DISCERNMENT
— NOW MORE THAN EVER!

May 17, 2020
Discernment – Now More than Ever!

The Holy Spirit Is An Essential For Discernment

(1 Cor 2:14 NIV) The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned
Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

- Don’t Be Ignorant
- Don’t Be Led Astray
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1 Cor 12:10 (NIV) "to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."

This Equipping Gift Of The Holy Spirit Will Help Us To “Not Be Ignorant” And “Not Be Led Astray”
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Why Is Discernment That Comes From The Lord So Important?

- There Are False Teachers & False Prophets Who Try To Deceive Christians
- Not Everything That Happens In Christ’s Name Belongs To Him
- Some Things That Seem Right Are Not Right
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- We Need The Holy Spirit
- We Need His Giftings
- We Need His Leading – Equipping -- Empowering
- We Must Be Filled With His Precious Holy Spirit

Luke 24:49 (NIV) (49) I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.
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One Of The Aspects Of This Power From On High Comes To Us Under The Heading Of Spiritual Gifts:
The Discerning Or Distinguishing Of Sprits

What Is This Gift?

- The Definition: A Distinguishing, Discrimination, Discerning, Or Judging Of Spirits
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(1 THES 5:19-22 NIV) Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil

- To Accomplish This The Gift Of Holy Spirit Discernment Is Absolutely Necessary
- Seeing Through The Physical And Into The Spiritual Realm
- Being Able To See The Motivating Forces Behind A Person, Doctrine, Or Supernatural-Type Manifestation
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The Spirit Of Discernment Functions To Protect The Church:

Defensively: *It Helps To Protect The Church From Imposters*

Offensively: *It Helps In The Areas Of Spiritual Possession And Oppression And The Casting Out Of Evil Spirits*
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**DISCERNMENT IS A KEY GIFT FOR THESE TIMES:**

*(1 JOHN 4:1-6 NIV)* Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

- **Don’t Believe Every Spirit – But Test Them By The Word & By The Spirit**
- **Knowing That Not Every Spirit Is Of God – Many False Teachers Are In The World**
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Discernment Distinguishes Between Right And Wrong

The Greek word deakreisis is defined, “to discern,” “to discriminate,” or “to distinguish.”

1 Kings 3:9 (NIV) (9) So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?
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Discernment Is Spiritually Derived Not Physically Decided.

- The Gift Of “Discerning Of Spirits” Is Not That Of Judging People, But Rather To Know And Recognize The Spirit Behind The Manifestation, Whether Holy, Evil Or Human.

- “Those Without God Cannot Understand Spiritual Discernment”
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THE MATURE ARE TRAINED TO DISCERN AND DISTINGUISH BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL

- Hebrews 5:14 (NIV) (14) But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish (DISCERN) good from evil.

- Not Everything Is Cut And Dry. Sometimes People Can Be Spiritual, But That Spirit Is Not The Spirit Of God -- To Know The Difference Is So Vitally Important
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DISCERNMENT IS THE OPPOSITE OF DULLNESS -- WE MUST STAY SHARP

*If We Don’t Discern Or Distinguish Things -- We Will Totally Miss Them*
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DISCERNMENT KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUTH AND NON-TRUTH

- Truth Versus Error
- Truth Versus Deception
- Truth Versus Lies
- Discernment From God Will Let You Know The Difference

**EXAMPLE:** PAUL – ACTS 16:16-18; ACTS 13:6-12
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TO DISCERN OR DISTINGUISH IS TO PROPERLY JUDGE “THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE SPIRIT”

▪ What Is From God And What Is Not Of God

▪ Jesus Was Able To Know The Nature Of The Evil, Demonic Spirit That Had Attacked The Health, Peace And Well Being Of People

▪ Jesus Was Able To Rightly Distinguish Between The Spirit Of God And The Spirit Of The Devil
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DISCERNMENT HAS NO VALUE IF WE DO NOT HEED IT

▪ The End Times Deception Will Be So Intense That Many Will Believe That Which Is False And Will Choose It Over That Which Is Obviously True

▪ Romans 1:20 (NIV) (20) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.
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DELUSION WILL ATTEMPT TO INFECT EVERY PART OF OUR CULTURE IN THE LAST DAYS

- There Will Be A Departure From The Truth
- People Will No Longer Know What Is Morally Right Or Wrong
- That Means That Christ Coming Is At Hand

- When We See Deception We Don't Fear, Panic or Worry --
- We Press Into The Lord
- We Allow The Holy Spirit To Lead Us & Equip Us
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**TESTS OF PROPHECY AND PROPHESTS:**

- It Must Be Aligned With The Gospel Message Of Scripture
- It Must Be In Agreement With Jesus Christ As Lord
- The Spirit That Brings People To Christ -- And Brings The Atmosphere Of Love & Unity Is From The Lord
- That Which Brings Disunity, Division And Confusion Is Not From God – For God Is Not The Author Of Confusion.
- Is This A Gift That Tears Down, Or Builds Up?
- The One Whom God Uses In The Prophetic Gifts Must Have The Corresponding Fruit In Their Lives
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**Discernment** is something that we need more and more as we see the Day of the Lord approaching

- **Discernment By The Spirit Of God** – Unmasks The Devil And Reveals God’s Life-giving Truth

- **We Must Pay Attention To The Instructions We Have Been Given**
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DISCERNMENT – WILL KEEP US ALERT, AWAKE, AND AWARE OF THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THOSE WHO WE ARE MINISTERING TO

▪ May The Flow Of God’s Knowledge Thru Discernment, – Keep Us In That Place Of Readiness And Truth So As To Recognize The Spirit Behind The Spirit

▪ May We Know The Spirit Thru Discernment To Ensure Us That The Gifts Being Presented Are Given And Approved By The Holy Spirit Of God.

▪ Discernment Is God Given And Spirit Lead