The Need for Spiritual Discernment Acts 16:16-18

Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. 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.

What was wrong? Was what the girl was saying wrong? No. What she was saying was the truth; they were the servants of the Most high God, who were showing them the way of Salvation but the spirit in the woman was wrong. The spirit in this woman was grieving Paul’s spirit.

As Christians we need to test the spirit behind someone or something to see if it is of God. I 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.

The real Spirit of God will not be fleshly, worldly, showy or carnal but always spiritual. If someone or something is professing to be Godly and operating in the Spirit but is fleshly, worldly or showy then something is wrong. If someone is filled with the real Spirit of God, and operating in the Spirit then they will not act carnal in the spirit.

Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. I Cor. 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. The real Spirit of God doesn’t bring bondage or fear but Life, liberty and Joy. There are many false spirits today that people are receiving that are bringing them into spiritual bondage. In this hour Charismatic spirits are running rampart in the land and Christians need to be aware and on guard.

II Cor. 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. II Cor. 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. II Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Today many things and ideas are having the prefix “Christian” attached to them, but just because the word Christian is before something does not make it Christian. Today we have “Christian” rock, “Christian” rap”Christian” heavy metal, “Christian” Psychology and just about “Christian” everything else. They may give it a Christian name, put some Christian idea or theme into it, but if something is worldly and evil in nature it is not Christian. For example, Rock and Roll music since it’s beginning has been associated with sin, rebellion, drug use and the occult. Rock and Roll music is senual in nature, not with only words but with the musical beat. The term Rock and Roll comes from the slang term for fornication. The spirit behind Rock and Roll music is evil and cannot be made Christian by adding Christian lyrics. It may have Christian lyrics but the spirit behind it is still the evil and rebellious spirit of Rock and Roll. The same Rock beat and style is used in many contemporary music songs, which are being played in worship services, on so called Christian Radio stations and in Christian homes across the world. Is it any wonder why the church world is in trouble when the precious hymns written by true men and women of faith are being thrown out the door in many churches in favor of worldly rock sounding songs that was written by some long haired, tattooed, body pierced hippie who claims to be a christian, but looks and lives like the world? As true Christians we need to take a stand and be very careful of the music we listen to. We need to ask ourselves as we listen to the music is this glorifying to God or satisfying to the flesh? A Christian needs to be very careful about what he reads, listens to, and involves himself with.

Never think that you cannot be influenced by wrong spirits.

Christians need to be aware of what is going on and stand strong against all that is not of God, Keep praying, receive the infilling and the refillings of the Holy Ghost and seek the Lord for spiritual discernment.

Acts 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Titus 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;