

Discerning of Spirits 3 – Dealing with Demonic

1 Corinthians 2:14 *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

I. Spiritual Gifts: I Corinthians 12:1-11



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"

II. Devil Operates Through Deception:

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Colossians 2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive (beguile) you with persuasive words.

2 Corinthians 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.



III. Acts 16:16-24

Q) When do you cast out a devil?

1. When there is a confrontation (they like to make noise)
2. When people ask for help
 - a. Don't force it on people
 - b. Divine timing
 - i. Pray for a while (Paul) "many days"
 - ii. You are tempted to say it is a demon, but not to vocalize it.
3. When you have a specific leading you may want to share it with someone.
 - a. Watch out - you could get flack
4. God's going to deal with it

B. Manifestations:

1. Loud voice
 2. Overly religious
 3. Partially correct doctrine, but not quite right
 4. Not normal – weird behavior
 5. Annoying behavior
 6. False gifts that do not point toward Christ, but predict the future
 7. Wanting excessive attention
- Other manifestations not in this story:
(Example: Mad man of Gadara)
8. Dress (or lack of)
 9. Body markings
 10. Self-destructive behavior
 11. Anti-social behavior
 12. Pre-occupation with the dead, (modern day Gothic movement)

Revelations 19:10 Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.



C. How to Distinguish between an evil spirit, a human spirit, and the Holy Spirit:

- i. **Evil spirit:** Takes attention away from Jesus (Gets people off their mission)
- ii. **Human spirit:** Brings attention to self
- iii. **Holy Spirit:** Puts focus on **Jesus!**

