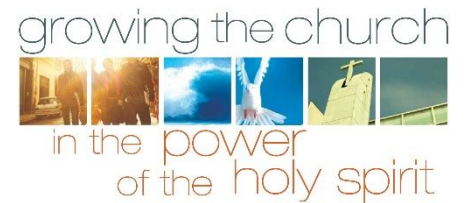


Video 4B

Step #5. Spiritual Discernment; Making Listening and Obedience Safe



Discernment makes it safe for us to welcome the guidance of the Holy Spirit as well as the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the dance of cooperating with God. Discernment is the practical theological safety-net that enables us to avoid the extremes of unthinking gullibility and obstructive skepticism and, instead, identify and affirm what is truly from God. Without it churches may be led astray or be afraid to welcome the supernatural activity of God. We introduce four guidelines for discernment of the authentic working of the Holy Spirit and the practicality and value of debriefing for education as well as safety.

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Twin dangers to avoid

- ❖ Gullibility
- ❖ Scepticism

It is right to test what is said...

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 14:29
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 2:14
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:21

Four vital questions to help with discernment

Reasoned discernment (distinct from spiritual gift, or human insight)

1. Does it give glory to Jesus Christ in the present and in the future?
 - ❖ John 16:13-14
 - ❖ 1 John 4:2-3

2. Is it consistent with the intentions and character of God as revealed in scripture?
 - ❖ Acts 17:11

3. Do other people who are born again and filled with the Holy Spirit have a confirming witness?
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 14:29

4. Is there confirmation in objectively verifiable events or facts?
 - ❖ Isaiah 55:11
 - ❖ Deuteronomy 18:21-22