

# Message

## Distinguishing of Spirits

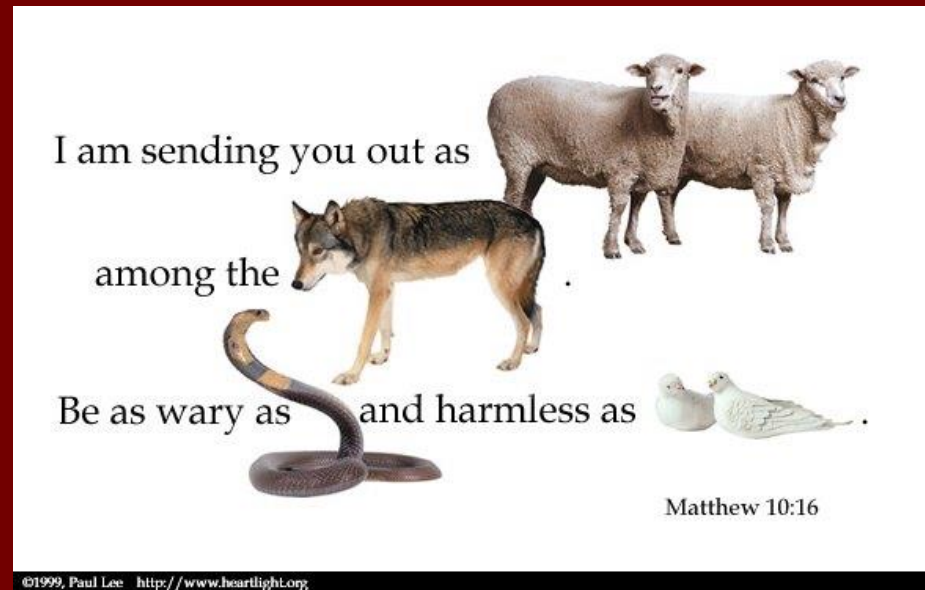


**Neal Parker**

# Distinguishing of Spirits

## ■ Be Wise and Harmless

- Matthew 10:16
- Romans 16:19
- Philippians 2:12-16



# Distinguishing of Spirits

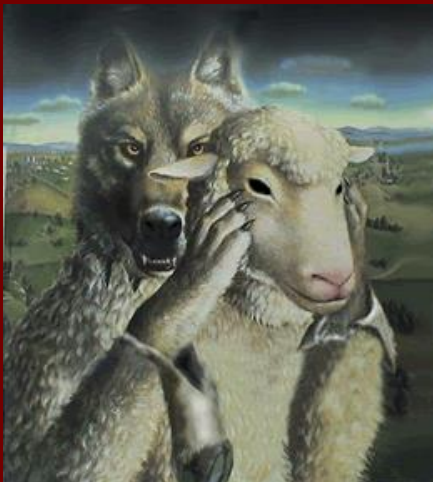
- **Be Alert! Our Assignment Is Not Without Risk.**
  - **Matthew 7:15-23**
  - **II Corinthians 2:11 – “not be ignorant of Satan’s devices.”**



# Distinguishing of Spirits

## ■ Be Alert!

- Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 23-26
- Colossians 2:6-10
- II Corinthians 11:13-15
- Romans 16:17-18



# Distinguishing of Spirits

- **Six Things God Hates / Seven That Are An Abomination**
  - **Proverbs 6:16-19**
    - **Haughty Eyes**
    - **Lying Tongue**
    - **Hands that Shed Innocent Blood**
    - **Heart that Devise Wicked Plans**
    - **Feet that Run to Evil**
    - **False Witnesses**
    - **Those that Spread Discord / Strife among Brethren**

# The Whole Armor of God

- **“Preparation and adequate equipment for a given task are prerequisites, if success is to be achieved.”**





# The Whole Armor of God

- **II Corinthians 10:3-5 / Ephesians 6:10-12**
  - **Caution against assuming opponents are human or that the battle can be fought with human resources.**



# The Whole Armor of God

## ■ Ephesians 6:13-18

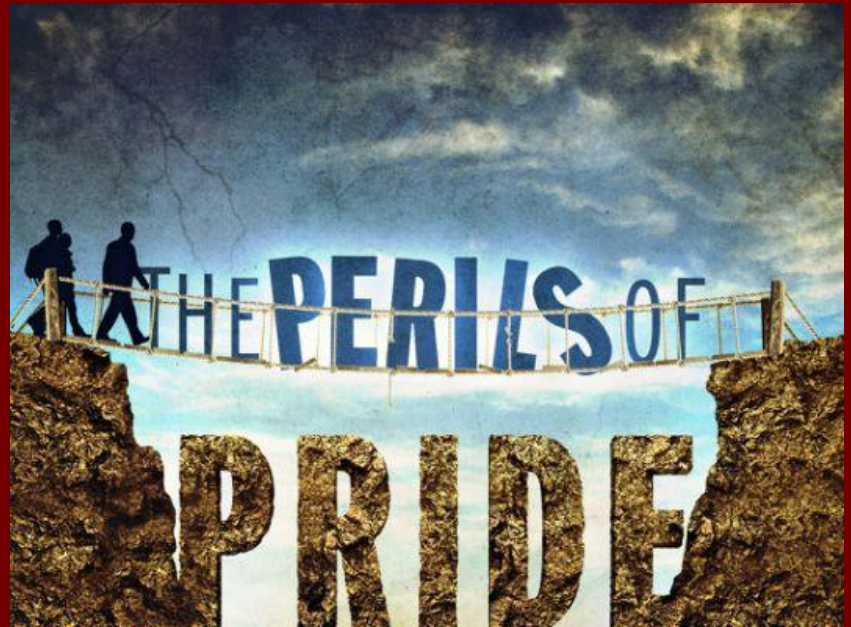




# Satan's Devices

## ■ Pride

- Deuteronomy 8:11-17 Danger in "Good Times"
- Isaiah 14:12-15
- Ezekiel 28:14-17
- I Timothy 3:6



# Satan's Devices

- **Opposite of Pride**
  - **I Corinthians 3:4-8**



# Satan's Devices

- **Parable of Jesus – Pharisee & Tax Collector**
  - **Luke 18:9-14**
  - **II Timothy 3:1-5**



# Satan's Devices

## ■ Envy

### – James 3:16

- “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”

### – I Corinthians 14:33

- “For God is not a God of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

Jealousy is a disease.

*Get well soon*

# Satan's Devices

## ■ Lust for Forbidden Pleasures

– I John 2:15-17

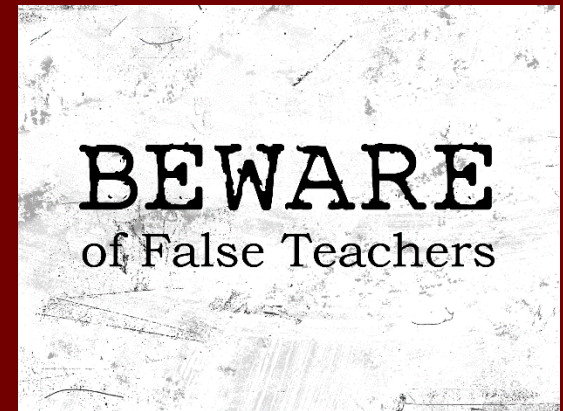
- Lust of the Flesh
- Lust of the Eye
- Pride of Life





# Satan's Devices

- **Itching Ears – Truths of God Seem Boring!**
  - **II Timothy 4:3-4**
  - **Isaiah 30:9-11**
    - **Natural Tendency of Humans**
      - Want to hear new things
      - Want to hear smooth things
      - Want to hear that appeal to us





# Satan's Four D's

## ■ Among Other Devices Satan Uses

- **Disappointment**: We look at people as our standard, we can be disappointed.
- **Discouragement**: Dwelling on disappointments leads to discouragement.
- **Doubt**: Discouragement left unchecked leads to doubt.
- **Division**: Doubts and worries can lead to division of our loyalties. This can lead to divisions between people and distancing from God.

# Distinguishing of Spirits

## ■ The Purposes of the Gifts

- I Corinthians 12:7 – “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
- I Kings 3:9-10 – “Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”
- Ezekiel 44:23-24 – Discernment to make distinctions between holy and profane.

# Distinguishing of Spirits

## ■ Discernment an Imperative

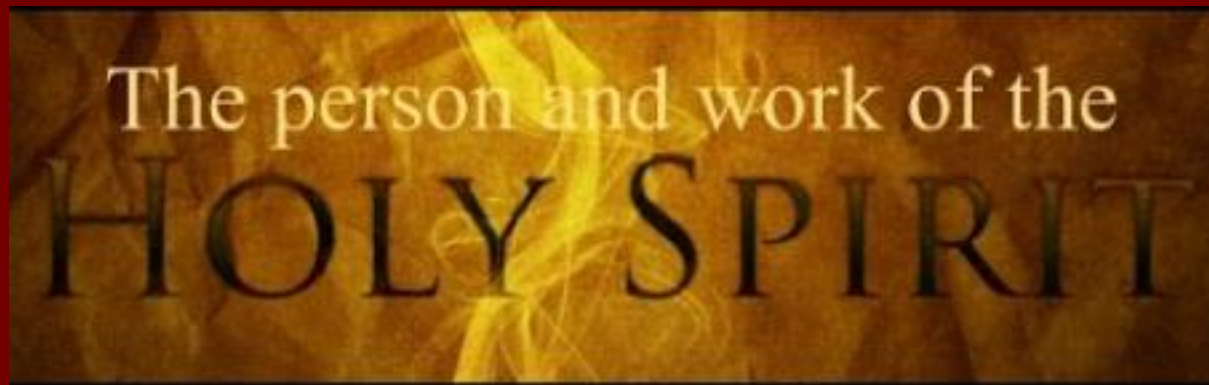
- I John 4:1 – “...believe not every spirit...”
- I Thessalonians 5:21-22 – “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.”
- John 17:17 – “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

# Distinguishing of Spirits

## ■ Is the Holy Spirit Working “With” or “In” Us?

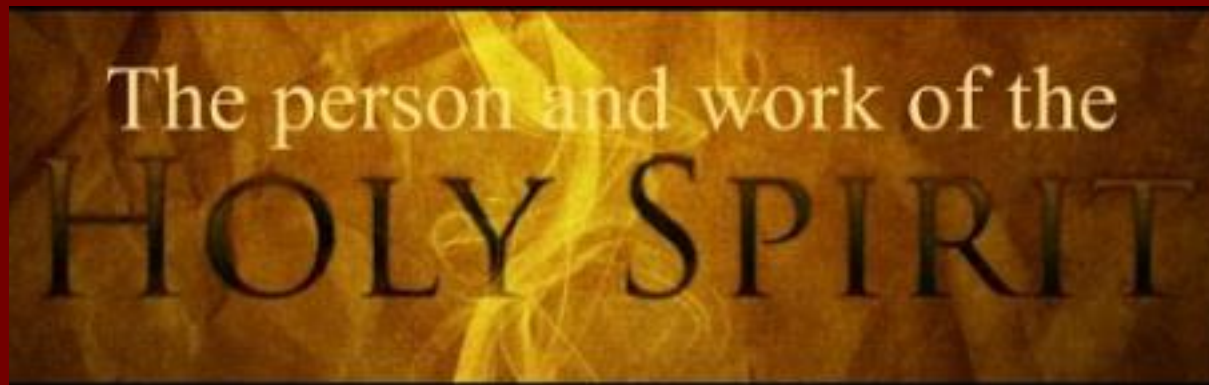
– John 14:15-18

- The Holy Spirit may be “with us” leading to Jesus Christ, but it is not “in us” until we respond and being meeting the conditions.



# Distinguishing of Spirits

- **Is the Holy Spirit Working “With” or “In” Us?**
  - **I Corinthians 2:10-16**
    - **Reading the Word of God, with the Holy Spirit enables to know the “things of God” and make right judgments.**

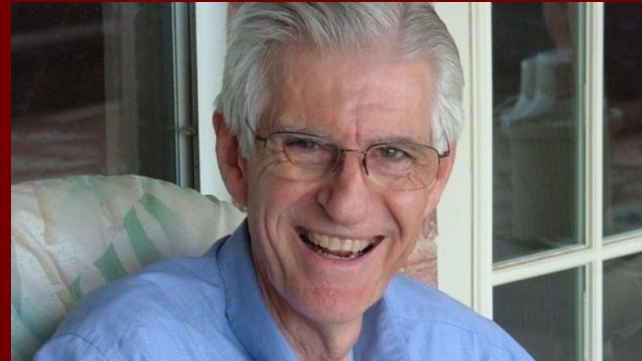


# Distinguishing of Spirits

## ■ Exercise in Discernment

– Hebrews 5:12-14

- “One of the best ways to discern the nature of a spirit is to check the Word of God. Does what the spirit says match up with the Word of God?”



– Dr. Basil Frasure



# Distinguishing of Spirits

## ■ Exercise in Discernment

- **Acts 17:11 – The example of the Bereans**
  - Testing the spirits means that one must know how to examine the Scriptures.
- **II Timothy 2:15**
  - ...rightly dividing the word of truth.
- **Psalms 119:105**
  - We are to be lights shining with the teachings and doctrines of the Word of God.

# **I Corinthians 12:7-10**



**The Gift of  
Discerning of  
Spirits**