

3. We need to be on the lookout for counterfeits

Matthew 24:24 NLT

For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones.

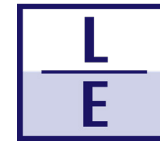
Luke 11:14-15 NLT

One day Jesus cast out a demon from a man who couldn't speak, and when the demon was gone, the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed, but some of them said, "No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons."

Discernment: What Not To Do

1 Corinthians 14:1 NLT

Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy.



Lake Effect
C H U R C H

You Do You
Part 8: The Gift of Discernment

February 20, 2022

Psalm 62:5-8, NLT

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me. O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.

The Gift of Discernment

Leviticus 14:33-35 DRAE

33 And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: 34 When you shall be come into the land of Canaan, which I will give you for a possession, if there be the plague of leprosy in a house, 35 He whose house it is, shall go and tell the priest, saying: It seemeth to me, that there is the plague of leprosy in my house,

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NKJV

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1. for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit,
2. to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
3. to another faith by the same Spirit,
4. to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
5. to another the working of miracles,
6. to another prophecy,
7. to another discerning of spirits,
8. to another different kinds of tongues,

9. to another the interpretation of tongues.
But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

“The gift of discerning of spirits is the special ability that God gives to some members of the Body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human or satanic.”

C. Peter Wagner, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow*

Why we need discernment

1. Our war is not against flesh and blood

Ephesians 6:12 NLT

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

2. People will lie to you

1 John 4:1 NLT

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

Joshua 9:3-18 NLT

3 But when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, 4 they resorted to deception to save themselves. They sent ambassadors to Joshua, loading their donkeys with weathered saddlebags and old, patched wineskins. 5 They put on worn-out, patched sandals and ragged clothes. And the bread they took with them was dry and moldy. 6 When they arrived at the camp of Israel at Gilgal, they told Joshua and the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant land to ask you to make a peace treaty with us.”

7 The Israelites replied to these Hivites, “How do we know you don’t live nearby? For if you do, we cannot make a treaty with you.”

8 They replied, “We are your servants.”

“But who are you?” Joshua demanded. “Where do you come from?”

9 They answered, “Your servants have come from a very distant country. We have heard of the might of the Lord your God and of all he did in Egypt. 10 We have also heard what he did to the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River—King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan (who lived in Ashtaroth). 11 So our elders and all our people instructed us, ‘Take supplies for a long journey. Go meet with the people of Israel and tell them, “We are your servants; please make a treaty with us.”’

12 “This bread was hot from the ovens when we left our homes. But now, as you can see, it is dry and moldy. 13 These wineskins were new when we filled them, but now they are old and split open. And our clothing and sandals are worn out from our very long journey.”

14 So the Israelites examined their food, but they did not consult the Lord. 15 Then Joshua made a peace treaty with them and guaranteed their safety, and the leaders of the community ratified their agreement with a binding oath.

16 Three days after making the treaty, they learned that these people actually lived nearby! 17 The Israelites set out at once to investigate and reached their towns in three days. The names of these towns were Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. 18 But the Israelites did not attack the towns, for the Israelite leaders had made a vow to them in the name of the Lord, the God of Israel.