

W E D N E S D A Y   N I G H T   B I B L E   S T U D Y

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# H O L Y   S P I R I T

## W E   W E L C O M E   Y O U

### PART 25: THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

*Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:7 - 11 & Acts 16:16 - 19*

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#### **Introduction**

- We are now considering the 3 '*gifts of revelation*'
- '*The word of knowledge*' and '*the word of wisdom*' and '*the discerning of spirits*'
- Now looking at '*the discerning of spirits*'

#### **1 Notice what the gift is NOT**

- It is not the gift of discernment and reading people's thoughts.

#### **2 Notice What The Gift IS**

- It is the '*discerning of SPIRITS*'
- '*Discerning*' is (Gk. diaknisis) to judge between what is true and false.
- '*spirits*' is (Gk. pneuma).
- The gift is a revelation from the Holy Spirit showing whether a spirit is of God or is demonic.

### 3 What Is The Purpose/Value Of This Gift?

- To protect the church against counterfeit supernatural manifestations.
- Consider [Ephesians 6:12], [2 Corinthians 11:13-14], [1 Timothy 4:1], [1 John 4:1] and [2 Peter 2:1].
- Not only is the individual Christian prone to Satanic attacks but so also is the church.
- They are both engaged in '*spiritual warfare*'.
- Satan wants to infiltrate the church and have his people there in positions of authority if possible.
- Satan has a counterfeit for spiritual gifts too. (e.g. Mormons supposedly speak in tongues.)

### 4 The Discerning Of Spirits In Operation

- The Case Of The Philippian Slave Girl. [Acts 16].
- Paul was able to discern that the girl was '*possessed*' by an evil spirit.

### 5 The Discerning Of Spirits Reveals The Underlying Causes Of Some Sicknesses

- NB. The demonic is NOT the reason for all sickness.
- Consider the case of the woman stooped over for 18 years. [Luke 13:10-13]
- Consider the case of the '*mute*' man in [Matthew 9:32].
- In both cases once the cause of the affliction was cast out (the spirit) divine healing followed.

**Conclusion:** The church needs this gift again in her midst.

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