

Discerning of Spirits

The gift of discerning of spirits is used to understand, detect, separate and making the distinction between spirits

Some of the things this gift is not:

- 1. It is NOT the “Gift of Discernment.” By it, we are not given the ability to discern all types of things. It is the “Gift of Discerning of Spirits”.*
- 2. It has nothing to do with our ability to find faults of others. (Most of us are naturally endowed with this so called “gift”).*
- 3. It has no relationship to some supposed ministry of straightening out churches.*
- 4. It is not mind reading. It does not reveal other’s thoughts, hearts or dispositions.*
- 5. It has nothing to do with psychiatry, the psychic, (in the general understanding of the term) of psychology.*

There are several types of spirits, and we are concerned with all of them.

- 1. Angelic Spirits*
- 2. Satanic Spirits*
- 3. Man’s Spirit*
- 4. Holy Spirit*

1. Angelic Spirits: Angels are very real, and ever-present spirits. However, for the most part we are not aware of them. Look at these scriptures from the NLT.

Hebrews 1:13 - 14 And God never said to any of the angels, sit in the place of honor at My right hand, until I humble your enemies, making them a foot stool under your feet. Therefore, angels are only servants - spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.

Psalm 34:7 For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

Matthew 18:10 Beware that you don't look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven, their angels are always in the presence of My heavenly Father.

Hebrews 13:2 Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this, have entertained angels without realizing it!

Galatians 1:28 Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us, or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you.

2. Satanic Spirits: Demon spirits effect people in different ways; yet they are all the same kindred. They all belong to the same family. Matthew 17:21 NKJV However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. (Kind - Kindred does not mean a specific thing. Spirits are not restricted to one thing, i.e., blind spirits, weeping spirits etc. All are unclean spirits).

I Kings 22:20 - 23 - lying spirit

Matthew 12:22 - blind spirit

Mark 9:20 - 25 - deaf & dumb spirit

Luke 8:27 - 35 - insane spirit

Luke 13:11 - 16 - spirit of infirmity

Acts 16:16 - 18 - spirit of divination

II Corin11:12 -15 - deceiving spirits

3. Man's Spirit: Man is a spirit. He has a soul, and he has a body, but he is a spirit! It's important to know what spirit is in action. If it is a demon spirit, cast it out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, however, if it is man's spirit, it must be dealt with another way.

Acts 8:18 - 24 - Simon was told to repent, and ask forgiveness. There was no demon spirit to cast out.

John 2:24 - Jesus knew what was in man.

John 1:47 - Revelation of a man's character

4. Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is ever present, and we should be aware when He is moving and speaking.

Romans 8:14 NLT For all who are led by the Spirit of God, are children of God.

John 14:16, 17 & 26 NLT And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate (Comforter, Encourager, Counselor) Who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn't looking for Him, and doesn't recognize Him.

26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as My representative - that is the Holy Spirit - He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

We can determine which spirit is in operation, over a period of time, by their fruits. However, much damage may be done by demon spirits, if we are NOT aware that it is they who are at work.

It is, therefore, important we know by the Gift of Discerning of Spirits, who is at work, as soon as possible, so that the spirit might be dealt with. When we see the word "devil" we can translate it to demon. It is not Satan himself.

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All Christians should be aware of this gift and through prayer and fasting let it develop in your ministry. If you are a praying Christian (by the laying on of hands prayer)- or you are in any kind of leadership role such as a Bible study, prayer group, worship leader or pastor or teacher, or working as an evangelist, this gift is of paramount importance.

NOTE: In writing these teaching lessons, I use three Bibles. They are referenced by: NKJ - the New King James NLT - The New Living Translation and Amp. The Amplified Bible.

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