

Prayer Focus – Gift of the Discerning of spirits

February, 2021

This month our focus will be the **gift of the discerning of spirits.** Previously we discussed the **gift of the word of knowledge.** Simply put the **gift of the word of knowledge** is a supernatural revelation (understanding) by the Holy Ghost of certain facts in the mind of God which man could not know by way of his physical senses. The three revelation gifts of the Spirit which we have been covering are divine communications that *reveal the Lord’s truth to man* and are given to the church to help keep our lives directed by the Spirit of God. Our foundational scripture in 1 Corinthians 12:4,7 NLT/NKJV reads;

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. A spiritual gift is given to each of us* ***so we can help each other*.** 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 NKJV; *for to one is given the* ***word of wisdom*** *through the Spirit, to another the* ***word of knowledge*** *through the same Spirit, to another* ***faith*** *by the same Spirit, to another* ***gifts of healings*** *by the same Spirit, to another the* ***working of miracles,*** *to another* ***prophecy,*** *to another* ***discerning of spirits,*** *to another* ***different kinds of tongues,*** *to another the* ***interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.***

The last of the three **revelation** **gifts** is **the discerning of spirits**. Thisgift is much more limited than the **gifts of the word of wisdom and knowledge**.The **gift of discerning of spirits** gives ussupernaturalinsight *ONLY into the realm of spirits,*while **the gifts of the word of wisdom and knowledge** arebroader in scope and *applies to* *NOT* *only the spirit realm, but to people,**places,**and things.* The definition of “to discern” in the Websters 1828 Dictionary is *to separate by the eye, or by the understanding.* In other words, this gift in operation will enable a person to divinely see or perceive into the spirit realm whether it is a **divine spirit** (The Holy Spirit, angels, Seraphim, Cherubim), **evil spirits (**fallen angels, demons) or **just humanism** (practices of sinful nature or selfishness)that are influencing people, places or things. It is ***NOT*** as some have thought, the gift of **DISCERNMENT!** Inother words, sometimes people know things by the Spirit of God and call it discernment but it is really the **gift of the word of knowledge** in operation. Also, **the gift of discerning spirits** is not the reading of minds, psychological insight or the ability to discern each other’s faults. As you know the so-called power to discern the faults of others is possessed by believers and unbelievers. The discerning of faults in others (criticism) should be replaced with gentle forbearance. We also have to be careful that we don’t fall into the trap that everything that happens is the result of an evil spirit or demon; that is simply not true! Many times, it is the result of a bad choice or as the Bible says “practices of the sinful nature” [**humanism**] (read Galatians 5:19-21 AMP). It’s our responsibility to respond only to the direction of the Holy Spirit *NOT* to our mind, will, emotions or body. It is not a deliverance from evil spirits that is needed when one practices the works of the flesh but just simple obedience or habitually living in response to the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Colossians 3:5 AMP, Romans 8:12-14 TPT, Romans 6:10-14 TPT, James 1:14-15 NLT, Romans 1:19-20 TPT)! An examplefrom the Old Testament of the **gift of the discerning of spirits** in operation is in Exodus 33:21-23 AMPC; v. 23 *Then I will take away My hand and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.* Moses through the **gift of the discerning of spirits** was able to see into the spirit realm the likeness of God **(ex. of divine spirit)**. An example in the New Testament of the **gift of the discerning of spirits** is in Acts 8:13-23 AMP. Simon, the sorcerer who had heard the Good News of the gospel and received Christ was still being led by the former spirits that led him before his salvation. He decided to try and bribe the apostle Peter to give him the power of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which can’t be bought with a price. Peter by the **gift of the discerning of spirits** saw into the spirit realm that the spirit of bitterness was influencing Simon **(ex. of evil spirits)**! Acts 8:23 AMP, *For I* ***SEE*** (in the spirit realm) *that you are provoked by bitterness and bound by sin* (Isaiah 58:6 AMPC).Because Peter was bold enough to declare to Simon what he saw, Simon was able to repent and escape the snare the enemy had laid for him (2 Timothy 2:25-26 AMPC)!

Please *continue to pray* for the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As seen above in the example in the book of Acts, these gifts are used by our Heavenly Father to bring instruction, correction and deliverance by revealing the deceptions we can so easily be enslaved by. ***Do not*** *quench [subdue, or* ***be unresponsive to the working and guidance of] the [Holy} Spirit….***(1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 AMP). For the **Father has set us apart** “’**from**’ the ordinary purposes” in this life **for the divine purposes** He has planned for us to walk in!

For Divine Purposes,

*Scott and Jackie*

**SCRIPTURES as references and those TO PRAY:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NLT/NKJV; Galatians 5:16-26 AMP/TPT; Colossians 3:5 AMP; Romans 8:12-14 TPT; Romans 6:10-14 TPT; James 1:14-18 NLT; Romans 1:19-20 TPT; Exodus 33:21-23 AMPC; Acts 8:13-23 AMP; Isaiah 58:6 AMPC; 2 Timothy 2:19-26 AMPC; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 AMP; Ephesians 4:8-16 TPT; Hebrew 2:4 TPT; 2 Corinthians 3:3-6,11-12,18 TPT; Acts 2:17 NKJV; 1 Corinthians 14:1-40 AMP/TPT; Romans 12:4-8 AMP; Ephesians 1:17-23 TPT; Ephesians 2:1,4-10 TPT; Ephesians 3:14-21 NKJV

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