

Discernment: Session 3 – March 26, 2025
“Discernment and Spiritual Gifts: What am I to Do?”

Goal: Discern and understand the gifts the Spirit has given you and use those gifts to guide your calling (“good fruit”). You come closer to God when you discern God’s gifts to you.

The Gifts of the Spirit (some scriptural references)

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- Romans 12:3-8
- What did you hear the Spirit telling you?

Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit Chart (handout from session 1, we have more!)

Gift → How the gift is used → Fruit of the Spiritual Gift
(1 Cor. 12:4-11) Wisdom and Knowledge → (James 3:13-18)

Questions:

- What gifts do you recognize in yourself?
- How do spiritual gifts influence the way we discern God’s will?

Reflection:

Have you ever faced a major decision or incident in your life? How did you approach it?

“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. 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.

The Personal Compass: A Tool for Discernment (from handout for session 2)

Note: this may help you find where you need personal discernment!

North: Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

East: 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

South: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

West: 2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Center: Matthew 22:37-39 "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Next Week / Session 4: Your Spiritual Type & Discernment (What makes you feel close to God?)