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Manifestation Gifts

Lesson Eight: Discernings of Spirits
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I. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS:

A. Definition of Terms --

1. The Greek word translated “discerning” (or, more literally, “discern-ings”) here is *diakriseis*, the nominative plural of *diakrasis*, which means “distinguishing, a clear discrimination, discerning, judging.”
2. Various English Translations:
 - a) RSV, “the ability to distinguish between spirits”; NASB, “distinguishing (margin, “Lit., *distinguishings*”) of spirits”; NIV, “distinguishing between spirits”
 - b) KJV, NKJV “discerning of spirits”
 - c) RV, ASV “discernings of spirits”

B. Definition of This Gift –

1. As for the definition of this gift, there are three options:
 - a) “discernings” refers to judging prophecies;
 - b) this particular gift discerns demonic influences and/or involvement;
 - c) this gift involves both of the above.
2. I personally believe that the plural term “discernings” as well as the similarity of function indicates that both judging prophetic utterances **and** discerning demonic involvement are functions included in the exercise of this gift. My working definition of “discernings of spirits” therefore is that it discerns what spirit (whether divine, human, or demonic) is involved in a situation.

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II. DISCERNMENT, PROPHECY AND DEMONS:

A. Prophecy-- “Distinguishing between the different prophetic utterances, whether they proceed from true or false prophets.” [Marvin R. Vincent]

1. 1 Corinthians 12:10c. This reference to the manifestation gift of “discernings of spirits” immediately follows the mention of the manifestation gift of prophecy.
2. 1 Corinthians 14:29
3. Jeremiah 28:1-17
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
5. 1 Timothy 4:1
6. 1 John 4:1

B. Discernment of Spirits -- “. . .translated ‘discernings’ in 1 Corinthians 12:10, of discerning spirits, judging by evidence whether they are evil or of God.” [W. E. Vine]

1. Mark 5:9
2. Luke 13:10-16
3. Acts 8:23
4. Acts 16:16-18

III. CONTEMPORARY EXAMPLES: