

**THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS GIFTS – 4**  
**JULY 20, 2022**

**REVIEW:**

- There are nine gifts that can be divided into three groups: power, revelation and vocal gifts. These do, say and reveal something.
- The word of knowledge deals with the past and present, and the word of wisdom deals with the future.

**CONTINUE: 1 COR. 12:8-10 – DISCERNING OF SPIRITS**

1. What it's not.
  - A. Discernment, or the ability to read one's character or motives. It's not natural discernment.
  - B. It's not the power to discover faults (**LUKE 6:41 MSG**). If we use discernment on ourselves, we'd see so many faults, we would never point out the faults of others again.
  - C. Spiritism. ESP, mental penetration, spiritual mind reading, suspicion, being keenly perceptive or contacting the spirits of the dead.
  - D. Necromancy (**DEUT. 18:9-14**). A necromancer uses witchcraft or sorcery to conjure up the spirits of the dead. Necromancy is communicating with the spirits of the dead. This practice is an abomination and exposes one to familiar spirits, which psychics and spiritualists use.
  - E.
2. What it is.
  - A. Supernatural insight into the spirit world. To discern means to perceive by seeing or hearing. Therefore, it involves seeing or hearing in the realm of spirits.
  - B. It has to do with an entire class of spirits: good, evil, the Holy Spirit, angels, demons, human and familiar spirits.
  - C. Is more than just a revelation of the spirit behind an operation or manifestation. It's God giving us a vision of the spirit behind it
  - D.
3. Biblical examples.
  - A. **EX. 33:20-23** – God allowed Moses to see his back parts.
  - B. **IS. 6:1** – Isaiah sees the Lord.
  - C. **MT. 17:1-9** – They see Jesus, Moses and Elijah.
  - D. **LUKE 1:11-13** – Zacharias sees and hears Gabriel.
  - E. **LUKE 1:26-33** – Mary sees and hears Gabriel.
  - F. **JOHN 20:11-14** – Mary sees two angels and Jesus.
  - G. **ACTS 1:9-11** – The disciples see Jesus and two angels.
  - H. **REV. 1:10-18** – John sees the risen Christ.
  - I.
4. Personal examples.
  - A. Pastor Goodwin – First Assembly of God in Gladewater, Texas. Had a vision of a gorilla-like evil spirit in the rafters of the church. He told the spirit to leave. At first he whimpered, then he turned and showed his fangs to produce fear.
  - B. Kenneth Hagin – woman with lung cancer. He saw a demon hanging on to her body over her left lung. He rebuked it, it left and she was healed. The man with a migraine headache had a demon squeezing his head.
  - C. My experience – I saw my angel, God's glory and a spirit of infirmity.
5. The purpose of the gift.
  - A. To reveal the spirit behind an operation; for deliverance (**ACTS 12:7-10, 27:23-24**); encouragement (**JOSH. 5:13-16**); and for guidance **ACTS 10:1-8**).

**CONCLUSION:** The discerning of spirits involves God opening our eyes to the spirit realm and allowing us to see into the realm of spirits in order to accomplish His will and purposes on earth.