



# CHANGEPOINTCHURCH

## The Gifts of the Spirit

### *The Discerning of Spirits*

June 29, 2016

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**Introduction** – Tonight we are continuing our series on the Gifts of the Spirit. The Lord impressed me that as a Church, He wants us to have a “**Growing in God**” summer. We are going to grow in the **Character and Charisma** of **Christ** this summer. The **Character of Christ** is grown in us by **The Fruit of God’s Spirit** and the **Charisma** (divine gratuity, spiritual endowment, free gift or miraculous faculty) is given through us by **The Gifts of His Spirit**.

The purpose of this study is to acclimate (*to adapt to a new temperature, altitude, climate, environment, or situation*) us as Born again Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who are Baptized in the Holy Spirit to the “existence and availability” of His supernatural gifts. The Holy Spirit manifests His Gifts through those of us who are not ignorant of them, but rather informed and earnestly desiring His Gifts to be in manifestation through our lives.

God is growing us up as His Church, to a Higher Level of Living and ministering than we have ever known before!

**1 Corinthians 12:1-3, 7-11** – 1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: 2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that **no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed** (banned or excommunicated), and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 7 But the **manifestation of the Spirit** is given to each one **for the profit of all**: 8 for to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the **word of knowledge** through the same Spirit, 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, 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**. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one individually as He wills**. NKJV

God said (in the first verse of this chapter), that He did not want us to be ignorant of spiritual gifts. Ignorance comes through a lack of knowledge and if we don't know about these gifts, how will we be able to desire (covet earnestly) and experience these gifts (the last verse of this chapter).

**1 Corinthians 12:31** - But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. NKJV

Here the Greek word for “**gifts**” is “**charisma**” and means gifts of grace.

*“These nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are manifested through us by the grace of God, as The Holy Spirit wills. These gifts cannot be earned or owned by us. However, the Bible tells us that we are to desire spiritual gifts and grow in the grace of God.”*

I. There are **Nine** Gifts that are divided into **three** categories

A. There are three **revelation** gifts, they **reveal** something

1. Word of **Wisdom**
2. Word of **Knowledge**
3. **Discerning** of Spirits

B. There are three **Power** Gifts, they **do** something

1. Gift of **Faith**
2. Gifts of **Healings**
3. Working of **Miracles**

C. There are three **Vocal** Gifts, they **say** something

1. Gift of **Prophecy**
2. Divers kinds of **Tongues**
3. Interpretation of **Tongues**

II. The Gifts of the Spirit are **Distributed**

A. According to the **Will** of God

B. **1 Corinthians 12:11** - But one and the same **Spirit** works all these things, **distributing to each one individually as He wills.** NKJV

C. To those who earnestly **Desire** them.

D. **1 Corinthians 12:31** - But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

III. **Discerning** of Spirits

A. **Discerning** of Spirits is not the Gift of **Discernment** or fault finding of other people.

B. The **discerning** of spirits gives us supernatural insight into the spirit world. "To Discern" means to perceive by seeing or hearing. Therefore, **discerning** of spirits is the same as seeing or hearing in the realm of spirits.

C. **Discern** - "a distinguishing, a clear discrimination, discerning, judging," is translated "discerning" in 1 Corinthians 12:10, of "discerning" spirits, judging by evidence whether they are evil or of God.

D. **Spirits** - a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze; by analogy or figuratively, a spirit, i.e. (human) the rational soul, (by implication) vital principle, mental disposition, etc., or (superhuman) an angel, demon, or (divine) God, Christ's spirit, the Holy Spirit: ghost, life, spirit (-ual, -ually), mind.

E. Discerning of Spirits deals with spirits that exist in the spirit realm, whether they are; divine, satanic or human.

IV. Discerning of Spirits operates in the following ways.

A. To see people as they actually are.

1. Identifying between Gods children and Satan's children or seeing that someone has an unclean spirit.
2. It helps to detect demonic activity in the life of a person.
3. It clearly identifies different positive or negative characteristics of the human spirit.
4. It discerns a bitter, fearful, depressed, tormented or broken spirit.

B. To be able to distinguish between different spirits

1. The Holy Spirit
2. Angels
3. Fallen angels
4. Evil spirits and demons
5. Human spirits

V. Scriptures describing or showing, the Discerning of Spirits in Action.

A. Discerning the similitude of God

1. John 4:24 - God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
2. Exodus 33:20-23 - 20 But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." 21 And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. 22 So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. 23 Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen." NKJV
3. Moses was seeing in the spirit realm. He was able to discern the similitude of God by the manifestation of discerning of spirits.
4. Isaiah 6:1 - In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. NKJV
5. Isaiah experienced the Discerning of Spirits.

B. Discerning **Angels** –

1. 2 Kings 6:14-18 - 14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. NKJV

C. Other **scriptures** of the Discerning of Spirits in action

1. Jesus received the Discerning of Spirits about **Nathaniel**

John 1:47 - "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile."

2. Peter discerns bitterness as the characteristic of **Simon's** spirit.

Acts 8:23 - "For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity."

3. **Paul** perceived that the lame man had faith to be healed.

Acts 14:9 - "The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed."

4. Paul discerned an evil spirit in a **woman**.

Acts 16:18 - "But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."

5. **John** encourages us to discern all spirits.

1 John 4:1 - "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

6. Discerning of Spirits keep us from being **deceived**

1 Kings 13:6-30 – The **Man** of God got deceived.

Joshua 9:3-13 – **Joshua** got deceived.

**Conclusion** – It is vitally important that we are sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives allowing His Spirit to bear witness with our spirit what is of the Lord. We must also make our decisions according to the infallible word of God and earnestly desire the Supernatural manifestation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to be in operation in our lives revealing, empowering or speaking through us to bring forth God's will to people's life here on earth.