

Discerning of Spirits 1

1 Corinthians 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

Discerning of Spirits defined:

- Strong's: To separate thoroughly
- Vine's: To distinguish or have clear discrimination
- Young's: A thorough judging

Gordon Lindsay: "Supernatural enablement, permitting identification of the nature and character of spirits, seen and unseen"

Q) How can we be protected?

1. Ask for discernment (Proverbs 2:3-6; I Kings 3:9)

Proverbs 2:3-6 Yes, if you cry out for discernment,

And lift up your voice for understanding,

⁴ If you seek her as silver,

And search for her as for hidden treasures;

⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,

And find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom;

From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

1 Kings 3:9 "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

a. Seek God before making major decisions (Joshua 9:3-14)

2. Purpose to stay sensitive (Mark 2:6-9)

Mark 2:6-9 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,

⁷ "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"

⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?"

a. Perceived = had knowledge

b. Inward witness

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

3. Don't ignore when God speaks to you or something bugs you.

a. Pray through when you sense something

4. Not gift of suspicion (Goal: To help people, not develop a critical spirit)

1 Corinthians 13:5-7 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.