

Four main assumptions:

1. Because the world we are in is spiritual, something spiritual is actually happening (in other words, don't be surprised – be expectant and ready to discern “what does this mean?”)
2. We *can* discern the difference between the spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood
3. The confession of Christ is the key to all
4. If you are “in Christ” you are equipped for the work of discernment

Next steps:

- **Go back to the beginning:** do you confess Christ? Are you willing to partner in the Supernatural? Are you actively praying for God to anoint, direct and gift you for His work?
- **Go back to the mirror:** are you walking clean and are you cultivating relational health with others?
- **Go back to the Word:** Jesus himself answered the tempter with Scripture – are you in the Word?
- **Go back to the front line:** greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world.

Some practical advice about living this out:

(thanks to [The Believer's Guide to Spiritual Warfare](#) by Thomas B. White)

1. More about discernment

- a. Three levels: the natural ability of human intuition; a general supernatural endowment for all believers; a specific and sovereign gift of the discernment of spirits (1 Cor. 13:10)
- b. Discernment is the Greek term “*diakrisin*” which indicates working toward a clear discrimination, a judging by evidence. “It encourages me that the verb is preceded by the preposition *pros*, which indicates that the seasoned Christian moves ‘toward a distinguishing’ of good and evil. We have room and time to grow!” (p. 92)
- c. The Spirit gift (the distinguishing of Spirits) “consists of spiritual discrimination endowed by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of judging the source of power-human, satanic, or divine. This ability may be immediate, or it may be cultivated over time by observation and by deepening one’s sensitivity to the Spirit of God.” (p. 93) All Spirit gifts are to be used with maturity.

2. Establishing your home/apartment as a spiritual refuge

- a. **Remove desecration:** having prayed for discernment, remove (even literally) anything that is illuminated by the Holy Spirit
- b. **Consecrate the place for God:** pray room by room for blessing, anointing and the sovereignty of God to reign. As the owner or renter, you have authority in Christ to declare this to be.
- c. **Fill the home with goodness:** see your place as a gift for others to share with hospitality and grace; be discerning about what you buy and bring into the house
- d. **Maintain protection:** pray unceasingly with alertness; exercise spiritual authority; discern and deal with evil influences as things arise; confront ungodly values that arise; resolve family tensions as they arise; deal with isolated attacks decisively.
- e. **Establish a godly heritage:** if you are raising children, see your home as the place of solace, spiritual equipping AND kingdom-minded hospitality and generosity.