

Discernment: Session 2 – March 19, 2025
“Developing Discernment & The Gifts of the Spirit”

Session 1: Reactions, Questions, Journaling

Discernment in Practice

The Role of the Holy Spirit: John 16:4b-13

The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in the development of discernment. The Spirit aids believers in understanding Scripture and applying it to their lives.

Scripture

The “practice” of discernment includes scripture study, prayer, community and counsel, testing and evaluation.

- *1 Corinthians 12
- James 1:16b – see James 5:13-18
- Romans 12:2 – see Romans 12:1-8

Discussion and Reflection:

How do the fruits of the Spirit help us recognize Godly discernment? How do you react to this statement?

The gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians) serve as a starting point for godly discernment. Since discernment is about distinguishing truth from falsehood and aligning with God’s will, the presence of these gifts in our lives assures us that our decisions and actions are Spirit-led.

Which fruit do you see most in your life? Which do you need to develop?

How can I cultivate more of the Spirit’s gifts in my daily decisions?

Reflection: How do we know if our gifts and resulting fruits are led by the Spirit?

“The fruits of the Spirit do serve as a litmus test for spiritual gifts, but discernment also requires prayer, alignment with the whole counsel of Scripture, Christlikeness, community input and wise counsel, inner peace (not just convenience), and long-term fruit. Instead of reading Scripture just to justify our choices, we should humbly ask: “Is this leading me closer to Christ and producing His fruit in my life?” That’s the real test of whether we are being guided by the Spirit.” Read Matthew 12:33-37.

Session 3: Next Week

Discernment & Fruits of the Spirit

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, James 3:13-18

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<https://matthewroot.ca/resources/the-personal-compass-a-tool-for-discernment/>

- a. North: What is your ‘north star’? What is guiding you right now? What is it that orients you in your life choices right now?
- b. East: What is your ‘rising sun’? What is emerging in the world or in your life?
- c. South: What is your ‘sunny side’? What is energizing and exciting you? What is urging you to movement and spontaneity?
- d. West: What is your ‘setting sun’? What is coming to an end right now?
- e. Center: What is at your core right now? What is your ‘yes’ to true, wholehearted living?

