

# DISCERNMENT

The God-given ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by recognizing truth or error within a message, person or event.

## CHARACTERISTICS:

- They can generally rely on their first impressions of people and determine whether or not a person’s motives or character are authentic.
- They often get “gut” reactions about an atmosphere or experience and know whether it is bad or good.
- They have a “spiritual sense of smell.”
- They can distinguish different, ungodly sources of spiritual activity.
- They have the ability to keep the church from drifting off into extremes.

## BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:

- David (Samuel 16:5)
- Peter (Acts 8:18-25)
- Jesus while tempted (Matthew 4:1-11)
- Paul (Acts 16:16-18)

## CAUTION

- Can become judgmental.
- Work through difficult situations with love, patience, kindness, and understanding.

## NOTES

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