

THE NEED FOR DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

Introduction

1. Jonah 4:11B – ...who cannot discern between their right hand and their left...
2. 1Cor 2:14B – ...because they are spiritually discerned.
3. Job 33:14 – For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it.
4. Amos 8:11 – Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God, “That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.
5. Global Renewal and Global Harvest can only come through the Cradle of Holiness but parallel to that is the ability of using the spiritual weapon “Discerning of Spirits”.

A. Building Proper Foundations

1. Religious people have a way of taking what is scriptural, sacred and workable and converting it into a lifeless religious form and a pyramid, hierarchical structure that restricts God’s purposes and brings bondage to His people.
2. When the church becomes more structural than spiritual, it hinders the flow of the Spirit and quenches God’s purposes e.g. dead tree without life.
3. When it becomes more spiritual than structural, it becomes like dissipating or destructive flood waters without control or order.
4. For these reasons both Apostles and Prophets must be prominent and equal in laying the foundation for the church as in Eph 2:20.
5. In the ministry of both the Apostles and Prophets, the Church of Jesus Christ will maintain a balance between structure and spirituality, doctrine and power demonstrations, Prophetic perspective and Apostolic order.

B. Present Observations

1. But as we observe, the Prophetic is lacking in the church today.
2. Could the cause be advancing information technology? (Information only in the mind).

Read 1Cor 2:6-16.

3. We need the ability to discern and identify the source of situations or events or even doctrines that are taught.
4. We cannot just rely on natural information only when making our judgments. We need to discern in the spirit to draw revelation knowledge and wisdom from God.
5. The things of God are discerned through our spirit.
6. The church must rise to the next level to discern through the power of the Spirit dimensions to identify true or false, God or human, accurate or inaccurate.
7. Eph 1:16-18. Paul is praying for the church that the spirit of wisdom and revelation will come upon them and that their eyes will be enlightened to know their calling, inheritance, power and position above the evil one.
8. In this season we need the weapon of spiritual discernment to make accurate judgements, accurate decisions in our lives, families, careers, the doctrines we believe

in, and our church's direction. What are God's plans for this season? Even during COVID-19?

9. The ability to differentiate between God's will and man's will, good and wrong, man's idea and God's idea. The ability to detect the counterfeit and deception.
10. The Greek word is *Diakrino* – to judge through, to see through to the truth, to accurately evaluate whether it's God or not.
11. This gift is weak among leaders today. In Acts 5, when Peter became matured in the Holy Spirit, by discernment in the Spirit (gift), although Ananias gave a big sum, Peter knew that he was lying. V11 – so great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. (Increased Godliness).

C. Nature of this Gift

1. The Prophetic Watchman will chase this gift to be operating in his life – every one of us should operate in this gift.
2. It is a supernatural insight of what the truth is and what is not.
3. 1John 4:2-3. Test the spirits, unmask satan's trickery.
4. Detect false teaching, identify false teachers and false prophets.
5. You can sense carnality entering into worship.
6. You can differentiate demons and mental illness.
7. You can spot spiritual phoneyes.
8. You can recognise the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
9. In conflict management, you can discern who is in the truth.
10. You can protect the church from wrong teachings.

D. How does it flow?

1. An accurate awareness of what is going on behind the scene in the spirit world.
2. A deep underlying spirit of conviction which will not allow rest when people are given half-truth, misapplied truth, false teaching and asked to act upon it.
3. An insight into people. This nature causes those people to be uncomfortable in your presence.
4. A sensitivity to the origin of power or ability.
5. Demons react when they are discerned or detected.
6. Inward awareness when human thoughts are held up prophecy, words of wisdom or words of knowledge.

E. What do we do?

1. Maintain a love relationship with Christ.
2. Deal with your motives and attitudes.
3. Work on your bad habits and strongholds.
4. Grow in the balanced Word.
5. Work in teams and with mentors.
6. Be a worshipper.
7. Keep a clear conscience.
8. Step by step, you will improve.