



Walking in Kingdom Discernment

by John Himmelberger

Intro

Some insights don't just inform—they align us with Heaven. From Jesus' restraint with Peter to Paul's pause with the slave girl, spiritual authority has always required spiritual clarity. This teaching explores how Kingdom discernment is more than gut instinct—it's the Spirit-enabled ability to perceive what's really going on and respond in rhythm with Heaven. Whether you carry the gift of discernment or are learning to walk in it daily, this message will anchor you in a freeing truth: discernment isn't suspicion—it's intimacy in action.

My Intention and Assumptions

I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be 'salt' and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

About the Author

John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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Walking in Kingdom Discernment

A follow-up to "Walking in Kingdom Authority"

I. Review and Revelation: Discernment Is the Precision of Authority

As we grow in Kingdom authority, it's essential that our authority is not wielded recklessly or emotionally, but with discernment. Last week, we were reminded:

- We are **citizens** of Heaven
- We carry **culture** that shapes how we think
- We've been **trained** and **formed**
- We live by the **Spirit**, not the flesh
- We are rooted in **presence**
- We are **representatives** of the King

Now, the progression is clear: **authority is only trustworthy when paired with discernment.**

Key Statement: "You don't just carry revival. You don't just carry authority. You carry the wisdom of Heaven."

II. Prophetic Declaration: Aligning Our Spirit to Hear

The Spirit speaks and I hear.

The Spirit reveals and I respond.

This sets the tone for relational partnership with the Holy Spirit.

Key idea: God is not silent. The Holy Spirit continues to speak—guiding, convicting, and revealing truth. But hearing isn't just auditory—it's about attuning our spirit.

John 16:13 (AMP)

"But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth... and He will disclose to you what is to come."

Revelation 2:7 (AMP)

"He who has an ear, let him hear and heed what the Spirit says to the churches."

Isaiah 30:21 (ESV)

“And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.”

Reflection:

Hearing the Spirit is the result of a yielded posture. We don't train our ears to hear—we train our hearts to respond. When we cultivate intimacy, we recognize His voice (John 10:27).

III. Teaching: Understanding Kingdom Discernment

A. What Is Kingdom Discernment?

Discernment is not suspicion. It is not about reading people—it's about reading the moment.

Kingdom discernment is the **Spirit-enabled ability to perceive what's happening behind the scenes** and to respond in alignment with Heaven. It's **alignment before action**.

Key Truth:

Discernment is a **gift**—*fully given* by the Spirit, not earned by maturity. What grows is not the gift itself but our **awareness, trust, and skillful use** of it.

B. Two Types of Discernment

Type	Given To	Nature	Purpose
Gift of Discernment of Spirits	As the Spirit wills (1 Cor 12:10)	Supernatural insight into the spiritual realm	To protect, guide, and expose spiritual realities
General Spiritual Discernment	All believers (Heb. 5:14, Phil. 1:9)	Developed through intimacy, maturity, and practice	To choose rightly, follow God's will, and stay rooted in truth

1. The Gift of Discernment of Spirits

1 Corinthians 12:10 (AMP):

"...and to another the working of miracles, and to another prophecy [foretelling the future, speaking a new message from God to the people], and to another discernment of spirits [the ability to distinguish sound, godly doctrine from the deceptive doctrine of man-made religions and cults, to distinguish between what is of the Holy Spirit and what is not], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues."

1 Corinthians 12:11 (AMP):

"All these things [the gifts, the achievements, the abilities, the empowering] are brought about by one and the same Holy Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses."

Not everyone receives this gift. It is distributed according to the Spirit's will.

2. General Spiritual Discernment

This type of discernment is available to all believers and grows with maturity and spiritual practice.

Hebrews 5:14 (AMP):

"But solid food is for the spiritually mature, whose senses are trained by practice to distinguish between what is morally good and what is evil."

Philippians 1:9–10 (AMP):

"And this I pray, that your love may abound more and more [displaying itself in greater depth] in real knowledge and in practical insight, so that you may learn to recognize and treasure what is excellent [identifying the best and distinguishing moral differences], and that you may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ [actually living lives that lead others away from sin]."

Romans 12:2 (AMP):

"And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you]."

Restored Insight:

The Spirit doesn't give us a dimmer switch on discernment. He gives it fully. But our **confidence** in it grows as we **partner with Him**, act on what we hear, and learn to separate His voice from our own or others'.

C. Why It Matters

Without discernment:

- We speak **prematurely**
- We lead **reactively**
- We misinterpret what God is actually doing

Discernment allows us to exercise authority in love, not control.

It teaches us to **pause, perceive, and partner** with Heaven's rhythm.

"Suspicion sees what it fears. Discernment sees what the Spirit reveals."

Examples:

- **Jesus & Peter:** Jesus didn't rebuke Peter personally—He discerned the *spirit* behind the words (Matthew 16:23).
 - **Paul & the slave girl:** Paul recognized that the girl's flattery was demonic, not helpful (Acts 16:16–18).
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D. The Flow of Kingdom Discernment

Step	Description	Example
Perception	What you sense or feel	"Something feels heavy here."
Interpretation	Asking the Spirit what it means	"It's not rebellion—it's fear."
Response	Action aligned with Heaven's rhythm	"I won't correct—I'll cover in prayer."

Discernment becomes **Kingdom** when it results in a **life-giving response**, not just an accurate assessment.

E. Final Insight

1 Corinthians 2:14–15 (AMP):

"But the natural [unbelieving] man does not accept the things [the teachings and revelations] of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness [absurd and illogical] to him; and he is incapable of understanding them, because they are spiritually discerned and appreciated [and he is unqualified to judge spiritual matters]. But the spiritual man [the spiritually mature Christian] judges all things [questions, examines and applies what the Holy Spirit reveals], yet is himself judged by no one [the unbeliever cannot judge and understand the believer's spiritual nature]."

Revelation is not received by intellect—it's received by posture.

The natural mind may hear the words but miss the meaning.

Closing Declaration:

"The Spirit speaks—and I hear, because I've been given ears that work.
The Spirit reveals—and I respond, because discernment is already mine."

I don't earn discernment—I steward it.
And the more I trust Him, the more I walk in it.”

IV. Scripture Focus and Reflection

John 5:19

So Jesus answered them by saying, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself [of His own accord], unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever things the Father does, the Son [in His turn] also does in the same way.”

- Discernment begins in intimacy.
- Jesus had all authority, but He never used it independently. He *waited to see*.

This verse is a profound insight into **Kingdom discernment and response**—Jesus modeled perfect alignment with the Father, doing only what He *saw* the Father doing. It reinforces the truth that **spiritual vision precedes action**, and that our authority flows from our **partnership with Heaven's initiative**.

Philippians 1:9–10

“And this I pray, that your love may abound more and more [displaying itself in greater depth] in real knowledge and in practical insight, so that you may learn to recognize and treasure what is excellent [identifying the best and distinguishing moral differences], and that you may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ [actually living lives that lead others away from sin].”

- Love is the soil that discernment grows in.
- Discernment isn't just about what is right—it's about *what is best* in the Kingdom.

This passage ties beautifully into the theme of discernment—it shows that **love, knowledge, and insight** are meant to work together to produce a life of wisdom, clarity, and moral courage.

Reflective Question:

“Where in your life do you need to stop and ask, ‘Father, what are You doing here?’”

V. Activation: Practicing Discernment in Real Time

Everyone can practice discernment. While not all are given the spiritual gift of discerning spirits, every believer is called to cultivate Spirit-led awareness in daily life.

Exercise: Pause + Sense

- In pairs or triads, role-play a real-life moment: stress, conflict, confusion, or decision-making.
- One person pauses and asks aloud:
“Holy Spirit, what’s really going on here?”
- They share what they sense, and the group listens and encourages.

Instructions:

1. Listen without judgment—don’t default to human interpretation.
2. Ask the Spirit for insight—discern beyond the surface.
3. Respond with gentleness—not assumption, accusation, or fear.

This practice trains our spiritual senses (Hebrews 5:14) and builds trust in the Spirit’s leading.

VI. Commissioning: Declaring Discernment

Whether gifted with supernatural discernment or learning to walk in daily discernment, we respond to what God reveals. Speak these declarations aloud together:

Declarations:

1. *“I see what the Father is doing.”* (John 5:19)
2. *“I respond with wisdom, not reaction.”*
3. *“I walk with Heaven’s eyes and carry Heaven’s heart.”*

Place a hand on your head or heart, and say:

“Holy Spirit, train my senses to discern what You are doing.
Give me eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart that responds rightly.
Let my discernment reflect Your love, not fear.”

VII. Weekly Challenge + Reflection

Challenge:

Each morning:

“Spirit, give me discernment today. Let me respond from revelation, not reaction.”

Each evening:

“Did I pause? Did I see deeper? Did I ask before I assumed?”

Encourage people to journal or text one moment during the week where they sensed discernment at work; whether subtle or significant.

Closing Word:

“Discernment protects your authority and releases your peace.
Walk slow. Listen deep. Respond as Jesus would.”