

The Spiritual Gift of Discerning of spirits



1 Corinthians 12:10

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The more we learn and understand about the Holy Spirit and His Gifts the more effective we can become in these last days.

There are different spiritual gifts that have been distributed by the Holy Spirit to each member of the Body of Christ.

1. Apostle Paul list Nine Spiritual Gifts in (1 Corinthians 12:7-10)
2. Apostle Paul list Seven more Spiritual Gifts in (Romans 12:3-8)

Purpose: To teach us the importance of each spiritual gifts and how the Holy Spirit uses each of them to benefit the Body of Christ as a whole.

Goal: To mature us in our understanding of spiritual gifts so that our lives can be useful for the Kingdom of God.

Spiritual Principles: Authority, Agreement, Stewardship, Organization, Obedience, Faith, Grace, Unconditional Love, Prayer

Today we will be discussing and examining the final spiritual gifts in the (1st) Category:

(1 Corinthians 12:7-10, Colossians 2:1-4)

1. Revelation Gifts – “To Know.” (1 Corinthians 12:8, 10)
 - The Word of Wisdom
 - The Word of Knowledge
 - The Discerning of spirits

- The Understanding of the Gift of Discerning of spirits. (1 Corinthians 12:10)

1. The gift of Discerning of spirits is the supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit that gives a believer insight and ability to see or hear into the spirit realm or spirit world through the inner work of the Holy Spirit.
2. The words “discern or discerning” means to distinguish or to perceive.
3. The gift of discerning of spirits allows a believer to discern, distinguish or perceive both good and evil spirits. (Hebrews 5:12-14)
 - The Holy Spirit gives a believer supernatural revelation to see and hear heavenly angels in the physical and spirit realm. (John 20:11-18, Acts 5:17-25)
4. It is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit that reveals or expose the kind of spirit or spirits that are in operation.
 - It is not called the discerning of people, but the discerning of spirits both good and evil.
5. The gift of discernment does not come from our natural mind, human intuitions, human imaginations, or human reasoning.
 - A believer should never rely on such measures which can be misleading and lead to someone being falsely accused of having a demonic spirit.

- There are different types of spirits that influence everything that a person both say and do.

1. The Holy Spirit. (John 16:7-13, Titus 3:4-5, Corinthians 2:12-13)

- The Holy Spirit who is actively involved in the life of a born-again believer. (Acts 1:8)

- He dwells in and with the believer. (John 14:12-17)
- He produces the fruit in the believer's life. (Galatians 5:22-23)

2. The Human spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

- Remain in an unregenerate state or unsaved.
- Remain under the influence of sin or sin nature.
- It controls and influence a person mind, will and emotions.

3. The Demonic spirit (unclean spirit). (Seeks influence and control by possession, or oppression). (Matthew 12:43-45, 15:21-28, Mark 5:1-20, 9:14-29, Ephesians 6:10-12)

- A person who battles with depression doesn't mean that they have a demon. Mental Health needs to be taken seriously whether a person is saved or unsaved.
- A person who is born-again cannot be possessed by a demonic spirit because they have been filled and sealed by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30)
- The word "sealed" which signifies ownership or identifies belonging to God or God's possession. (2 Timothy 2:19)
- A believer must put on the whole armor of God and should never walk in fear of Satan or his demonic forces. (Ephesians 6:10-18, James 4:7, 1 John 4:4)

- The manifestation of the Holy Spirit gives a believer supernatural revelation into the kinds of spirits that is operating in and through a person life.

1. This spiritual gift is essential and necessary for the body of Christ due to so much deception within the church and in the world. (1 John 4:1-6, 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

- Satan's greatest weapon is deception.
 - There are believers within the body of Christ who are being deceived because they try to perceive or distinguish based upon a person talents, gifts, signs and wonders, or outward appearances. (Matthew 7:15-23)
2. Don't be deceived! There is a difference between a true manifestation of the Holy Spirit and a movement that is manufactured by a human spirit or demonic spirit. (Mark 16:15-19)
- 1) The manifestation of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 4:14-22, Acts 2:1-4, 40-47, 4:29-33, 5:12-16)
- It requires no human influence or control.
 - It always involves exalting Jesus Christ and not men and women.
 - It always leads to repentance.
 - It always involves the gospel of Jesus Christ being preached or proclaimed.
 - There will always be a dependence upon God.
 - The gifts of the Holy Spirit and signs and wonders will be in operation.
 - There will be order within the church.
 - There will an atmosphere of love, peace and freedom. Not fear, confusion and bondage.
(Psalm 16:11, Romans 14:17, 2 Corinthians 3:17)
- 2) The manufactured movement by a human spirit or demonic spirit has an atmosphere that involves fear, confusion, division, deception, and manipulation. (Romans 16:17-18, 1 Peter 5:8, John 10:10)

- There are (3) three important reasons that the spiritual gift of “Discerning of spirits” was distributed by the Holy Spirit to members of the body of Christ.
 1. To prevent believers within the body of Christ from being influenced and deceived by evil or demonic spirits. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 1 Timothy 4:1-5)
 2. To prevent the body of Christ from being misguided and falling into error. (John 16:13, Galatians 3:1-2, 5:7-9)
 - Apostle Paul declares, “You did run well, who did hinder you that you should not obey the truth? (Galatians 5:7)
 - The Christian life is a race where some will finish or endure until the end and some will be disqualified in the end. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Philippians 1:6)
 - The word “hinder” means to stop, prevent, distract, impede, block, or obstruct progress.
 - Some believers allow “spiritual influences or religious spirits” that are not from God to cause them to deviate from the truth of His Word. (John 10:25-30)
 3. To promote spiritual growth and unity among members of the body of Christ and not deception and division. (1 Corinthians 1:9-10)
- Examples in the Bible of the Spiritual gift of Discerning of spirits.
 1. Jesus discerned the religious spirit or demonic influence operating in the Pharisees. (John 8:37-47)
 2. Paul and Silas discerned a spirit of divination in a slave girl. (Acts 16:16-18)
 3. Jesus discerns the spirit that influences Peter. (Matthew 16:13-23)