



Dr. Paul L. Cox
Discerning
the
Battle



DISCERNING THE BATTLE

Bob Jones – Shepherd’s Rod, January 2000

One of the most notable promises given this year is the release of spiritual discernment on a greatly heightened scale. Universally, the church has been dreadfully lacking in spiritual discernment. Not only is spiritual sensitivity needed in rightly dividing the Word but also in discerning one another within the body and the revelations given to us by the Holy Spirit. These spiritual revelations will also be discerned through the five natural senses. The sense of taste, smell, sight, sound and touch will become increasingly sensitive to the realm of the Spirit providing additional illumination of the times and seasons ahead and the things that we ought to do in preparation for them.... The five senses will become sensitive to spiritual reality.

I CORINTHIANS 12:10

- “Distinguishing of spirits” - NAS
- “Distinguishing between spirits - NIV
- “Discerning of spirits” - NKJV

Hebrews 5:14 – But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Philippians 1:9 - And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, (NAS)

Malachi 3:18 - So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. (NAS)

Hosea 4:6 - My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. (NIV)

Sense – Greek: Aistheterion

- Translated – Organ of Sense

Discernment - Greek –diakrisis

- Defined - “to make a judgment on the basis of careful and detailed information, to judge carefully, to evaluate carefully. The emphasis of the word is on the result of the discernment, not on the method.”

DISCERN - ENGLISH DEFINITION

Webster

1. To detect with the eyes.
2. To detect with senses other than vision.

Historical Evidence

This is He [Holy Spirit] who places prophets in the Church, instructs teachers, directs tongues, gives powers and healings, does wonderful works, offers discrimination of spirits, affords powers, suggests counsels, and orders and arranges whatever other gifts are of charismata; thus making the Lord's Church everywhere, and in all, perfected and completed. The Trinity, Novatian (AD 210-280)

Anthony (AD 251-356) was said to have possessed the gift of discerning of Spirits and often knew things supernaturally. His prayers brought healing to the sick and deliverance to the demonized.

George Fox (1624-91), the founder of the Quakers experienced the revelation gifts of the Holy Spirit such as discerning of Spirits, the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom. "The Lord gave me a spirit of discerning, by which I at many times saw the states and conditions of people and could try the spirits." (2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity, p. 92)

John Fletcher (1729-1785)

Christ Manifested

"....a regenerate soul has its spiritual senses opened, and made capable of discerning what belongs to the spiritual world, in the same way that a newly born infant has his natural sense unlocked, and begins to see, hear, and taste what belongs to that material world into which he is entering."

Agnes Ozman (1870-1937) In a Watch night Service. (1900-1901)Humble in the name of Jesus, I laid my hand upon her head and prayed. I had scarcely repeated three dozen sentences when a glory fell upon her, a halo seemed to surround her head and face, and she began speaking in the Chinese language and was unable to speak in English for three days. (2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity, p. 139.)

Charles Parham (1873-1929). January 3, 1901. Sister Stanley told Charles Parham at Bethel College in Topeka, Kansas "Just before you

entered tongues of fire were sitting above their heads.” (2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity, p. 139)

Comparison of the Gifts

The other revelatory gifts - words of knowledge, words of wisdom, prophetic words, visions and dreams - appear to be released primarily through the mind, rather than the senses.

Peter Wagner

“The gift of discernment is the special ability that God gives to some members of the Body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be God is in reality divine, human or satanic.”
Your Spiritual Gift Can Help Your Church Grow!

HOW DO WE KNOW IF WHAT WE ARE DISCERNING IS ACCURATE?

C. Peter Wagner - Seven Criteria for verifying a message is really from God

1. It neither contradicts Scripture, nor would it violate any general biblical principles.
2. It brings glory to the triune God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. It conforms to the known will of God.
4. It blesses the people who have been touched by the event.
5. It measurably advances God’s Kingdom here on earth.
6. It is affirmed by at least two or three credible witnesses.
7. The conclusion merits agreement by responsible and like-minded colleagues.

Scriptural evidence for discernment through the senses

- Hearing
- Seeing
- Tasting
- Touching
- Smelling
- Proprioception The unconscious perception of movement and spatial orientation arising from stimuli within the body itself.

Hearing

- Adam and Eve heard God's voice in the Garden - Gen 3:8
- Abram received verbal instructions from the Lord to leave his country and kindred- Gen 12:1, and to offer his son as a burnt offering as a test of his faith - Gen. 22:2
- Moses heard God's Voice - Ex 19:19, Joshua 1:1, I Samuel 3:4
- Disciples heard Jesus - Luke 24:36-37
- Saul heard Jesus - Acts 9:3-5
- Peter heard an angel - Acts 12:6-8
- Paul heard things in heaven - 2 Corinthians 12:2-4

Luke 24:36-37 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

Acts 9:3-5 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

Acts 12:6-8 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him.

2 Cor 12:2-4 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows--was caught up to the third heaven. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

Seeing

- Abraham - Genesis 18:1-2
- Moses - Exodus 3:2
- Joshua - Joshua 5:13
- Elisha - II Kings 6:17
- Isaiah - Isaiah 6:1-2
- Mary spoke with an angel - Luke 1:26-28
- Disciples saw Moses and Elijah - Luke 9:28
- Believers saw tongues of fire - Acts 2:3
- Stephen saw Jesus in heaven - Acts 7:55
- John saw many things - Rev. 4:1-5, 5:8, 13-14, 7:9-11, 8:3-4, 9:2, 7-10, 10:10, 13:1, 11, and 14:6-6

Gen 18:1-2 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

Exod 3:2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

Josh 5:13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

Isa 6:1-2 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

Luke 1:26-28 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Acts 2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

Acts 7:55-56 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Rev 4:1-5 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this. At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

Job 4:16 It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; There was silence.

Tasting

- Psalms 34:8
- Jeremiah 15:16
- Ezekial 3:1-3
- Revelation 10:9-10

Ps 34:8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

Jer 15:16 when your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.

Ezek 3:1-3 and he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel." I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

Rev 10:9-10 I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.

Smelling

2 Cor 2:15-16 For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? (NIV)

Touching

Acts 12:7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. (NIV)

Job 4:1-16 Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair on my body stood up. (NKJ)

Why Do We Need to Discern?

John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (NIV)

Scientific Support for Feeling What Is Not Seen

Is there a scientific explanation for feeling something that is unseen to the eye? Perhaps the material from Michio Kaku's book *Beyond Einstein* will be helpful. Michio Kaku is a physicist and cofounder of the superstring theory.

"The superstring theory might possibly change that, for the process of fissioning from a ten dimensional universe down to smaller universe probably created a new form of matter. This dark matter has weight, like all matter, but is invisible (hence the name). Dark matter is also tasteless and has no smell. Even our most sensitive instruments cannot detect its presence. If you could hold this dark matter in your hand, it would feel heavy, but it would otherwise be undetectable. In fact, the only way to detect dark matter is by its weight: it has no other known interaction with other forms of matter." (*Beyond Einstein*, page 13)

WHAT CAN BE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED

- Angels, Cherubim, Seraphim, Spiritual Forces
- Warring Angels
- Demons
- Powers
- Witchcraft
- Objects in the Hands
- Feeling Levels of Demonization in Generations
- Objects on the Body
- Righteous and Evil Smells
- Spiritual Walls
- Anointing and Fire of God
- Pouring of love, mercy, grace, etc.
- Objects on Others
- Gossip
- Places of Trauma on Body
- Emotions of Others
- Cloud and Fire (Exodus)
- Ley Line
- Wheel
- Marriage-Headship

DISCERNING OBJECTS

Arrows, Spears, Clubs, Swords

Chains

Necklace

Yoke

Clothes

Wounds

Ropes

Cords

Arrows and Spears...

- Ps 57:4 I am in the midst of lions; I lie among ravenous beasts-- men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.
- Job 6:4 The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God's terrors are marshaled against me.
- Ps 7:13 He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows.
- Ps 11:2 For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.
- Ps 38:2 For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me.
- Ps 57:4 I am in the midst of lions; I lie among ravenous beasts-- men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.
- Ps 58:7 Let them vanish like water that flows away; when they draw the bow, let their arrows be blunted.
- Ps 64:3 they sharpen their tongues like swords and aim their words like deadly arrows.
- Ps 64:7t God will shoot them with arrows; suddenly they will be struck down.
- Ps 77:17 clouds poured down water, the skies resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth.
- Lam 3:13 pierced my heart with arrows from his quiver.
- Eph 6:16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
- Job 34:6 though I am right, I am considered a liar; although I am guiltless, his arrow inflicts an incurable wound.
- Ps 91:5 will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
- Prov 7:23 till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.
- Prov 25:18 like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is the man who gives false testimony against his neighbor.
- Jer 9:8 their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks with deceit. With his mouth each speaks cordially to his neighbor, but in his heart he sets a trap for him.

Chains...

- Ps 107:10-11 Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains, for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High.

- Ps 107:14 He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains.
- Ps 116:16 O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains.
- Eccl 7:26 I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner she will ensnare.
- Is 58:6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"
- Lam 3:7 He has walled me in so I cannot escape; he has weighed me down with chains.
- Ps. 102:19-20 The Lord looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death.

Necklace

- Ps. 73:6 Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.

Yoke

- Isa 58:6 Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"
- Jer 30:8 In that day,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them.
- Lam 1:14 "My sins have been bound into a yoke; by his hands they were woven together. They have come upon my neck and the Lord has sapped my strength. He has handed me over to those I cannot withstand.
- Nahum 1:13 Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."
- Acts 15:10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?"
- Gal 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Clothes

- Shame - Clothed in shame -Job 8:22 Your enemies will be clothed in shame, and the tents of the wicked will be no more.
- Ps 132:18 I will clothe his enemies with shame, but the crown on his head will be resplendent.
- Ps 83:16 Cover their faces with shame so that men will seek your name, O LORD.
- Ps 109:29 My accusers will be clothed with disgrace and wrapped in shame as in a cloak.

Wounds

- Job 24:12 The groans of the dying rise from the city, and the souls of the wounded cry out for help. But God charges no one with wrongdoing
- Ps 109:22 For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.

Ropes

- Ps. 119:61 - Though the wicked bind me with ropes, I will not forget your law.

Cords

- 2 Samuel 22:6- The sorrows of Sheol surround me; The snares of death confronted me.
- Job 36:8- And if they are bound in fetters, Held in the cords of affliction,
- Psalm 18-4,5- The pangs of death surrounded me, and the flood of ungodliness made me afraid. The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.
- Psalm 116:3- The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me.
- Psalm 129:4- The Lord is righteous; He has cut in pieces the cords of the wicked.
- Psalm 140:5- The proud have hidden a snare for me, and cords;

- Proverbs 5:22- His own iniquities trap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin.

Prison Walls

- Isaiah 61:1- ...And the opening of the prison to those who are bound
- Psalm 142:7-Bring my soul out of prison that I may praise Your name...
- Lamentations 3:7-He has hedged me in so that I cannot get out: He has made my chain heavy
- Isaiah 42:7- ...To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house
- Isaiah 45:2- ...I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron

DISCERNING OBJECTS ON OTHERS

SPIRITUAL LINES

Eyes - Psychic
Mouth - Curses
Neck - Pride
Heart - Family Relationships
Stomach - Curses
Genitals - Sexual
Back of Neck - Pride, Witchcraft

- **Eyes**

Ps 18:27 You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.
Prov 21:4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!
Matt 6:22-23 The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

- **Mouth**

Ps 10:7 His mouth is full of curses and lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue.
Ps 50:19 You use your mouth for evil and harness your tongue to deceit.
Prov 6:12 A scoundrel and villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth.

- **Neck**

Tied with pride, arrogance, stubbornness.
Ps 75:5 Do not lift your horns against heaven; do not speak with outstretched neck.
Nahum 1:13 Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away.
Exod 32:9 I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people.
Exod 33:3 Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way.
Deut 9:6 Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.
Acts 7:51 You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!
Is 48:4 For I knew how stubborn you were; the sinews of your neck

- **Heart**

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?
Eccl 9:3 This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of men, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead.
Mark 7:20-23 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"

- **Stomach**
- **Genitals**
1 Cor 6:18-19 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.
Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.
- **Back of Neck** – See neck

LINES OF RELATIONSHIPS

- Between Husband and Wife
- Between Parents and Children
- Between Siblings
- Between Relatives
- Between Believers

DISCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS – ROMANS 12:6-8

- Head – Teaching
- Eyes – Prophet
- Mouth – Exhortation
- Shoulders – Administration
- Heart – Mercy
- Arms – Giving
- Hands – Serving

Rom 12:6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

DISCERNING AUTHORITY

RIGHT THIGH

“On His robe and on His thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” Rev. 19:16

- **Thigh**

Gen 24:2 He said to the chief servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh.

Gen 24:9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

Gen 47:29 When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury me in Egypt,

Exod 29:22 "Take from this ram the fat, the fat tail, the fat around the inner parts, the covering of the liver, both kidneys with the fat on them, and the right thigh. (This is the ram for the ordination.)

Exod 29:27 "Consecrate those parts of the ordination ram that belong to Aaron and his sons: the breast that was waved and the thigh that was presented.

Lev 7:32 You are to give the right thigh of your fellowship offerings to the priest as a contribution.

Lev 7:33 The son of Aaron who offers the blood and the fat of the fellowship offering shall have the right thigh as his share.

Lev 7:34 From the fellowship offerings of the Israelites, I have taken the breast that is waved and the thigh that is presented and have given them to Aaron the priest and his sons as their regular share from the Israelites."

Lev 8:25 He took the fat, the fat tail, all the fat around the inner parts, the covering of the liver, both kidneys and their fat and the right thigh.

Lev 8:26 Then from the basket of bread made without yeast, which was before the LORD, he took a cake of bread, and one made with oil, and a wafer; he put these on the fat portions and on the right thigh.

Lev 9:21 Aaron waved the breasts and the right thigh before the LORD as a wave offering, as Moses commanded.

Lev 10:14 But you and your sons and your daughters may eat the breast that was waved and the thigh that was presented. Eat them in a ceremonially clean place; they have been given to you and your children as your share of the Israelites' fellowship offerings.

Lev 10:15 The thigh that was presented and the breast that was waved must be brought with the fat portions of the offerings made by fire, to be waved before the LORD as a wave offering. This will be the regular share for you and your children, as the LORD has commanded."

Num 5:22 May this water that brings a curse enter your body so that your abdomen swells and your thigh wastes away." "Then the woman is to say, "Amen. So be it."

Num 5:27 If she has defiled herself and been unfaithful to her husband, then when she is made to drink the water that brings a curse, it will go into her and cause bitter suffering; her abdomen will swell and her thigh waste away, and she will become accursed among her people.

Num 6:20 The priest shall then wave them before the LORD as a wave offering; they are holy and belong to the priest, together with the breast that was waved and the thigh that was presented. After that, the Nazirite may drink wine.

Num 18:18 Their meat is to be yours, just as the breast of the wave offering and the right thigh are yours.

Rev 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

CAUTIONS

1. Do Not Tell Everything You Know.
2. We All Discern Differently
3. You Are Really Not Discerning. The Lord Is Telling You.
4. Do Not Fight Everything You Discern. Always Ask The Lord What You Are To Do.

Discerning the Battle

Discerning the Battle is designed to provide a biblical look at what it means to use our physical senses to discern spiritual realities. This teaching examines what the biblical gift of discernment is, how to use it, and gives practical examples of ways of using this powerful gift of the Holy Spirit. *Discerning the Battle* is meant to equip the mature Christian with some of the tools necessary to minister in the mostly unseen world of blessings and curses, ministering angels, and oppressing demons.

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ABOUT PAUL: Paul is an ordained American Baptist minister, who had an experience with the power of God which set him on an unforgettable journey into the supernatural realm. Based out of Southern California, Paul and his wife Donna co-chair *Aslan's Place*, a unique deliverance ministry, and have traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe teaching on the power of God, deliverance, and discernment.

