



**Discernment:** the ability to decipher between truth and error, right and wrong:

A gift to the church to judge well by the spirit of God

**Scriptural Basis:**

- 1 Thess 5:21-22 *But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil."*
- 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.
- Phil 1: 9-10 - Hebrews 5:12-14

**Types of Discernment**

1. **Natural Perception:** basic level of sight (common sense)
  - a. To judge well -
    - i. We can see the external of what is happening
    - ii. We also have wisdom and perception about what's taking place behind the scenes
2. **Perceptive Discernment**
  - a. Being tuned into people's motives
  - b. Perceiving the spiritual realm
  - c. Being sensitive to atmospheres (both spiritual and natural)
  - d. The ability to discern the demonic realm and spiritual realities
3. **Spiritual Discernment:** (beyond what's natural and definitive)
  - a. Your discernment is life-giving
  - b. It brings freedom and transformation
  - c. It builds the church (1 Cor 12)
  - d. And, it draws people to Jesus
    - i. Luke 8:26 the people saw someone insane but Christ saw the demonic presence
4. **Characteristics of Discernment:**
  - Subtle, still and quiet
  - Consistent yet often overlooked
  - Bible Based: Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.