

Discerning of Spirits I

1 Corinthians 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

Discerning of Spirits defined:

- Strong's: to separate thoroughly
- Vine's: to distinguish or have clear discrimination
- Young's: A thorough judging

Gordon Lindsey: "Supernatural enablement, permitting identification of the nature and character of spirits, seen and unseen"

Q) How can we be protected?

1. Ask for discernment (Proverbs 2:3-6; I Kings 3:9)

Proverbs 2:3-6 Yes, if you cry out for discernment,
And lift up your voice for understanding,
4 If you seek her as silver,
And search for her as for hidden treasures;
5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,
And find the knowledge of God.
6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

1 Kings 3:9 "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?"

A. Seek God before making major decisions (Joshua 9:3-14)

2. Purpose to stay sensitive (Mark 2:6-9)

Mark 2:6-9 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,
7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"
9 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?"

- a. Perceived = had knowledge
- b. Inward witness

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

3. Don't ignore when God speaks to you or something bugs you.

- a. Pray through when you sense something

4. Not gift of suspicion (Goal: to help people, not develop a critical spirit)

1 Corinthians 13:5-7 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.