

# DISCERNMENT

**Literal Meaning:** To separate or make a distinction, differentiate

**Description:** The gift of **Discernment** (of spirits) is the divine enablement to distinguish between truth and error. It is able to discern the spirits, differentiating between good and evil, right and wrong.

## Distinctives:

- Distinguish truth from error, right from wrong, pure motives from impure
- Identify deception in others with accuracy and appropriateness
- Determine whether a word attributed to God is authentic
- Recognize inconsistencies in a teaching, prophetic message, or interpretation
- Are able to sense the presence of evil

## Traits:

- Perceptive
- Insightful
- Sensitive
- Intuitive
- Decisive
- Challenging
- Truthful

## Cautions:

- May struggle with how to express their perceptions, feelings, or insights
- Could be harsh when confronting others, instead of speaking the truth in love
- Need to confirm their perceptions before speaking

**Scripture References:** 1Corinthians 12:10; Acts 5:1-4; Matthew 16:21-23

1. Have you felt a special responsibility to protect the truth of God's Word by exposing that which is wrong?
2. Do you often make a swift evaluation of someone or something that was said, that others did not see but yet proved to be correct?
3. Do you have a solid understanding of Scripture and a sensitivity to the leading of God the Holy Spirit?
4. Are you keenly aware of moral sin and doctrinal heresy?
5. Can you read a book or hear a teacher and almost immediately uncover any false teaching?