

“THE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

equipment in order that we can walk in the victory that He has won for us.

{LESSON 13A} {11/16/2008}

“WHY CHRISTIANS NEED TO DISCERN SPIRITS”

PART II

“THE DEFINITION OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS”

XXV. To me, the “discerning of spirits” is the God-given ability or enablement to recognize the identity (and very often the personality and condition) of the spirits which are behind different manifestations or activities.

A. In the English language the word “discern” means to perceive, or distinguish or differentiate.

1. The dividing line between a human and divine operation may be obscure to some believers, but one with the faculty of spiritual discernment sees a clear separation.
2. Please hear me, just because man has the potential for all three realms of the spirit to manifest through him makes this manifestation of “discerning of spirits” essential in the church.
3. This is especially true concerning evil spirits, Paul said in Ephesians 6:12: **“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”**
 - a. The facts are on the table for Christians; Our Adversary, the devil, walks about as a roaring lion, seeking people to devour (1Peter5:8).
 - b. But God has not left us helpless in that situation, but has empowered us to deal with him.
 - c. The manifestation of “discerning of spirits” is more than just recognizing the evil spirits, it also involves entering into battle against them and casting them out through authority and power.
 - d. Recognizing demons, protecting the believers, and casting them out is

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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**