


# THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS



**..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.**

**1 Corinthians 12:10**

# The Discerning Of Spirits

**The ability to see into the spirit world to discover the source of something**

**3 possible sources**

- **God**
- **Satan**
- **The human spirit**

## **1. God**

**Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”**

**Matthew 16:12-16**

## 1. God

**“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

**2 Kings 6:16-17**

## 2. Satan

**From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”**

**Matthew 16:21-23**



**Vs.**

**But solid food is for the mature,  
who by constant use have trained  
themselves to distinguish good  
from evil.**

**Hebrews 5:14**

### **3. The Human Spirit- Paul**

**Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.**

**They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right!**

**Acts 16:16-18**

### **3. The Human Spirit- Paul**

**You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.”**

**Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.**

**Acts 13:6-12**

# Why is this important?

1. In our families, for protection
2. In the church, as an early warning system

# Why is this important?

## 3. In healing the sick

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

Luke 13:10-12

# Why is this important?

## 4. In the last days...

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:14

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

1Timothy 4:1

# What do we do with this?

1. Rejoice if it is God
2. Pray if it is not
3. Take authority over it if led

# Application

I will listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit in the discernment of spirits.