

“THE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

1. Yes it does, the Bible confirms the fact of the spiritual world, and that there are actual incorporeal (without physical bodies) beings that exist.
2. In fact, these spirit beings exist in great numbers and in three major realms, and have their own particular personalities and character.
3. The Bible mentions the word “spirit” or “spirits” 990 times.
 - a. Actually, all life is spirit, even man.
 - b. The Bible tells us that God breathed the spirit of life into man and he became a living soul.
 - c. When the spirit leaves, the man is dead.
4. Mankind as a whole tends to be unconscious of the spirit world surrounding them, even though they are highly influenced and controlled by it.
 - a. So much so that the Bible in 2 Timothy 2:26 says, **“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”**
 - b. I have found that it requires contact with the spirit realm before a person is really awakened to its reality.
 - c. Until then, it is more a theory than reality.

{LESSON 12B} {11/9/2008}

“WHY CHRISTIANS NEED TO DISCERN SPIRITS”

“SPIRITUAL KINGDOMS”

- XXIV. The Bible also teaches us that God is a spirit and the Father of spirits.
- A. In fact, His whole realm is a spirit realm and that realm is called “THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN”.
 1. We read about angels, the seraphim and cherubim, all spirit beings, and we are told that there are incalculable numbers of them (Daniel 1:10; Matthew 26:53).
 2. These heavenly hosts are organized into principalities and thrones, and some are even higher in beauty and authority.

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3. The Bible also relates that the realm of Satan is a spirit realm, and that realm is called “SATAN’S KINGDOM”.
 - a. In the beginning Satan was originally a high ranking angel of God who fell as a result of pride, ambition and rebellion (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-18).
 - b. He has modeled his kingdom after God’s in that it has an organization and system patterned after Heaven, and it includes fallen angels in the form of principalities and powers, etc.

“MAN AND HIS EARTH KINGDOM”

- B. The Scripture also informs us that man is a spirit being clothed with flesh, and wonderfully made after the image of God.
 1. Man is triune in nature; spirit, soul, and body.
 2. In the beginning man walked in the spirit with the glory of God as his covering.
 3. His inner spirit person was in unity with his soul and his body followed in obedience.
 4. After the fall man died spiritually and became a living soul empowered by the lust of the flesh.
 5. This caused a war within mankind between his spirit and soul, and it also resulted in a war between God and Satan over mankind.
- C. When we look at these facts concerning the spirit world and their inter-relation it plainly shows us that it is impossible for a person to remain neutral and unaffected by spiritual influences.
 1. The truth is, in the present order of things, all three realms are at war with each other.
 - a. As I see it, there is a sense in which man is at war with both God and Satan and their spiritual realms.
 2. As Christians, we belong to God and are part of his army.
 - a. This being true, God provides for the believer spiritual armor and

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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