

Empowered Pt. II, Week 10 - Aug. 30, 2026

What's Going On, Lord? - 1 Cor. 7:1-9

Celibacy

- Celibacy is one of the gifts that doesn't show up in the spiritual gifts lists
- For Paul, marriage is a concession, not the ideal
 - Paul thinks the best option is to remain single AND celibate
- Celibacy IS a gift and singleness CAN BE a gift
 - Those with the gift of celibacy are uniquely available to build the body of Christ
- **Definition:** A Spirit-given capacity to live with undivided devotion to Jesus and the work of the Kingdom, freeing a person to be unmarried and not suffer undue sexual temptation.

Indicators of Celibacy

- You find a sense of fulfillment and peace in singleness
- You experience freedom from sexual or romantic distraction
- You are energized to invest your time, attention, and gifts in advancing God's work and serving others

Discernment

- **Definition:** A Spirit-given ability to perceive the source or influence behind events, words, or actions, helping to distinguish what is from God, human, or evil.
- Discernment of Spirits is different from what we might call intuition
- 3 expression of Discernment of Spirits
 - Up → Sensitivity to those moments when God shows up
 - Out → When peoples' words or actions don't line up with their motivations
 - Down → An awareness of demonic powers

Indicators of Discernment

- You have a sensitivity to spiritual realities that others miss
- You can sense whether a situation or message aligns with God's will
 - Or you are consistently able to identify hidden error or deception
- You sense when it is God, humans, or demonic forces at work
- You have a strong instinct to protect and guide the community