

## **“THE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”**

all part of “discerning of spirits.”

4. The Greek word translated “discerning” (diakrisis) has several meanings.
    - a. It can mean a distinguishing or differentiation, but is also can mean to quarrel.
    - b. One of the definitions in Liddell and Scott’s Greek Lexicon is decision, battle, quarrel, dispute.”
    - c. Thus this Greek word for discerning can be much more than just distinguishing, it has the overtones of quarreling or fighting.
  5. Since “discerning of spirits” is a total package of recognizing “spirits” and dealing with them, God places it in the “power” group of manifestations.
- B. The manifestation of discerning of spirits is interwoven with the other manifestations.
1. For example, a believer manifesting the “discerning of spirits” may be simultaneously aware of the presence of a demon, he may know what to do about the situation, and then use his authority to command it to come out of the person.
  2. Receiving the information about the demon and knowing what to do is similar to and interwoven with a “word of knowledge” and “word of wisdom”.
  3. Every Christian will encounter demons, whether he recognizes them or not.
  4. What a great blessing and comfort to know that God has equipped each of us to deal with any demon that comes against us.

***{LESSON 13B} {11/30/2008}***

### **“THE PURPOSE OF DISCERNING SPIRITS?”**

- XXVI. The purpose of this manifestation of the Spirit is to protect, guard, guide and properly feed the flock of God.
- A. The Bible in 1 John 4:1 gives us some good advice: **“Beloved, do not put faith in every spirit, but prove (test) the spirits to discover whether they**

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proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the  
world.”**

1. Since all spirits must find expression in the material realm through the bodies and faculties of human beings, it is vital that the servants of God who face spiritual battle know and discern which spirits are being expressed.
2. Spiritual discernment at least in part includes our ability to know people by their fruit.
  - a. In Matthew 7:15-20 we are told how to discern by fruits: **“Beware of false prophets, who come to you dressed as sheep, but inside they are devouring wolves. V16, You will fully recognize them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? V17, Even so, every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit [worthy of admiration]. But the sickly (decaying, worthless) tree bears bad (worthless) fruit. V18, A good (healthy) tree cannot bear bad (worthless) fruit, nor can a bad (diseased) tree bear excellent fruit [worthy of admiration]. V19, Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire. V20, Therefore, you will fully know them by their fruits.”**
3. It is encouraging to realize that God is omnipresent and that His Spirit is constantly with and in the believer, while Satan and his spirits are not omnipresent.
4. Evil spirits may be either present or not present; God’s Spirit is always present.
5. The believer, walking in faith can resist evil spirits and actually make the evil spirit keep away from them.
  - a. By discernment of the spirits the believer can “resist” the evil spirits and their work and cause the spirit to flee from him.
  - b. No Christian must stand alone in spirit against evil spirits.

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- c. He or she has the gift of the Holy Spirit residing on the inside,  
**“Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”** (1 John 4:4)
  6. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit in “discerning of spirits” brings clarity, removes confusion and gives clear direction.
    - a. It will remove confusion concerning the real problem faced by an individual, so that he can be delivered, instructed or counseled.
    - b. With this discernment of spirits, just as with wisdom and knowledge, comes faith to act or pray with authority.
    - c. This is true with all power manifestations!
  7. Satan can turn himself into an **‘angel of light’** (2 Cor. 11:13-15), and deceive even believers to a degree, but the presence of those operating with the manifestation of the discerning of spirits brings the needed protection.
  8. All manifestations of life are; “the showing forth” of some sort of spirit.
    - a. Not all manifestations, even with Christians , are of the Holy Spirit.
    - b. “All that glitters is not gold.”
    - c. The purpose of the discerning of spirits is to bring protection, and to screen out wrong spirits from being expressed and influencing believers.
- B. The manifestation of “discerning of spirits” is for the purpose of:
1. ***Deliverance from demons:***
    - a. Jesus used this manifestation to deliver a man from unclean spirits.
    - b. The story is told in Mark 5:5-10 AMP: **“Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always shrieking and screaming and beating and bruising and cutting himself with stones. V6, And when from a distance he saw Jesus, he ran and fell on his knees before Him in homage. V7, And crying out with a loud voice, he said, What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the**

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**Most High God? [What is there in common between us?] I solemnly implore you by God, do not begin to torment me! V8, For Jesus was commanding, Come out of the man, you unclean spirit! V9, And He asked him, What is your name? He replied, My name is Legion, for we are many. V10, And he kept begging Him urgently not to send them [himself and the other demons] away out of that region.”**

### ***2. To reveal the servants of Satan:***

- a. In Acts 13:8-12 we see the power of “discerning of spirits” working in Paul: **“But Elymas the wise man – for that is the translation of his name [which he had given himself] – opposed them, seeking to keep the procounsul from accepting the faith. V9, But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit, looked steadily at [Elymas] V10, And said, You master in every form of deception and recklessness, unscrupulousness, and wickedness, you son of the devil, you enemy of everything that is upright and good, will you never stop perverting and making crooked the straight paths of the Lord and plotting against His saving purposes? [Hos. 14:9] V11, And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind, [so blind that you will be] unable to see the sun for a time. Instantly there fell upon him a midst and a darkness, and he groped about seeking persons who would lead him by the hand. V12, then the procounsul believed (became a Christian) when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished and deeply touched at the teaching concerning the Lord and from Him.”**

### ***3. To expose and defeat the works and utterances of demons:***

- a. In Acts 16:16-19 AMP we read: **“As we were on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who was possessed by a spirit of divination [claiming to foretell future events and to**

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discover hidden knowledge], and she brought her owners much gain by her fortunetelling. V17, She kept following Paul and [the rest of ] us, shouting loudly, These men are the servants fo the Most High God! They announce to you the way of salvation! V18, And she did this for many days. Then Paul, being sorely annoyed and worn out, turned and said to the spirit within her, I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her! And it came out that very moment.”

### **4. *To expose error in to the Church:***

- a. In 1 Timothy 4:1-3 we read, **“BUT THE [Holy] Spirit distinctly and expressly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirts and doctrines that demons teach, V2, Through the hypocrisy and pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared (cauterized), V3, Who forbid people to marry and [teach them] to abstain from [certain kinds of ] foods which God created to those who believe and have [an increasingly clear] knowledge of the truth.”**
- b. Paul continues in verse 7 telling Timothy a great truth, **“But refuse and avoid irreverent legends (propane and impure and godless fictions, mere grandmothers’ tales) and silly myths, and express your disapproval of them. Train yourself toward godliness (piety), [keeping yourself spiritually fit].”**
- c. In 1 John 4:1-3 we find more support concerning the exposing of error: **“BELOVED, DO not put faith in every spirit, but prove (test the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world. V2, By this you may know (perceive and recognize) the Spirit of God; every spirit which acknowledges and confesses [the fact] that Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [actually] has become man and has come in the flesh is of**

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**God [has God for its source]; V3, And every spirit which does not acknowledge and confess that Jesus Christ had come in the flesh [but would annul, destroy, sever, disunite Him] is not of God [does not proceed from Him]. This [non confession] is the [spirit] of the antichrist, [of] which you heard that it was coming, and now it is already in the world.”**

- C. Before I finish this lesson on “discerning of spirits” I need to teach the other side of this manifestation.
1. Through the manifestation of discerning of spirits a person has the ability to see in the spirit realm, you could even discern the risen Christ.
  2. You may even see cherubims, seraphims, archangels or the host of angels of God or receive a message from them.
  3. So, this marvelous manifestation is given for the believer to see good spirits as well as Satan and his host.
  4. All such visions would be a manifestation of the discerning of spirits.
    - a. Yes, it might also bring with it a word of wisdom or a word of knowledge, but the vision itself would be a discerning of spirits because that person would at that time be seeing into the spirit realm.