

# Discernment

The gift of discernment is the ability to recognize what is genuine from what is pretence; what is of God from what is not of God.

## Scriptural References

Joshua 2:8-11, Judges 4:4-5, 1 Samuel 16:6-13, 1 Kings 10:1-13, Matthew 16:21-23, Acts 5:1-10, Acts 8:19-25, Philippians 1:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22, 1 John 4:1 & 6

## Biblical Models

Rahab, Deborah, Samuel, Queen of Sheba, Jesus, Paul, Peter

## People with this gift can

- Have a clear sense of right from wrong; truth from error; genuine motives from false ones.
- Perceive deception in others.
- Recognize inconsistencies between words and deeds.
- Sense falseness.
- Know whether a word or action is truly in accordance with God or not.

## Cautions

- May be unloving and harsh when confronting others.
- May remain silent instead of confronting others when needed.
- May become too sure of themselves; lack humility, critical self-assessment, or self-awareness.
- May develop a negative "spirit of criticism" that is constantly critical of everything.

## Personal Traits

- Perceptive
- Intuitive
- Truthful
- Insightful
- Decisive
- Sensitive
- Challenging

## Tips for nurturing this gift

- Develop an above average knowledge of the Bible.
- Seek confirmation and evaluation of others.
- Maintain a spirit of openness to new insight; new discoveries.

## Possible Tasks

- Supporting new Christians, counselling, screening & discernment committees, ...

## Not to be confused with the responsibility of all Christians to ...

Test for themselves between right and wrong.