

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS
IMPACT Conference 2006—Wilmington, NC
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DEFINITIONS

DISCERNMENT:

1 : the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure
: skill in [discerning](#)

Discerning: 1 a : to detect with the eyes <*discerned* a figure approaching through the fog> **b** : to detect with senses other than vision <*discerned* a strange odor>

2 : to recognize or identify as separate and distinct :

DISCRIMINATE <*discern* right from wrong>

3 : to come to know or recognize mentally <unable to *discern* his motives>

OF

1 -- used as a function word to indicate a point of reckoning <north *of* the lake>

2 a -- used as a function word to indicate origin or derivation <a man *of* noble birth> **b** -- used as a function word to indicate the cause, motive, or reason <died *of* flu>

SPIRIT

1 : an animating or vital principle held to give life to physical organisms

2 : a supernatural being or essence: as **a** *capitalized* : **HOLY SPIRIT**

b : **SOUL** **2a c** : an often malevolent being that is bodiless but can become visible; *specifically* : **GHOST** **2 d** : a malevolent being that enters and possesses a human being

3 : temper or disposition of mind or outlook especially when vigorous or animated <in high *spirits*>

4 : the immaterial intelligent or sentient part of a person

Notes

It seems that the theme of this conference has been on discernment. When the Bible talks about discernment, it is not referring to discerning of people, but it speaks about the ability to discern spirits. The discerning of spirits is also different from word of wisdom and word of knowledge.

What discernment is not....

1. It is not finding fault in others.
2. It is not only the ability to discern evil spirits.
3. It is not the discerning of personality traits and characters.

What it is...

1. The ability to discern the spirit of God in action and/or demonic spirits. Not every supernatural manifestation is an act of God. Through the discerning of spirits, we are able to recognize evil spirits in operation.
2. The ability to supernaturally see into the spirit realm.

SCRIPTURES

Mark 11:23-24

²³For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

²⁴Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

1 Corinthians 12:4-10

⁴Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

⁶And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

⁸For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

⁹To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

Works of the Flesh – Galatians 5:19-21					
Adultery	fornication	uncleanness	lasciviousness	Idolatry	witchcraft
witchcraft	hatred	emulations	wrath	strife	seditions
heresies	Envyings	murders	drunkenness	revellings	

Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22					
Love	Joy	Peace	Longsuffering	Gentleness	Goodness
Faith	Meekness	Temperance			

Spiritual Gifts – 1 Corinthians 12:8-11					
Word of wisdom	Word of knowledge	Faith	healing	Miracles	Prophecy
Discerning of spirits	Divers kinds of tongues	Interpretation of tongues			