



**Gifts of the Holy Spirit**  
**Lesson 5: The Revelation Gifts – Part 2**

Introduction

**1 Corinthians 12:8-11**

The revelation gifts or the gifts that help us think like God

- The gift of the word of wisdom
- The gift of the word of knowledge
- The gift of discerning of spirits

Last time we looked at the gifts of the word of wisdom and the gift of the word of knowledge.

The gift of discerning of spirits

Definition of DISCERN: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition of DISCERNMENT: A form of direct perception

A word of knowledge is the impartation of a fact. Discerning of spirits is different.

For example, someone tells me, “Mrs. Jones has red hair.” I have never seen Mrs. Jones. However, someone told me she has red hair, so I know a fact about her. I have knowledge of it. I received an impartation of knowledge.

The story could be different. I go to a party and Mrs. Jones is there. I see her red hair. This is perception.

A word of knowledge gives you a fact. Discerning of spirits actually helps you perceive something. The result is the same, but the means is different.

## The gift of discerning of spirits – DEFINITION

The ability given by the Holy Spirit to a believer to perceive activity in the spirit world and to make a distinction between things which are from God and from the enemy. It is an ability to detect the presence of, and the identity of, spirits.

### **Hebrews 5:14**

You can exercise your spiritual senses so that you can discern between good and evil.

To fall into every trap the devil lays out for us is not for God's glory!

## What the gift of discerning of spirits is NOT

### **1. Only discerning of demons or evil spirits**

It is supernatural insight into the spirit world. This includes demons, but there are many other spirits besides demons.

What other kinds of spirits exist?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- Holy Spirit
- \_\_\_\_\_

It is necessary since this gift does deal with demons and angels to give some brief points that will help you in understanding these spirit beings.

### Angels

- Angels are created spirit beings. People do not become angels when they die.
- Angels are set in ranks, like the military. – Matthew 26:53
- Angels' main duty is the \_\_\_\_\_
- Angels are warriors. Michael is the chief warrior angel. – 2 Kings 19:35
- Angels give messages. Gabriel is the chief messenger angel.
- Angels protect nations.
- Angels protect \_\_\_\_\_ . – Acts 27:22-24

- Angels take believers to heaven when they die. – Luke 16:22
- Angels carry out the judgment of God.
- Angels provide \_\_\_\_\_ necessities.
- Angels can impart encouragement and strength. – Acts 27: 23, 24; Luke 22:43
- You have personal guardian angels. – Psalm 91:11

### Demons

- Demons are \_\_\_\_\_
- Demons are in continual opposition to God's program.
- Demons blind people to \_\_\_\_\_
- Demons tempt people.
- Demons disguise themselves as angels of light. – 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- Demons lie.
- Demons accuse brothers and sisters in the church. – Revelation 12:10
- Demons draw people away from their new life in Jesus to the old life. They tempt Christians to go back to the things they were set free from. – 1 Timothy 4:1, 2
- Demons are involved in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
- Demons afflict the human body and mind.
- We have authority over demons. Demons are not to be feared in Christ!

### **2. The gift of discernment**

Some people think they have a gift from God to see everybody's faults and sins.

This is not a gift of the Holy Spirit!

The proof of this is that you had this "gift" before you were saved.

This is judgment. It is not spiritual at all, but rather a work of the flesh.

People like this often become critical of everything in the church.

It is important to note that we do not need the gift of discerning of spirits to know when something is wrong.

What do you need?

- You must know the Word of God
- You must be walking in the Spirit

If you have these two things, you will have an inward witness – like a spiritual alarm clock.

### How does this gift operate?

#### **1. You may see or perceive something that others do not see or perceive.**

The following are examples of this in the Word of God:

##### **John 1:31-33**

This gift also gives you the ability to distinguish the activity of a spirit.

John the Baptist saw \_\_\_\_\_

This is not the most common way the gift operates.

Most commonly it is just seeing what is there with the understanding of the Holy Spirit.

You don't see it – you “see” it – or perceive it spiritually.

It is important for us to discern the operation of the Holy Spirit in a meeting. Especially as leaders, we need to know what the Holy Spirit is doing. Is He moving in healing? Is there an anointing present in the meeting for the prophetic?

##### **John 1:47**

Jesus discerned Nathaniel's \_\_\_\_\_

##### **John 20:11-13**

In Ezekiel 10, Ezekiel saw cherubim, or angels, by the gift of discerning of spirits.

##### **Joshua 5:13-15**

Joshua, by the gift of discerning of spirits, saw Jesus!

**Acts 7:55, 56**

When Stephen was being killed he saw Jesus by the gift of discerning of spirits.

**Acts 8:18-23**

Peter saw something that could not be seen with the physical eye.

**Acts 13:6-12**

The sorcerer had a \_\_\_\_\_

A seducing spirit attempts to draw people away from their faith.

There are two types of seducing spirits. The type mentioned in this text draws people away from faith in God. The other type is sexual.

This was the operation of the gift of discerning of spirits. In verse 10, Paul describes the spirit's particular personality traits.

Notice that Paul did not cast the spirit out. Why?

Through the gift of the word of knowledge, God revealed to Paul that this man was unwilling to be delivered. Then, through the gift of the word of wisdom, he was told to speak temporary blindness and it came to pass through the gift of the working of miracles.

The Bible warns us that in the last days this spirit will be unleashed to attack the church.

**1 Timothy 4:1****Acts 14:8-10****Mark 9:17-27****Luke 13:11-16****Acts 16:16-18****2 Kings 6:14-17**

**2. You may perceive that something is not right with a ministry – specifically prophecy.**

**1 Corinthians 12:10**

*. . . to another discerning of spirits*

**1 Corinthians 12:10 – Amplified Bible**

*. . . to another the ability to discern and distinguish between [the utterances of true] spirits [and false ones]*

**1 Corinthians 12:10 – Wuest**

*. . . to another the giving forth of divine revelations, and to another the correct evaluation of those individuals who give forth divine revelations . . .*

This gift gives you the ability to correctly judge between things that are from God and things that are not from God.

There is a false \_\_\_\_\_ behind a false \_\_\_\_\_

Remember that there are things we can do to judge prophecy with the Word of God. These things do not require a supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit.

**1 John 4:1-6**

The gift of discerning of spirits gives the ability to distinguish the Spirit of God from a demon spirit, especially when operating in false prophecy and teaching.

**1 Timothy 4:1**