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“D I S C E R N M E N T”

By Apostle Jerry Upton

When we look at discernment, we are not looking at it from the natural mind of man, but rather discernment that is imparted by the Spirit of God. The spiritual realm of discernment is best defined as: “Revelation and insight imparted by the Holy Spirit that gives us the ability to see what natural eye cannot see; to hear what natural ear cannot hear; and to perceive what the natural intuition of man cannot perceive.”

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ." {1 Corinthians 2:7-16}

From these scriptures we receive the following keys:

- I.** Discernment in the realm of the Spirit is revealed by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, instead of relying on natural reasoning and human understanding, we take everything to the Holy Spirit for our answers.
- II.** We yield to the Holy Spirit to search out whatever the situation may be, and we submit ourselves willingly and totally to his timing. We don't try to direct the Holy Spirit, but rather we allow Him to direct us.
- III.** We resist the influence of the spirit of the world, and we refuse to conform to the mindset of the world. This will be one of the most challenging areas to overcome due to the constant influence of the world around us.
- IV.** We must not be concerned if we look foolish and crazy to the world because of what we are receiving from the Holy Spirit. We must not seek to be validated by the worldly system around us or to seek their approval of what we are seeing, hearing, and perceiving.
- V.** We must learn how to judge spiritual things and matters by the impartation of the Holy Spirit; and speak only what the Holy Spirit is telling us to speak.

What hinders God's children from walking in Holy Spirit-imparted discernment? There are 11 things that hinder the believer from walking in this level of discernment:

D: Darkness — When the believer chooses as an act of their will to walk in darkness, they in turn come under the authority of the one that rules through darkness. Darkness can be defined as the absence of applying the light of God to any area of our lives; and refusing to submit to the light of God's Word that separates us from darkness. {John 1:1-12}

I: Iniquity — The habitual practice of lawlessness, such as living in willful, premeditated sin will hinder Holy Spirit-imparted discernment. {See and read II Timothy 2:19}

S: Strife — This is one of the reasons that the enemy attempts to create offense in the hearts of the believers, in order to take them captive whenever

he pleases to. Jesus warned us of offense in the last days in Matthew 24:10, and whenever you sense by the Spirit that discernment is not working in your life, check this area out immediately.

C: Cares — *This is the defeating area for many believers as it relates to walking in a continuous flow of Holy Spirit-imparted discernment. We are exhorted in 1 Peter 5:7 to give all our cares to God, and when we fail to do so, we experience what is written in Matthew 13:22. When we carry cares, worry, and fears, we become distracted and begin to decrease in the area of Holy Spirit-imparted discernment.*

E: Itching Ears — *The Bible tells us in II Timothy 4:3: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.” We are especially living in this time right now, and it is increasing in intensity day by day. This is one of the reasons that Holy Spirit-imparted discernment is missing within many fellowships.*

R: Religious Spirit — *This is one of the great reasons that Jesus so strongly rebuked the scribes and the Pharisees in Matthew 23rd chapter. They carried the outward appearance of being spiritual, but in fact they were inwardly dead and without life. Jesus repeatedly referred to them as being ‘blind guides’ and this is exactly what a religious spirit will produce in the life of a believer.*

N: Natural Mind — *The believer that filters things through the natural mind will not operate in Holy Spirit-imparted discernment. Remember our opening scriptures that describe the natural man as being void of the things of the Spirit, because he considers them to be ‘foolishness.’*

M: Milk — *While it is quite true that babes in Christ need milk, it is also true that we are called to mature in Christ as well. In Hebrews 5:12, it states: “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God: and are become*

such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”

E: Envy — *If you allow yourself to enter into envy as it relates to others flowing in different gifting by the Spirit, it will greatly hinder you from flowing in Holy Spirit-imparted discernment. Many will not admit that this force is operating in their heart, but begin to grow in resentment and bitterness toward others as the Holy Spirit flows through them.*

N: Never Satisfied — *Now you may think that this attitude has nothing to do with Holy Spirit-imparted discernment, but in fact it has everything to do with it because it reveals an absence of thankfulness unto the Lord. A heart that is not thankful cannot expect to walk and flow in Holy Spirit-imparted discernment.*

T: Trustworthy — *If you cannot be trusted with the secret things of God, you will not flow in Holy Spirit-imparted discernment. I have found through years of experience that people who move ahead of the timing of God, speak without the Holy Spirit telling them to reveal and share what He has told them, and don't have discipline over their mouths to know when to speak and when not to cannot expect to flow in Holy Spirit-imparted discernment.*