

## THE GIFT OF DISCERNMENT

DESCRIPTION: Gift of Discerning of Spirits is a supernatural ability from the Holy Spirit to distinguish between the spirits – Divine, Demonic & Human It enables us to discern the hidden motives of the heart It is to differentiate, tell apart or discriminate between Divine, Demonic & Human influences

It is the Churches security system for defend & to alarm His people This gift needs to be activated powerfully in the Body of Christ today Along with the gift of Wisdom & the Deliverance ministry which have been somewhat neglected in most Churches today In order for the Body to function effectively we need all the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate accurately & effectively Sadly we tend to use them as add on gifts

Without going into detail we need to understand the role of the watchman (seer) & the discerner As often these are misunderstood I believe the discerner is similar to a watchman & maybe one & the same in some cases The watchman opens right things & shuts wrong things Watchman word 'shamar' to watch, protect, keep guard, look out for danger – those who rob, steal & destroy The watchman is an intercessor to know to break open spiritual doors & block the enemy from entering the Church

Let's take a look at the gift of distinguishing the Spirits

1 It is a divine gift of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor 12:8-12 along with 8 others

1 Cor 12:7 Paul reminds us the gifts are for the 'good of all' meaning the bringing together to be profitable, beneficial & advantageous to the Body of Christ

We are to desire earnestly the gifts as God partners with our desires

1 Cor14:1 Ps 37:4

Need to ask for the gift or more of it James 4:2 Jn 14:13

2If you love the presence of God, having a heightened awareness of the presence of God & the anointing This is not to see what the enemy is doing but to discern what God is doing Sensitivity to the Spiritual

atmosphere to whether its natural, demonic or divine It allows you to sense & see the truth about the spiritual realm

Let's talk about Atmosphere a surrounding or pervading, mood, environment or influence atmospheres have distinct & identifiable feelings attached to them Some of these could be joy, peace, hospitality, worship or on the negative depression, greed, fear & anger This can be in a Church setting, a home, city even open spaces Spiritual atmospheres affect your thoughts, feelings & actions How this takes place will vary Eph2:2 speaks of 'power of the air' the demonic realm A sensitivity in the Spiritual realm along with prayer is required to discern the atmosphere that is affecting those under it We have been given authority to change atmospheres ie the storm Mk 11:23 In Rom4:17 we have the power to call into being that which does not exist via our words David sang over Saul when the demon manifested 1 Sam 16:23

3 It is a supernatural ability from the Holy Spirit to see & distinguish the Spirit of God, man & the devil It reveals to you what spirit is motivating the person, opportunities, conflicts, supernatural experiences etc To see what's operating behind the scenes Heb5:14 practice having your senses that are trained to discern good & evil This gift operates out of our senses - body, soul & spirit Often what's in the natural will dictate what's happening in the spiritual

SEE with inner eyes, eyes of heart, window of our soul, mind's eye or in the physical Seeing colours, imaginations, visions, angels while in the demonic it could be a dark mist, a shadow or a demon manifesting through someone's eyes In 2 Kings 6:17 Elisha prayed that his servants eyes be opened to the Spiritual realm Acts 12:7 Paul saw the light

HEAR with our inner & outer ears, hear a sound or a voice 1 Sam3:9  
Samuel didn't discern it was Gods voice immediately We read in  
Revelation chapters 2 & 3 to the Churches to have ears to hear  
Throughout the Word God via His prophets warn Gods people to hear

TASTE It can be a sweet taste or a bad taste in your mouth Ezek 3:1-3  
see Word was sweet as honey also in Rev 10:10

SMELL have you ever smelt the beautiful scent of Gods fragrance in  
SOS 2:1 we read it was like a rose while in 2 Cor 2:14,15 a sweet aroma

FEEL this could be via the external touch or sensations through our  
emotions, feeling of being overwhelmed, heaviness, body sensation  
Job 4:15 Spirit passed by his face Mk 9:19-26 Jesus & the demonic  
The feeling could be shaking, heat, cold, pressure, brush angel, wind  
I've found the headache like rubber band is demonic or a bodily part  
that aches revealing the need for healing Pay attention to what you feel  
in the natural your gut, a hutch, an instinct or discomfort

4 If you operate in this gift you will feel somewhat isolated, that your  
different Most Christians operate out of the natural but you see things  
they don't can be looked upon as your more a spiritual person than  
them So misunderstanding, ignorance & rejection No wonder this is not  
a desired gift Because there's a cost – the enemy dosen't like being  
exposed therefore you're in for a rough time The Church don't like it  
because again it exposes the hidden things, attitudes & struggles both  
good & bad I believe Churches need to acknowledged those with this  
gift & listen to them

Operating the gift of discernment requires accuracy But this is learnt as  
you practice it It takes time like a new language to develop the senses

so that you recognize & not right it off Ideally working with another of the same gift would be great It's how you approach the leaders I feel is a good start as it gives you room to be wrong But remember not to discern can cause issues later on

5 The danger in operating the gift of discerning spirits As with every gift there's a counterfeit which thrives on seeing what is wrong with others rather than seeing what God is doing Leaving damage & division instead of healing & reconciliation The counterfeit is motivated by mistrust, suspicion & fear 2 Cor 11:14,15 we see Satan in disguise as an apostle an 'angel of light' interrupted as a 'messenger of truth'

It will be cold & false as it can be packaged in a form of love but not originate in love But rather out of criticism You see true discernment is rooted in love 1 Cor 13:1 Paul exhorts us to speak the truth in love Eph 4:15 Especially as you are discerning what's behind the persons words, motives & actions, revealing the true source

There is a danger when a prophetic word comes forth or tongues intrepudation that it begins in the Spirit but goes into the flesh Be careful not to look at natural appearances, general assumption & observation by passing out of the intellect & logic to reveal what is imperceptible to the natural eye

6 Need to be confirmed by others you have the gift This may not be in the Church but by others who move in this realm The Church needs to recognize & acknowledge the alarm system as a vital role in its weaponry It is an essential service not to be neglected This gift will give direction, discipline, warn, build up, loving correction, challenge leadership, bring deliverance & freedom to stop division & get the Church back on track It gives the Church the upper hand on Spiritual

insight on handling circumstances & information on how to pray ,  
prophecy & battle intelligently

It comes via impartation via laying on of hands, it's not self proclaimed  
Num27:18-23 Acts 8:18 2 Tim 1:6

Ideally it should be recognized before the Church with teaching to go  
with it as mentioned anyone can desire it But a discernor needs to be  
accountable to another discernor & the Church leadership where  
possible This is a safety check for the discernor & the Church

6 A hunger to know the truth is essential to operate in the light of that  
truth When we know the truth its easier in fact it guards us from error  
When they used to check counterfeit money theyd get the staff to  
spend weeks with the real SWo they would know immediately a  
counterfeit came along Its no different for us

Jn 5:19, 14:12 The discernor is one who sees what the Father is seeing  
& acts upon it by the Holy Spirit Revealing the very heart of God that He  
wishes none to be influenced by evil but by His Spirit

The commission of the Church Matt16:18 Jesus said I will build My  
Church (whose Church) & the gates of hell will not prevail against it  
Did you hear that! That's our job Church, Jesus has won & claimed the  
victory It's up to us His people to enforce it We are to advance His  
Kingdom in this day & I believe a key way is through this much needed  
& powerful gift

**BUT IF THE CHURCH WILL FAIL TO OVERCOME,  
WHAT IT FAILS TO DISCERN**

