

# The Power of Discernment

## Spiritual vs. Natural

### Spiritual Gift of Discernment

The spiritual gift of discernment is also known as the gift of “discernment of spirits” or “distinguishing between spirits.” The Greek word for the gift of discernment is *Diakrisis*. The word describes being able to distinguish, discern, judge or appraise a person, statement, situation, or environment. In the New Testament it describes the ability to distinguish between spirits as in 1 Corinthians 12:10, and to discern good and evil as in Hebrews 5:14.

The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment to enable certain Christians to clearly recognize and distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh in a given situation. The church needs those with this gift to warn believers in times of danger or keep them from being led astray by false teaching. See also I Corinthians 12:10, Acts 5:3-6; 16:16-18; 1 John 4:1.

**\*Take a Spiritual Gift Test at <https://spiritualgiftstest.com/spiritual-gift-discernment/>**

### Natural Discernment

Abstracts from Victor Cheng (<https://www.caseinterview.com/power-of-discernment>)

You possess a power that can determine the quality of your life. This power is called discernment. It is the skill (or lack thereof) to discern which people you want to associate or spend time with.

- Discernment is choosing which friends to be close to.
- Discernment is choosing whether or not to work for a particular boss.
- Discernment is choosing which spouse to marry.

The ability to discern who is good for you to get close to and who is not is a skill. It’s an important skill because the quality of your life is directly related to the quality of people around you. Going through life’s adversities with friends who put you down... harms your life.

Deciding to continue working with a boss who doesn’t respect you... harms your life. Choosing a romantic partner that doesn’t offer any emotional support... harms your life.

The inverse is true too. When life gets impossibly difficult, but you have amazing friends there with you... your life benefits. When your boss respects and supports you, your professional life benefits. When your romantic partner is a true partner to you through the ups and down, your life benefits. The ability to discern is a skill that’s worth developing. However, many people never develop this skill.

Note: “We were all born with a natural ability to discern between good and evil from infancy.”  
Cynthia Renee Kelly, 9/15/18