

## **Spiritual Gift: DISCERNMENT**

**Definition:** to clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:10

**Greek Word:** diakrisis - judicial estimation, to separate thoroughly, discriminate, judge

**Scriptural Role Models to Study:** Peter (Acts 5:1-10; 8:18-23)

### **Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:**

- \_\_\_ people look to this person for help in figuring out right from wrong
- \_\_\_ able to spot a spiritual phony
- \_\_\_ known for good spiritual judgment
- \_\_\_ seeks to prevent false teaching and confusion from overtaking the church
- \_\_\_ desirous of protecting the body from error

### **Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:**

Discernment Ministry:

assessment/evaluation of quality and maturity of an established ministry,  
doctrinal evaluation

Prayer Ministry:

prayer seeking, spiritual warfare

Staffing Ministry:

interviewing, needs assessment

Visionary Ministry:

consultant, on a church board or steering committee

### **Observations About This Gifting:**

- Detecting insincerity and wrong motives, authenticity and honesty, in another person is part of a discerning nature.
- People with the gift of discernment need to be cautious in designing or implementing solutions. They may be correct in their perceptions but ineffective in their approach, unless accompanied by other appropriate gifts.
- People with this gift may need to work through self-righteousness and defensiveness which can easily breed.
- There needs to be an understanding of the difference between judging to condemn and judging to correct with mercy and truth.