

DESIRING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“Eagerly pursue Love, yet desire Spiritual Gifts...”

- 1st Corinthians 14:1

Class 3

Discernment of Spirits

- Literal Meaning:

- To separate or make a distinction
- The ability to distinguish between truth and error.

- Supporting References:

- 1st Corinthians 12:10

- 10) To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

- Acts 5:1-4

- 1) But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,
- 2) And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.
- 3) But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?
- 4) Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

- Matthew 16:21-23

- 21) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.
- 22) Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.
- 23) But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

• Acts 17:10-12

- 10) And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.
- 11) These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
- 12) Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

• Matthew 22:17-18

- 17) Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?
- 18) But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

Important Point

• 1st Corinthians 13:8-10

- 8) Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.
- 9) For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.
- 10) But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

• Paul told the Corinthians that some of the Spiritual Gifts would be temporary

- When the First Century Ecclesia matures and receives the completed Word of God, it will no longer need the miraculous gifts

• This gift is one that has a more miraculous side to it, and we are not trying to say that this part of the gift still remains today

• We are not like Jesus and able to miraculously perceive people's thought

• But, we are instructed to work to distinguish between right and wrong

- And it would be good for us to be more perceptive of people's feelings

• Characteristics:

• People with this Gift:

- Distinguish truth from error, right from wrong
- Identify deception in others with accuracy
- Recognize inconsistencies in teachings

- Traits:

- Perceptive, Insightful, Sensitive, Intuitive, Decisive, Challenging, Truthful

- Cautions

- People with this Gift should be aware of:
 - Could be harsh when confronting others
 - Need to confirm their perceptions before speaking