one sign that the whole is to be God, and one spirit of error, from the   
 referred to the Father: seeing that our world; as opposed to all rationalizing in-   
 Lord says, “I will pray the Father; and terpretations, and also to all figurative   
 He shall give you another Comforter, the understanding of the word. It is not   
 Spirit of Truth,” John xiv, 16, This the men themselves, but their spirits as   
 indwelling Spirit of God is to the child of the vehicles of God’s Spirit or the spirit   
 God the spring and source of his spiritual of antichrist, that are in question), but   
 life, sure token of his sonship, Rom. try the spirits (this ¢rying is enjoined not   
 14, 15, Gal. 6, and of his union on the church by her prelates, a8 the   
 with God in Christ). Roman-Catholie expositors, but on all   
 Cuap, IV, 1—6.] Warning against, and believers, as even some of them reluctantly   
 criteria whereby to distinguish, false teach- admit; and the test is one of plain matter   
 ing. This passage up again, with re- of fuct, of which any one ean be judge.   
 ference to this portion of the Epistle, the ‘The Church by her rnlers is the authorita-   
 similar warning given in the former por- tive assertor of the result of this ¢rial in   
 tion, ch. ii, ff. It is intimately eon- the shape of official adoption or rejection,   
 nected with has immediately pre- but only as moved by her component   
 ceded. By brotherly love we are to know faithful members, according to whose   
 that we are of the truth, iii. 19,—and the sense those her formoularies are drawn, of   
 token that He abideth in us is to be the whieh her authorities are the exponents)   
 Spirit which He gave us. ‘This Spirit, the whether they are of God (bear the cha-   
 Spirit of Truth, it becomes then all-im- racter of an origin from Him): because   
 portant for us to be able to distinguish, (ground for the necessity of this trial)   
 und not to be led astray by any. false many false-prophets (called “ many anti-   
 apirits pretending to his character and christs,” ch. ii, 18: prophets, not as   
 office. Such fulse spirits there are, which foretelling future things, but as the mouth-   
 are not of God, but of the world, pieces of the spirit which inspires them.   
 which muk i Compare 2 Pet. ii. 1, the New Test.   
 which prophecy had already spok false teachers are called “false teachers,”   
 1,] Beloved (so ver. 7, and «! 2, 21, and compared to the Old Test. “false   
 marking a transition to a subject on which prophets”) are gone forth (viz, from him   
 the Apostle uffvctionately bespeaks their who sent them: even as Jesus Himself is   
 earnest attention), believe not every spirit said, John viii. 42, xiii, 8, xvi. 27, 28,   
 (this expression, as also, “the spirits,” in- to have come forth from God. Or wo   
 dicating plurality of spirits, we to Le may take it as in ch, ii. went out from