

Discerning of Spirits 3 – Dealing with Demonic

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I. Spiritual gift: I Corinthians 12:1-11



II. Devil Operates through Deception:

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Colossians 2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive (beguile) you with persuasive words.

2 Corinthians 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

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"



III. Acts 16:16-24

A. Q) When do you cast out a devil?

1. When there is a confrontation (they like to make noise)
2. When people ask for help
 - a. Don't force it on people (some want to keep it)
 - b. Divine timing
 - i. Pray for a while (Paul) "many days"
 - ii. I am tempted to say that is a demon, but it may be best not to vocalize it.
3. When you have a specific leading - May want to share it with someone.
 - a. Watch out - You could get flack
4. God's going to deal with it

B. Manifestations:

1. Loud voice
2. Overly religious
3. Partially correct doctrine, but not quite right
4. Not normal – weird behavior
5. Annoying behavior
6. False gifts that do not point toward Christ, but predicting the future
7. Wanting excessive attention

Others manifestations not in this story: (Example: Mad man of Gadara)

8. Dress (or lack of)
9. Body markings
10. Self destructive behavior
11. Anti-social behavior
12. Pre-occupation with the dead, (modern day gothic movement)

C. How to Distinguish between an evil Spirit, human spirit, & the Holy spirit:

1. Evil spirit: take attention away from Jesus (Gets people off their mission)



2. Human spirit: Brings attention to self



3. Holy Spirit: Puts focus on Jesus



Revelations 19:10 Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."