

Jesus and the Gift of Discerning of Spirits...

Not only do we know that the 7 Spirits of God come from Jesus our slain Lamb, but the 9 Spiritual gifts are seen in Jesus given by the Holy Spirit. This gift must be in operation now more than ever due to the Last day's deception Jesus, Paul and Peter Prophesied about.

We are living in what they prophesied about. Not only do we need to discern the times, but also we must discern the spirits and prove whether they are of God or not. This means we have to judge righteously as Jesus commanded us to in John 7:24. If we are going to judge righteously we need to live righteously. You can't judge righteously if you don't live righteously! Trying to do so is hypocrisy and hypocrites don't discern the times according Jesus in Luke 12:56 KJVER, " **You hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that you do not discern this time?**" Hypocrisy blinds us to the times we live in, and it blinds us from what God is currently doing. We need to be vaccinated from this so we can discern the times and judge righteously. Jesus goes on to ask a very interesting question after his last one. Luke 12:57 KJVER " **Yea, and why even yourselves judge not what is right?**" Here Jesus identifies their lack of righteous judgment. Perhaps if they had lived righteously and been free of hypocrisy they would have had discernment and made righteous judgments that were accurate! If this is not speaking to you and I today then we are deaf!

In the church there is a real lack of discernment of spirits and of the times we live in. It's the wisdom of God to send Apostles and Prophets. So Jesus will do so to deal with this issue by the working or operation of his Spirit and people in unity for the Fathers'

good pleasure to be fulfilled in us and through us and even all around us. God is coming to us to change us and move us into a place of righteous living, so we can make righteous judgments. When this happens the world will begin to trust or discernment like they did in the days of Daniel, Joseph and Solomon. In that time God's people were both persecuted and pursued because their discernment and judgments were trust worthy and accountable, because of their pure motive to see God Glorified as his Kingdom is manifested.

Not knowing what God is currently doing is either just plain ignorance that is rooted in the culture of self-indulgence, or the working of another spirit. This seducing spirit takes our eyes off of what Jesus doing. Or it tries to keep us blind and/or ignorant to his purposes at that specific time. In Luke 9 we see Jesus moving in the gift of discerning of Spirits when he rebukes his disciples. Some of the new corrupted Bibles are missing this verse, but here it is for those who don't have it in their NIV or whatever Bible they may be reading where this precious verse is not found. Luke 9:55-56 KJVER "But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, **You know not what manner of Spirit you are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.** And they went to another village." Here Jesus discerned another spirit operating in his disciples when they were in complete opposition to his purpose at that specific time.

We see this same lesson when Jesus rebukes Peter and called him Satan. Peter was unaware of what God was doing concerning Jesus being crucified because Peter valued the things of man and not the things of God! Our value system and un-crucified ambitions can block us from perceiving what God is doing now and what his will is for

the future. What's interesting is that Satan directly spoke from Peter's mouth. Jesus wasn't name calling, but he was discerning the origins of those words. Many times the enemy will speak to us through one of our best friends or even an authority figure. Remember one of Jesus' closest friends was Peter. Peter was also like the authority figure that Jesus left in charge when he ascended to heaven. I want to encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit when people are speaking and ask him, what Spirit is speaking. This will change your life. When you learn how to listen to God only he can move you. The Jesus truly will be Lord practically and not just doctrinally! Peter meant no harm to Jesus, but when someone is open to Satan he can use their mouth to come against the very purposes of God for our life or even the body of Christ as a whole.

There is another account of Jesus operating in the gift of discernment of spirits. Not only does Jesus discern what is going wrong, but also he knows how to make it right. Discernment of spirits is not only to detect what is wrong, but its so that the person who is operating in the gift is a part of making things right. Jesus' disciples were out ministering and they could not cast a devil out of someone. So Jesus did the following. First he rebuked them and called them "o you of little faith." Then he continues on with a more detailed explanation. This verse too is missing from NIV bibles or other corrupted versions. It's interesting how when Jesus is discerning spirits and dealing with this issue that it's left out of some bibles. The way it's left out of some bibles, it's left out of some churches also. Jesus has a zeal for his father's house to be cleansed and purged, and that zeal is going to start to burn in the heart of God's appointed leaders in the church. Matthew 17:21 KJVER "However this kind goes not out

but by prayer and fasting.” Here Jesus discerns the kind of spirit without using its name. He also reveals to his disciples that a lifestyle of prayer and fasting will be the key to ridding people’s physical bodies of this certain kind of demonic spirit. This gift is not just a gift that identifies problems, but its also one that bring solutions. Remember the Word of God according to Hebrews 4 is a “discerner”. The more of the word we put in ourselves the more the Holy Spirit has inside of us to work with. The word of God himself was the ultimate discerner of Spirits because he was the Word made flesh. As the word becomes flesh in us it will be easier for us to discern spirits.

The Revelation that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is a very simple and foundational revelation. There is no church without this simple yet everlasting revelation. However this revelation must come from the Father through the Holy Spirit or it is unclean. The devil can tell you about someone, but that doesn’t necessarily lead to you knowing him. Jesus asks his disciples two questions that shape all of human history. Who do men say that I am? Who do you say that I am? Peter replied “You are Christ Son of the Living God” Jesus’ response was “Blessed are you Simon Bar- Jona for flesh and blood have not revealed it to you but my Father in which is in heaven.” The source of this revelation was the Father concerning the Son through the operation of the Holy Spirit. This is clean revelation because it’s from the Father. In John 4 Jesus says that God is Spirit. Here again we see Jesus moving in what Paul called the gift of discerning of Spirits. This revelation released a responsibility on Peter to bind and loose. Revelation from God usually comes with reasonability so we can be proven and God can be glorified.

Mark 3:11-12 KJVER “And unclean spirits, when they saw Him, fell down before him, and cried saying, You are the Son of God. And he straightly charged them that they should not make him known.” The same revelation that Peter received from the Father, demons were professing out loud. People can receive an accurate revelation or discern something, but the source can still be unclean. Jesus used discernment of spirits to know this was an unclean spirit, trying to do something he wasn’t authorized to do. Here Jesus is not permitting unclean spirits to bring revelation to people about who he is. It’s the Father’s good pleasure to reveal Jesus. The Father’s pleasure will not be taken from him on Jesus’ watch. Meaning Jesus discerned clearly the source of this contaminated but accurate revelation and put an end to it! One of the functions of an unclean spirit is to bring revelation to the body of Christ. This unclean spirit can only produce what it is, something unclean. When we receive something unclean, defilement comes upon us. Here we learn that all revelation that is accurate may not be from the Lord. The same way you can say something and be completely right but totally wrong. Like you may say to someone “hey you need to watch your diet and exercise.” That could be true and it’s in the right spirit. While you could say “hey man you’re fat and you have no self control, and you seriously need to exercise before you die of a heart attack on the way to the refrigerator.”

The Story of Joshua and Caleb and the 10 other spies is a great Old Testament picture of Moses moving in the gift of discerning of spirits. It was said that Caleb was of another spirit. Here is scripture that was a good thing, meaning he didn’t have the spirit of stupid like the other 10 spies. He saw from God’s perspective according to Faith

concerning God's promise. It's interesting how the other spirit that was on the 10 drastically infected their vision. Millions of people did not go into the promise land because the spirit of those 10 men's was not discerned. One gift of the Holy Spirit in the right moment can bring millions of people into their destiny in a kairos moment. God is calling for us not to have the "spirit of the majority or the spirit of the crowd." That's not a spirit necessarily by name but its influence is real. God's kingdom is not a democracy and majority does not win, its usually minority with him any way. The discerning of spirits is very important if we are not going to be deceived or seduced at the end of the age.

The discerning of Spirits, discerns authentic revelation from God. The discerning of spirits discerns contaminated revelation from the enemy. The discerning of spirits recognizes God in action and also the enemy in action. This gift recognizes the source of words from people who are close to us and ignorant of God's purposes. Discerning of spirits allows us to embrace God's perspective and the proper leadership, which in turn will help us to be lead into the promises of God for our lives. Discerning of spirits will keep us from deception and get us on board with what God is doing.

I pray for the gift of discerning of spirits to be activated in your life in the name of Jesus Christ.

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