

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Discerning of Spirits

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We have come to the third and final Revelation Gift. Remember, Revelation Gifts always REVEAL something.

I should immediately point out that this Gift is not called the "Gift of Discernment." Some use this erroneous name. We should call this Gift what the Bible calls it. The Bible calls it the "Discerning of Spirits."

Also, this is not the "Gift of Criticism." Some meddling individuals are always sticking their noses into the business of others, claiming, "I have the Gift of Discernment. I just want to help." These folks actually have a critical spirit. Fortunately, having a critical spirit is not the unforgivable sin.

The Discerning of Spirits is a Supernatural revelation from the Spirit of God, which opens one's eyes to the activities of the Spirit realm. Through the operation of this Gift one can see Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the similitude of God, Angels, Satan, demons and any other spirit beings, objects or spiritual activities. This Gift also enables the possessor to discern the power, good or evil, which prompts certain behaviors in other living beings. (Numbers 22:27-35; Mark 8:33; John 1:47; 6:70)

It must also be noted that this Gift has nothing to do with the delusions of the mentally ill. It has nothing to do with the delirium of the drug or alcohol-induced or addicted. This Gift has nothing at all to do with the natural mind, sober or inebriated. This Gift is Supernatural as are all of the other Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Anytime an individual experiences a Holy Spirit induced inward vision, open vision, trance or dream in which the Spirit realm is looked into, the Discerning of Spirits is in operation. Let's look at a Biblical example.

"...the angel Gabriel was sent from God ... to a virgin ... the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. ... And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus." (Luke 1:26-31)

Here the Virgin Mary's eyes were opened to the presence of the Angel Gabriel. This was the Discerning of Spirits in operation. Gabriel informed Mary that she had (past and present tense) found favor with God. This was the Word of Knowledge. Gabriel also informed Mary, "Thou shalt conceive ..." (future tense). This was the Word of Wisdom. Here we find all three Revelation Gifts operating together; the Word of

Knowledge, the Word of Wisdom and the Discerning of Spirits. The Gifts of the Spirit frequently operate together.

An Angel later appeared to Mary's fiancé, Joseph, in a dream. The Angel told him that Mary's conceived and soon to be born child was from God and that he should not reject her. (Matthew 1:19-21) This was also the Discerning of Spirits operating together with a Word of Wisdom and a Word of Knowledge.

I have experienced the Discerning of Spirits frequently operating with the other Revelation Gifts on many occasions. I have had visitations of Jesus and Angels through open visions, a trance and dreams. One evening God's Angel appeared to me in a dream, even as he did to Joseph. He said to me, "You will place your feet on the soil of no fewer than 35 nations of the world and preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ." This was the Discerning of Spirits operating in conjunction with the Word of Wisdom.

The Discerning of Spirits is a tremendous Gift indeed. Through its operation comes protection, direction, correction, connection, revelation, emancipation and provision.

A microscope enables one to see the minutest atoms and molecules of our world.

A telescope enables one to see into the mysteries of other worlds.

However, only the Discerning of Spirits can enable one to see directly into the Spirit world.

This Gift brings great Glory to God, advancing His Kingdom in the Earth