

Teaching Series : What God Says About Spiritual Gifts Part #7 : 11-16-14

GIFT #9 : DISCERNMENT:

Original Greek	English Translation	Basic Idea	Scripture Reference
<i>diakrisis</i>	"Separate, judge, distinguish, discern"	Ability to mark a difference between the true and the false.	Rom 14:1 Heb 5:14
<i>diakrino</i>	"decide, judge, distinguish"	Examine, search, assess, evaluate	1 Cor 11:29; 14:29

☉ Throughout the NT this word is used 16 times in reference to judging/distinguishing: How?

1. to the judging of signs (Mt 16:3).

2. to judge one's self (1 Cor 11:31).

3. to judge the words of prophets in the church (1 Cor 14:29).

☉ In the NT it usually means "discernment" or "differentiation":

a. between spirits in 1 Cor. 12:10

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

b. between good and evil in Heb. 5:13-14

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

☉ Instead of appealing to the courts of law, the believers are exhorted to depend upon men of discernment (1 Cor 6:5) to decide what is right when there are disputes.

☉ There are similar uses in Ac 11:2 and Judas 9.

☉ It is the ability to determine if a teacher, preacher, exhorter or pastor is speaking under the direction of the Holy Spirit, his own spirit or evil spirits.

2 Cor 11 14 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.

☉ Why was this gift necessary in the early church?

☉ In the Early Church there were prophets and teachers going from church to church claiming to be sent from and speaking for God.

☉ Without a written NT there was a dependency upon the gift of discernment. They practiced discernment or judgment frequently.

2 Pet 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

☉ The church, with the written Bible, still needs discernment to protect itself from many things like: **myths, error, exaggerations, legends, traditions, fables, heresies and bad practices.** that so easily find its way into the church belief structure.

- ☉ The gift of discernment has the exceptional ability to literally sense error in the making.
- ☉ There are main areas where the gift of discernment operates in the church today.
 1. **Discern the quality, sincerity and genuineness of a teacher or preacher.**
 2. **Discern the words of a preacher in order to evaluate his teaching in light of the written Word (Acts 17:11).**
 3. **Discern the best decision or judgment in conflicts and disputes between brethren.**
- ☉ Paul warned that in the last days there would be an increase in false teachers. The gift of discernment would be greatly beneficial to the church as time goes on.
- ☉ **The person with the gift of discernment may possess these characteristics:**
 1. **Has the ability to recognize the inconsistencies in persons and teachings without being unnecessarily critical.**
 2. **Wants to examine what is taught or preached for what might be an error.**
 3. **He has a good understanding of the Scriptures. (The best way to recognize a counterfeit bill is to have memorized the characteristics of a genuine bill).**
 4. **Easily recognizes bad interpretations or applications in lessons and sermons.**

How the Gift of Discernment is Misunderstood

1. Others think this person is overly-critical and a trouble-maker.

How Satan Attacks the Gift of Discernment

1. Causes pride because he/she confronted false teaching. .

Areas of Service the Gift of Discernment Lends Itself To

1. Deacon / Elders (not tied to a specific office or position)

GIFT #10 : FAITH:

Original Greek	English Translation	Basic Idea	Scripture Reference
<i>pistis</i>	"faith"	Trust in someone or thing	1 Cor 12:9; 13:2
<i>peitho</i>	"convince or persuade"	Trust in something	Mt 27:20, 43; Mk 10:24; Heb 13:17
<i>peitharcho</i>	"obey"	Trust controls your actions in obedience	Ac 5:29; Tit 3:1

- ☉ These words combined give us the picture of certainty, trust and assurance for the completion of a promise. Obedience is closely tied to faith. (i.e. a trustworthy and faithful person is going to fulfill whatever their assignment is.)
- ☉ It is a reality that everyone person, lost or saved, has faith in something. It is also true that every Christian exercises faith (i.e. saving faith, faith in God's promises, etc.)

☼ The Gift of Faith is the supernatural ability to believe God for great things, praying and acting with confidence in God's ability to accomplish His purposes

☼ **God uses the gift of faith for the following purposes:**

1. **To bring glory to Himself, that is, to reveal Himself in real life's situations such that it is unmistakably God who did it..**
2. **To encourage the church to pray and believe in a God who responds to our prayers.**
3. **To meet the needs of the church and individuals through answered prayer.**

☼ **The person with the gift of faith may possess these characteristics:**

1. An ability to understand what God is going to do in a situation through a clear understanding of the promises God has already made.
2. An ability to confidently wait on God's response.
3. An ability to sense that God is working, even when others have lost hope.
4. Possesses a strong desire to depend on God completely for the solutions of difficult circumstances.
5. Possesses a special confidence that not only believes that God "can" do it, but that He "will"
6. People with this gift are more comfortable than others in longer periods of intercessory prayer.

☼ The apostle Paul is a good example here:

Ac 26:16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' 19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

How the Gift of Faith is Misunderstood

1. Others think this person is not very realistic.

How Satan Attacks the Gift of Faith

1. Causes pride when prayers are answered.
2. Causes discouragement when God's answers and actions are delayed.

Areas of Service the Gift of Faith Lends Itself To

1. Intercessory prayer leader
2. Long Range Planning Team Member / Capital Campaign Director