

Encounter(ing) God

Holy Spirit

Part 10

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Review

Remember — the Holy Spirit is our Advantage in life. He gifts and empowers us in ways unavailable to unbelievers. What an Advantage!

- **John 16:7**

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you;

Today — Spiritual Insight Gifts — Gifts of the Spirit that allow us access past the limited, natural realm — and allows us insight into the realm of the spirit.

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

WORD OF WISDOM

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Discerning of Spirits

We all need discernment; some people have a spiritual gift of discernment

- **1 Corinthians 12:10** —

... to another the discerning of spirits...

- **Ephesians 6:10-12**

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- **wrestle against**, notice repetition, principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. **The moment you were born-again, you were born against, against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness...**

OUR GREATEST DANGER — *in western civilization might be underestimating or completely disregarding the things of the spirit realm, and thereby unknowingly succumbing to the wiles of the Devil...*

- **Instruction**

- **1 John 4:11**

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God;

Evil spirits to discern

1. **Spirit of Antichrist** — **1 John 4:3**, denying that Jesus came in the flesh, denying His existence.
 2. **Familiar Spirit** — **Leviticus 20:27, 1 Samuel 28:7-19**, mediums, channelers, sorcery, those who conjure the spirits of the departed which are actually demonic impersonators. NO! Death sentence on those who practice, serious stuff with God.
 3. **Spirit of Jealousy** — **Numbers 5:14**, wreaks havoc on insecure, greedy, and ambitious people
 4. **Evil/Distressing spirit** —
 - **1 Samuel 16:14-16**
But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."
- Notice...** came as a result of gross, continual disobedience in Saul's life, **opens you up!**
Interesting — skillful playing of anointed servant of God made the spirit go away... David was that servant. *If the skillful playing of anointed servants dispels distressing spirits, how much attack might that skillful, anointed servant be under?*
5. **Lying Spirit** — **1 Kings 22:13-23**, speaking lies, through false prophets to influence King Ahab. *Lying spirits, often operating through false prophets, are alive and well today in political circles, influencing leaders.*
 6. **Haughty Spirit** — **Proverbs 16:18**, arrogant, self-promoting, self-aggrandizing
 7. **Perverse Spirit** — **Isaiah 19:14**, twisted, warped, corrupted, perverted — today often accepted and celebrated
 8. **Spirit of Heaviness** — **Isaiah 61:3**, dim, dull, colorless, faint, feeble; includes depression (not clinical depression) — needs discernment
 9. **Unclean Spirits** — throughout New Testament, possess and afflict people in various ways
 10. **Spirit of Infirmity** — **Luke 13:11,16**, cause sickness — not every sickness is a result, but possibility — needs discernment.
 11. **Spirit of Divination** — **Acts 16:16-18**, fortune telling, may speak truth but distract from truth.
 12. **Spirit of Bondage** — **Romans 8:15**, brought up in spirit of religious bondage, from knowing God as Abba; binds in fear and paralyzes

13. **Spirit of Stupor** – **Romans 11:8**, due to constantly, intentionally, resisting truth – become clueless, numb

14. **Spirit of Fear** –

- **2 Timothy 1:7**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- fear, panic, anxiety *can* be result of spirit – *fight it*

15. **Deceiving/Seducing Spirits** –

- **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...

**There is spiritual activity going on all around us
that needs to be discerned and defeated in Jesus Name.
We're wrestling against evil spirits.**

REMEMBER

Luke 10:19-20

“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

Word of Wisdom and Word of Knowledge

a) **1 Corinthians 12:8**

... for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit...

Wisdom and Knowledge are two different things.

a) **Knowledge** *is the accumulation of fact.*

b) **Wisdom** *properly applies fact.*

Word of Wisdom

Beyond general wisdom – specific gift, “Word of Wisdom”

- Is not an endless reservoir you draw on any time, you don't become some guru.
- From Spirit at time of need to bring a solution.
- Real sense of “*that was wisdom from God.*”
- **Solomon with women fighting over whose child it was...**

- **1 Kings 3:24-28**

Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So, they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other.” Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, “O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!” But the other said, “Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him.” So, the king answered and said, “Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother.” And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

- An unusual Word of Wisdom solved dilemma in a time of need
- God was given credit for this wisdom
- Counselors and leaders should pay special attention

Summary – Word of Wisdom is from God for the need of the moment, not previously learned or studied. Right wisdom for known facts. Usually the end of the matter!

Word of Knowledge

Information or facts given to us supernaturally, information we did not or could not know by natural acquisition. Divine impartation of knowledge concerning person or situation.

HOW IT HAPPENS

- Word, Phrase, Impression, Picture
- Israel battling Syria, God tells Elisha of Syria's battle plan, king is frustrated, thinks he's got a mole in his administration
- **2 Kings 6:12**
“... Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”
- Jesus with woman at the well
- **John 4:16-19**
Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.” The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”
- Jesus knew she had been married five times and currently living with a man — woman’s response validates *supernatural word of knowledge!*

**Word of Knowledge is from God,
information you did not or could not know naturally.**

- Exposes enemy’s plans.
- Reveals things about people’s lives.
- Builds people’s faith.

Important – If this brings clarity to things that have happened to you, but you didn’t understand them at the time, seek God, pay attention, develop and deploy the gift!

Practically

Can you see the Advantage these gifts could bring into a situation?

- **Discerning** an evil spirit's operation in a given situation
- Receiving a **Word of Wisdom** to solve a problem
- Receiving a **Word of Knowledge** to expose the enemy's plans, reveal things in people's lives to have their faith in God built up.

Let's desire, ask, discover, develop, and deploy the advantageous gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe that what happens in the spiritual world dictates what happens in the natural world? Why or why not?
2. Which of the 15 evil spirits do you struggle with? How do you combat it?
3. How can you help a new or immature Christian learn about the discerning of evil spirits?
4. What is the difference between a Word of Wisdom and a Word of Knowledge?
5. Have you ever been given a Word of Wisdom or a Word of Knowledge?
6. How do these three Spiritual Insight Gifts help build up the Body of the Church?

NOTES