

Discernment Tap Tag Notes

The Spiritual Gift of Discernment

Seeing Truth Clearly in a Confused World

1 Corinthians 12:10

“To another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”

-Not everything that claims to be spiritual is from God.

Matthew 7:15

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”

What is the Gift of Discernment?

Definition

The spiritual gift of discernment is the Spirit-given ability to recognize the difference between truth and deception, and between what is from God, from man, or from evil spirits.

It is not:

- Suspicion
- Negativity
- Being critical of everyone

1 John 4:1

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God.”

Discernment protects:

- the church
- the truth
- the people of God

1. Discernment Recognizes False Teaching

Acts 17:11

“These were more noble... in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily whether those things were so.”

Discernment asks:

- Does this align with God’s Word?
- Is Christ being honored?
- Does this teaching distort the gospel?

Matthew 24:24

“False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive.”

Why This Matters

Instead of biblical truth, many people

follow:

- charismatic personalities
- emotional experiences
- popular teaching

Discernment keeps believers anchored in Scripture.

Discussion Question

What are some ways false teaching can appear convincing today?

2. Discernment Reveals Spiritual Influence

Acts 16:16–18

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants

of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” But Paul turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.”

*Something can sound spiritual but still be spiritually wrong.

Discernment helps believers recognize:

1. The Holy Spirit’s work
2. Human manipulation
3. Demonic influence

2 Corinthians 11:14

“Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”

Deception rarely looks evil; instead it looks good on the surface.

Why This Matters

Discernment helps believers recognize:

- spiritual manipulation
- counterfeit spirituality
- false revival movements
- deceptive influences

Discussion Question

Why do you think spiritual deception often looks attractive or convincing?

3. Discernment Protects the Church

Titus 1:9

“Holding fast the faithful word... that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”

Acts 5:1–10

Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit about the proceeds of land they sold, and God judged the deception in order to

protect the purity of the church.

Why This Matters

Without discernment:

- churches drift into false doctrine
- people are spiritually harmed
- truth becomes compromised

Discernment acts like a spiritual guardrail.

Discussion Question

Why is discernment especially important for church leaders today?

How Do Believers Develop Discernment?

1. Through God's Word

Hebrews 5:14

“Those who by reason of use have their

senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

The more we know Scripture, the easier it is to recognize error.

2. Through the Holy Spirit

John 16:13

“When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.”

Discernment requires spiritual sensitivity.

3. Through Spiritual Maturity

Discernment grows with:

- experience
- prayer
- biblical knowledge

Challenge

1. Spend time daily in Scripture.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom.
3. Evaluate what you hear through the lens of God's Word.