

# **False Spirituality: Avoiding a Counterfeit Spiritset**

## *Part 2: Discerning Spirits*

(3/30/25)

Please turn to 1 Corinthians 2:6

### LAST WEEK:

- The Lord prophesies that in the last days before the return of Jesus, the activity of demonic spirits and their teachings upon humanity will increase, inspiring people to reject Jesus and the Bible and turn to a false spirituality.
- Said teachings will not be secular atheism such as Communism or Evolution—it will be intensely spiritual/religious in nature.
- The heart is the part of us that does the believing and therefore needs convicting and convincing?
- What makes the greatest impact on the heart? What can cause a person to have a dramatic shift in the way they believe and live, whether good or bad?
- It's not facts, evidence, or data—that's the purview of the mind.
- Emotions and passion certainly stir the heart, but can shift with the blowing of the wind.
- It's when revelation from "above" hits our spirit that the heart makes the greatest and long-term change.
- What impacts our spirit is a supernatural encounter: dream, waking vision, NDE, or visitation from a spirit being—whether of God or the Devil.
- Majority of religions and cults were formed after the founder had a supernatural encounter.
- Here in the last days, God is pouring out His Holy Spirit upon humanity and He'll give us dreams, visions, and we will prophesy.
- Satan is doing the same to cause confusion: pouring out his false spirit to give humanity the same supernatural encounters to prepare people to worship the Beast when that time comes.
- You and I should never fear the supernatural, but to discern it.
- We cannot simply shy away from it and call it all the devil. The Lord gave us prophecy, tongues, healing, miracles, and yes: discerning of SPIRITS as gifts that He did not take back.
- Let us get abundantly wet with the Holy Spirit as God pours Him out on us! Let us seek dreams, visions, and prophecy that God grants! Let us flow in the gifts He offers to build the Church!

TODAY we go further into DISCERNMENT. After telling the Corinthians that God the Holy Spirit give supernatural gifts and what they are, we come to this one:

**[1Co 12:10 ESV]** 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, **to another the ability to distinguish between spirits**, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

**Verse 10: the spirits are the issue.** Wisdom, knowledge, doctrine, teaching, theology, truth, falsehood all originate from the spirit realm and not from here. It's spirits who produce these things and teach them to us.

**They are the content creators** who have produced millions of spiritual "YouTube" videos that we have access to. If you've ever browsed YouTube there's stuff there on both ends of the spectrum and everything in between. There are Godly truths, demonic lies, and videos that teach you how to change your oil.

The human body was made in the image of God. **WE HAVE A HEAD THAT CONTAINS A BRAIN** and it's the command center. If my brain says lift my right arm, I lift it. If it says talk, I talk. The brain is the receiver of all information and said data then gets transferred to the rest of our body.

**Jesus is the Head, we are the Body.**

**[Col 1:18 ESV]** 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

There are cliches in the church like **"look to Jesus, trust in Jesus, ask Jesus,"** etc. and while said sayings might seem shallow when we hear them, they're hitting the target. When it comes to truth, holiness, teaching, revelation, wisdom, and conviction we must look to our Head: Jesus. When we open ourselves to Him, our spirit can receive a supernatural encounter that will impact our hearts for real repentance, change, growth, and maturity.

Our problem is when **we're tuned into "other" spiritual wavelengths giving us conflicting and confusing knowledge.** Discerning of Spirits is exactly that: which spirit is trying to talk with us? As a Christian we have a serious leg-up vs. unbelievers because we've been ATTACHED/BOUND to the Holy Spirit. Our headless body now has a Head Who is Christ.

**[Eph 4:14-15 ESV]** 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine doesn't mean shifting from pre-trib to post trib, then to mid-trib, then back to a pre-trib rapture. The confusion and lack of stability Paul is referring to is that of **different spirits giving teachings that conflict with each other to the point of heresy.**

*In his day, it was things like “do Christians still need to be circumcised?”* and observe the dietary laws to be Saved and in covenant with God? To say “yes” to those things was literally a different Gospel because Salvation is by grace through faith, not of works lest any man should boast. There were others denying the resurrection, some who claimed the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming already happened in the spirit, and still others who preached a different Jesus claiming He never came here in the flesh.

What's the famous “spiritual warfare” verse by John?

**[1Jo 4:1-2 ESV]** 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

*Notice John says “test the SPIRITS” and not people, because he understands that what's behind teaching that comes through people are spirits.*

**A person being tossed to and fro by different teachings lacks the stability of having Christ as their head.** While not all Christians agree on every point of doctrine, real ones agree on the fundamental tenants of our faith. Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. Jesus as the only way to God the Father and Salvation. His death on the Cross paying for our sins, His bodily resurrection to beat death, His ascension to Heaven to make intercession for us, and His bodily and visible return someday in our future. Also the Trinity and the Bible as God's inspired word.

The devil isn't trying to convince anyone of a different rapture timing or whether the Antichrist will be Roman or Muslim. **His spirit(s)—did you hear what I just said?—will attempt to seduce people away from the fundamental truths** I mentioned and teach alternatives. He tends to attack:

- God as Creator.
- The deity of Christ—reducing Him to just a man, prophet, or something lesser.
- Christ as the only way to forgiveness and Salvation.
- His atonement on the Cross.
- That He didn't really come back from the dead.

- That His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming already happened but was secret/invisible/spiritual.
- Or that it will be in the future (secret/invisible/spiritual).
- Denies bodily resurrection of the Church.
- Denies the Bible as God's word or twists the meaning of verses into something else.
- Perverts God's grace by denying a holy lifestyle.
- Exchanges evil for good, and good for evil.

## **EVEN A PERSON RAISED IN A BIBLICAL CHURCH CAN BECOME CONFUSED WHEN OTHER SPIRITS BEGIN TO TEACH THEM**

**“ALTERNATE” VIEWS.** Oprah Winfrey was raised Southern Baptist and she testifies there came a dramatic moment when she was sitting in church, listening to a sermon, and decided that she no longer wanted any part of what they were teaching. A paradigm shift happened for her in that moment where she cut herself (the body) off from the Head, Jesus, and attached herself to another head. Now she's into the New Age, New Thought, and all manner of false and heretical beliefs. With her massive platform, she's led many astray.

**As far as spirits are concerned, we look only to God the Father, God the Son Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.** Paul told the Corinthians that He teaches us and let's put this in historical context: back in those days, *you had a Rabbi* which simply means Teacher. A Rabbi would gather disciples who followed him around, learned from him, and sought to imitate him as much as possible. When the Rabbi taught, he would often stand and his disciples would literally sit at his feet...a saying we have in the church to this day. There were lots of Rabbis and lots of disciples back in that day and clearly: they didn't all agree on what was truth.

## **The same thing exists in the spirit world. Our Rabbi is Jesus alone.**

We sit at His feet and learn. We imitate Him and only Him. We are made in His image. We talk like Him, walk like Him, quote Him, mention His name proudly and more specifically: that He's OUR Teacher and we're darn proud of it. That He's better, smarter, and holier than the other spirit rabbi's out there who are teaching falsehood and deceiving their disciples.

**[1Co 2:6-10 ESV]** 6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"-- 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Verse 6: the ***“rulers of this age” aren’t humans, but fallen angels*** and demons and let’s remember: they are “rabbis” who have “disciples” and are always seeking more. Yet look what Paul reveals: 1) they are doomed and 2) will die/fade into nothingness. Our Teacher Jesus is immortal and SO IS HIS TEACHING. He declared once that Heaven and Earth will pass away, but His words will never pass away.

Verse 7: God’s wisdom is **“secret/hidden” only to the rest of the world, not the church.** It’s hidden from the fallen angels and demons who compete with Christ.

Verse 9: **mankind didn’t create religion.** Whenever atheists say religion is a construct of man I chuckle—have they really studied what the various religions believe? The claims every one of them makes are beyond the imagination of any man, woman, or child to come up with and organize into a theology!

No...**it took spirit beings who are far above us to impart said things upon us**, whether truthful or falsehood. It took human disciples to spread these various “gospels” to recruit others.

Now we get to the next phase and tie things together! **GOSPELS introduce spirit.**

**WHENEVER A GOSPEL IS SHARED VERBALLY BY A HUMAN, SAID HUMAN IS OPENING A DOOR TO THE SPIRIT WORLD AND INVITING THE HEARER THROUGH IT TO MEET THE SPIRIT BEING BEHIND THE MESSAGE.**

When you and I share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to someone, ***a spiritual portal is opened that the hearer can walk through and meet the Holy Spirit*** Who then convicts and convinces them to repent and be Saved.

**When another gospel is shared the same thing happens**, but the hearer is introduced to an unclean spirit who will convict and convince them.

**The appropriate “fruits” will be borne once a person binds themselves to a spirit** and makes said spirit their head. Here in the US and abroad, don’t you see the acts of violence and vandalism? The wisest Rabbi ever to walk the earth said ***“by their fruits you shall know them.”***

**Other gospels are being shared all the time** and everywhere preparing people for the coming of the Antichrist.

**Our Gospel needs to be shared to prepare people for the coming of Christ.**

He famously said that ***He would receive ANYONE who came to Him*** and cast no one out. This reception takes place in the spirit when our spirit body entangles itself with Him and He becomes our Head. He isn't just the brains of the operation, but the wisdom, truth, power, love, and joy. Just as a physical body can't do anything without a head, neither can we. We need Jesus!

Jesus our Head has given us **the Bible, the written word of God**, which operates as the greatest physical tool of discerning which spirit is talking that we have. Let's pause and be thankful: up until later "shorter" versions of the KJ Bible were copied in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, most people didn't own one and couldn't read it even if they did. Even then most westerners didn't own and/or couldn't read their Bibles.

**We take this for granted here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century** where 1) most everyone can read and 2) Bibles are a dime a dozen. Most every translation is actually FREE on the internet! We have greater access to God's word now than the church has had for 2000 years...and we need to. I believe this is the hand of God giving us every tool to act and respond here in the last days before Christ returns.

To make it simple: **if something is being taught that doesn't line up with what written in the Scriptures then a red flag needs to go up in our hearts.** While Christians don't agree on every point of doctrine, I'm referring to the fundamentals.

EXAMPLE: **ISLAM IS ONE OF THE MAJOR RELIGIONS** of the world and there are billions invested in said movement. The Quaran:

- Denies the deity of Christ and reduces Him to a prophet only.
- Says Jesus never went to the Cross and died—that Judas or someone else took His place to fake everyone out.
- Denies the Trinity and calls it blasphemy—and it's their version of "the unpardonable sin" to believe in it.
- Says Jesus was caught up alive to heaven and will return the same way to kill all the Jews on the planet.
- Says the Bible is corrupted and only the Quran is the word of God.
- Sees Mohammed as superior to Jesus and claims Jesus lied about being God's Son.

***New Age teaching is more insidious because it's presented in a soft,*** seemingly tolerant manner that's easier to take than the sword of radical Islam. It tends to claim one or more of the following about Jesus:

- He's an "Ascended Master"—just a regular human being who reached an advanced state of enlightenment like Buddha, Ghandi, etc.
- He's an extra-terrestrial from another planet.
- He's an angel.
- He's an ambiguous "higher dimensional" being.

**If you're ever unsure about Who Jesus is, just read the Book of Hebrews** which does the best job, bar none, in telling us. Chapter 1 starts right out saying God speaks to us through Jesus, that Jesus IS the radiance and glory of Father, that He made AND upholds the entire universe through His power, that He's not an angel and is superior to them in every way, that He's a King sitting on a throne ruling over everything and everyone sitting at the right hand of Father, and that Salvation is only through Him!

***Let's stick with Rabbi Jesus and the book He gave us: the Bible.*** We need Him in every way and He's the most supernatural Being there is. He's more than willing to pour out His Spirit and grant dreams, visions, and the gifts the Spirit! Some are occasionally caught up to heaven in the spirit to meet with Him!

**If you've experienced a supernatural event, visitation, or encounter it's important to the utmost that you talk about it with other Christians and let them help you vet it.**