

Discovering Your Gifts #4

Discerning of Spirits

1 Cor. 12:8-10

Continuing in our studies on the gifts of the Spirit, we now come to the gift known as Discerning of Spirits. Remember, these manifestations are as God wills. But God is more willing than we often assume. We have discussed the fact that there are 9 manifestations - 3 categories of manifestations. Revelation gifts, Power gifts and Vocal gifts. In this lesson we will look at Discerning of Spirits.

Definition - Discerning of spirits is the supernatural capacity to judge from a spiritual insight whether the spirit operating has a source that is Human, Demonic, Angelic or Divine.

It is a supernatural *Perception* into the spiritual realm for the purpose of determining the source of the spiritual activities. It is 'seeing' into the realm of spirits.

I. What It Is Not:

1. The Gift of Discernment.
2. Discerning of Evil Spirits.
3. Not Mind Reading, Thought Impartation, ESP.
4. Not Psychological Insight.
5. Not Discerning Faults in Others.

II. Discerning of *Spirits*

1. Divine
2. Demonic
3. Human
4. Angelic

III. Illustrations

1. Old Testament

- a. Moses - Ex. 33:18-23; 34:6,7 The Form of God (Divine)
- b. Elisha - 2 Kings 6:14-17- The Army of the Lord (Angelic)
- c. Abraham - Gen. 18:1 The Lord (Jesus - Divine) and angels
- d. Isaiah - Is. 6:1 The Lord- (Divine) cp. John 12:41

2. Jesus

- a. Mk. 5:6-13 Demons
- b. Lk. 22:43 Angel
- c. Lk. 1:11-13; 26 29 Angelic messengers

3. New Testament.

- a. Paul - Acts 16 16-18; Demon – a spirit of divination, literally, *a spirit – a Python*.
- b. Paul - Acts 27:23,24 Angel
- c. Ananias - Acts 9:10-18 Jesus
- d. Disciples – Lk. 24:13-16, 30-31 Jesus

IV. Various Means of Discerning Spirits

1. Inward Witness
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Discerning of Spirits

V. Different Ways of Manifestation

- A. Seeing a Form.
- B. Seeing a Dark Cloud over Face.
- C. Seeing a Dark Spot on a Body.
- D. Hearing Demons Speak (Not Audible).
- E. Dreams and Visions.
- F. The Seer Anointing – an aspect of the prophet's office
- G. The prophetic is opened up to all believers in the New Testament. Acts 2:16-18.
Prophecy and dreams and visions become a normal thing in the New Covenant.