

Discerning of Spirits 2: The Heart of Man

1 Corinthians 12:31 *But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.*
1 Corinthians 12:7 *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.*



Discerning of Spirits defined:

- Strong's: to separate thoroughly
- Vine's: to distinguish or have clear discrimination
- Young's: A thorough judging

Gordon Lindsay: "Supernatural enablement, permitting identification of the nature and character of spirits, seen and unseen"

I. Jeremiah 17:9,10

A. What is in the heart of man?

B. Who can know it?

II. Scriptural Examples

A. Psalm 55:21 – War in the heart

Psalm 55:21 The words of his mouth were smoother than butter,
But war was in his heart;
His words were softer than oil,
Yet they were drawn swords.

B. Proverbs 14:13 – False laughter (suicide)

Proverbs 14:13 Even in laughter the heart may sorrow,
And the end of mirth may be grief.

C. Proverbs 23:6-8 – Heart not with you

Proverbs 23:6-8 Do not eat the bread of a miser, Nor desire his delicacies;
⁷ For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you,
But his heart is not with you.
⁸ The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up,
And waste your pleasant words.

D. Proverbs 26:23-26 – Wicked heart (God will bring revelation)

Proverbs 26:23-26 Fervent lips with a wicked heart
Are like earthenware covered with silver dross.
²⁴ He who hates, disguises it with his lips,
And lays up deceit within himself;
²⁵ When he speaks kindly, do not believe him,
For there are seven abominations in his heart;
²⁶ Though his hatred is covered by deceit,
His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

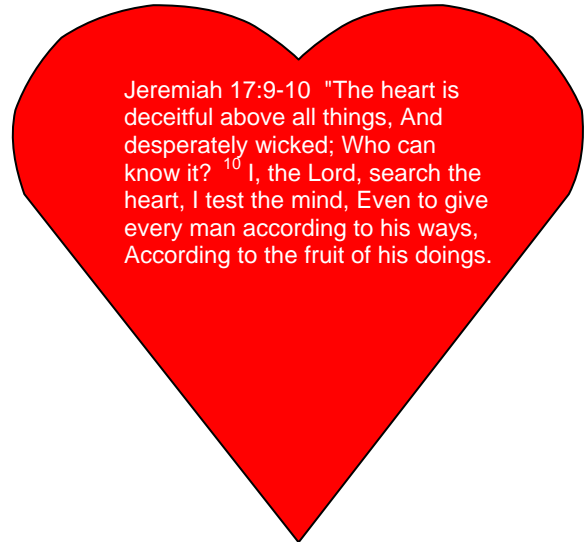
E. Mark 2:6-9 – Motives

Mark 2:6-9 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,
⁷ "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
⁸ But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"
⁹ "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?"

III. Test of the heart: Words & Works

Luke 6:43-45 For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Q) Discerning of Spirits is vitally needed in the Body of Christ, but why don't we see more of it?



Q) Why does God want us to walk in this kind of discernment?

A) Protection

John 2:24 (The Message) But Jesus didn't entrust his life to them. He knew them inside and out, knew how untrustworthy they were.