



Discernment of Spirits

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Discernment of Spirits

Charles Spurgeon



Discernment is not a matter of telling the difference between right and wrong; rather it is telling the difference between right and almost right.

Wisdom, Knowledge & Understanding

■ Proverbs 2:1-12

– **Wisdom / “*hakma*”**

- Skill, Shrewdness or Prudence

– **Knowledge / “*da’at*”**

- Knowledge or knowing

– **Understanding / “*tabun*”**

- Intelligence, Insight or Object of Knowledge



Discernment of Spirits

- **Led by the Spirit of God? / Who are the Children of God?**
 - **Romans 8:5-11, 14-17**
 - **“Led” – “*ago*”**
 - **“To Lead”**
 - **“To Lead Along”**
 - **“To Bring”**



Discernment of Spirits

■ Led by the Spirit of God? / Who are the Children of God?

– John 1:12-13

- “Received” – “Iambano”
 - “To Take”
- “Right or Power” – “Exousia”
 - “Power of Choice”
 - “Authority or Right to exercise”



Discernment of Spirits

■ Be Wise and Innocent

– **Matthew 10:16**

– **Romans 16:19**

– **Philippians 2:12-16 / (I Corinthians 10:10)**



Discernment of Spirits

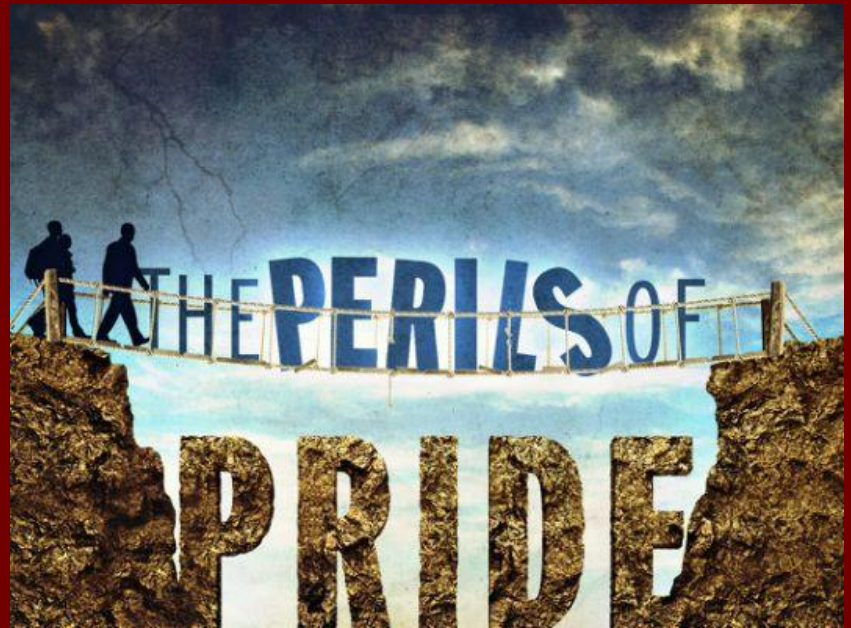
- **Be Alert! Our Assignment Is Not Without Risk.**
 - **Matthew 7:15-23**
 - **II Corinthians 2:11** – “so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”



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 3:4-9**



Satan's Devices

- **Parable of Jesus – Pharisee & Tax Collector**
 - **Luke 18:9-14**
 - **II Timothy 3:1-2 “In the last days...for men will be ... arrogant...”**



Satan's Devices

■ Envy

– James 3:16

- “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion (disorder) 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**
 - **Natural Tendency of Humans**
 - **Want to hear new things**
 - **Want to hear smooth things**
 - **Want to hear only things 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.

Discernment of Spirits

■ Be Alert!

- **Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 23-26**
- **II Corinthians 10:3-5**



Discernment 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.

Discernment 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.”



Discernment of Spirits

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

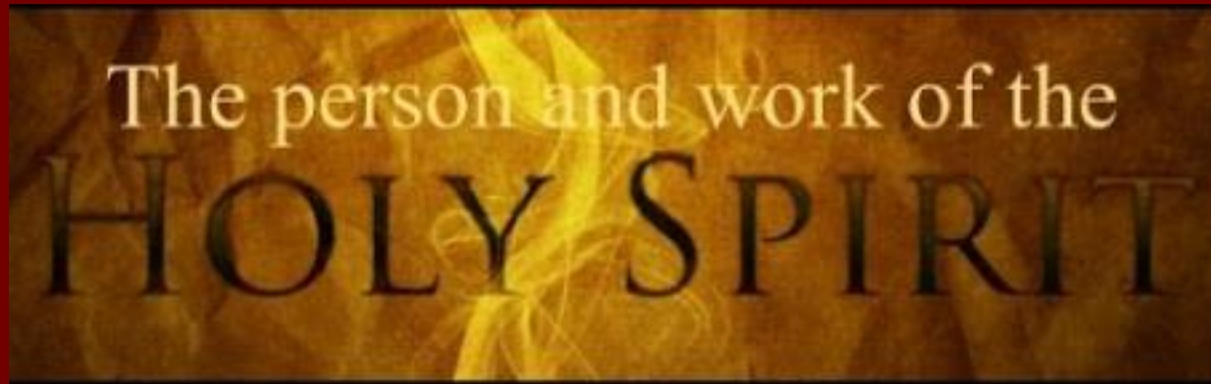
– John 14:15-18

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



Discernment 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.**



Application To Our Lives

■ 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.

– Psalm 119:105

- We are to be lights shining with the teachings and doctrines of the Word of God.

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