

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY ([1 CORINTHIANS 12:10](#))

"To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:"
- *KJV*

(SPIRITUAL GIFTS (**Discernment**



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THE GIFT OF DISCERNMENT

(The gift to distinguish the works of the Holy Spirit from those of deceiving spirits)

Introduction

The devil has a counterfeit to just about every spiritual reality. We see this demonstrated vividly in Exodus 7 when the magicians of Pharaoh's court duplicated Moses' signs. We are told in Matthew 7:22-23, many will say to the Lord, we cast out demons, prophesied in your name and performed miracles. And Jesus will say, "*depart from me you workers of iniquity. I never knew you.*" Since true believers do these same very things above; how does one come to know which is of the powers of **darkness** and which ones are true work of the **Holy Spirit**? This is where the gift of spiritual discernment comes into play. If there is the Spirit of Truth, there are spirits of deception too. This is one basic truth God's servants must become very much aware if they will not be led astray into bondage by signs and wonders as they grow and mature in the Christian life of faith. Many a servant of God has been led astray because of ignorance of this fundamental spiritual truth. The servants of God must learn to distinguish the work of the Holy Spirit from that of deceiving spirits if these servants will not be deceived and ultimately led to destruction. Along the spiritual highway of dynamic ministries are wreckages of promising servants of God who were led astray by deceiving spirits. Sad to say, there are great deceptions going on among God's people today, particularly in the church of Christ. It seems the enemy has taken over the church.

Why the Need for Discernment

Some of the works of deceiving spirits are false prophecy, living to please the flesh, new age movement, zodiac signs, but also living to please the crowd, the pursuit of wealth, power, fame, miracles, Prosperity Gospel, habitual lying, doing wonders and signs. It is in light of this basic reality that led John the elder to strongly warn believers to test every spirit in order to ascertain whether or not it is the Spirit of Truth. There are many false prophets, many with ulterior motives (1 John 4:1). Not every guidance received in the spiritual realm is of the Holy Spirit. Not every "open door" is a door of opportunity; some a trapped doors by deceptive spirits. If one does not perceive this but enters, that servant of God may be trapped and held in bondage. Not every voice or signs and wonders are works of God; some are works of the devil to deceive the very elect of God. We are told that the devil disguises as an angel of light. His aim is to deceive and lead God's people astray from the path of truth into falsehood and bondage and ultimately to destruction. God's servants must therefore be on the alert!

The Gift of Discernment: what is it?

Spiritual discernment is the ability to distinguish the Spirit of Truth from counterfeit spirit, the ministry of the Holy Spirit from the counterfeit of false prophets, one who is spiritual and one who is not. "In its simplest definition, discernment is nothing more than the ability to decide between truth and error, right and wrong. Discernment is the process of making careful distinctions in our thinking about truth." In this regard, spiritual discernment is very important, especially in this age. "Those who possess the spiritual gift of discernment can see right through smokescreens and obstacles as they uncover the truth."

Some Distinctions

We need to make a distinction here between spiritual discernment in general and the special gift of discernment. Be encouraged, all believers are capable of spiritual discernment in general as they grow and mature in the Christian life of faith. The special gift of discernment is given to some but not to all. This same distinction applies also to faith. There is general faith which all believers are capable of, and the special gift of faith given to some believers but not to others (1 Cor. 12: 9-11). With respect to general discernment, all Christians, as they grow and mature, are expected to be in tune and sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit which indwells all true believers. As the servant of God becomes more and more sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, that servant begins to be spiritually aware of what is going on around the servant in the spiritual sense, and is therefore able to accurately assess truth and falsehood, the authentic and the counterfeit (Acts 5:1-11). This general spiritual perception, which is a heightened sense of spiritual awareness through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is available to all believers as they become sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. There are other believers who have received the special gift of discernment. These servants of God can see someone and perceive right away what is going on in the life of this person. They have been endowed with this special gift of the Holy Spirit. Again, it must be emphasized the devil has counterfeit to just about any genuine gift of the Holy Spirit.

Closing Comments

In summary, it must be noted that when a believer submits to the fullness of God in one's life and is filled with the Holy Spirit, any of the gifts of the Spirit may be manifested in the life of that believer as the Holy Spirit so decides. The point is some manifestations of the gift of the Spirit are the norm in some servants of God (the gift of discernment in this case) while other manifestations are occasional. This occasional manifestation of spiritual discernment is to be distinguished from the permanent manifestation of this gift in the life of believers. This permanent manifestation is the gift of discernment. This distinction, while not rigid, is helpful.

Your brother in Christ, WNL

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Find your Spiritual Gift(s) and, find your purpose. (Discover it , Develop it , Demonstrate it)

Apostleship, Prophecy, Evangelism, Pastoring, Teaching, Encouragement, Knowledge, Wisdom, Assisting, Giving, Leadership, Compassion, Faith, Miracles, **Discernment**, Healing, Tongues, Interpretation.

Next week we examine the gift of Healing

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, have you blessed me with the gift of Discernment? If so Lord, please give me the insight that I need to properly apply this gift to the body of Christ. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.

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