**Discernment of Spirits: Some Excerpts from Scripture**

**1 John 4:1**

*Beloved, do not trust every spirit, but put the spirits to a test to see they belong to God, because many prophets have appeared in the world.*

**Galatians 5:16-24**

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 2gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

[**Romans 8:26-27**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A26-27&version=ESV)

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

[**Romans 12:2**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A2&version=ESV)

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**Ephesians 6:12**

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*

**1 Thessalonians 5:12, 19-21**

*...judgment as to their genuineness and proper use belongs to those who preside over the Church, and to whose special competence it belongs, not indeed to extinguish the Spirit, but to test all things and hold fast to that which is good.*

**1 Peter 4:10**

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms*.

**We know that the Holy Spirit of God is not afraid to be discerned in what He says. Rather, He welcomes discernment, for He is the giver of this, and God's words have been given by Him. As Jesus is the truth, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and will always witness to the personal truth of Jesus** (Merrill F. Unger)

**1 Corinthians 12: 5-11**

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,and to still another the interpretation of tongues.All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*