

OASIS CHURCH 22.5.22

DISCERNMENT-
The most needed gift?

Looking Outwards.



NOTES TO TEACHERS.

My son is under a doctor's care and could not take PE yesterday. Please excuse him.

Please excuse Tom for being absent on January 28,29,30,31,32, and 33.

Julie could not come to school yesterday because she was bothered by very close veins.

Please excuse Tom for being absent last week, he could not talk because of Larry and Gitus.

Please excuse Nancy for staying home. The doctor said that her lungs were too full to be outside.

Please excuse Robert from being absent, he had a cold and could not breathe well.

ACTS 16: 16-21 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities.



Dawna de Silva

'Shifting Atmospheres.'

When we are ignorant
of the enemy's designs,
we leave ourselves open
to attack.

Many Christians have
no idea how much the
spiritual realm affects
their health, thought
processes or daily lives.



PROVERBS 3:21-26 (TPT.)

My child, never drift off course from these two goals
for your life:

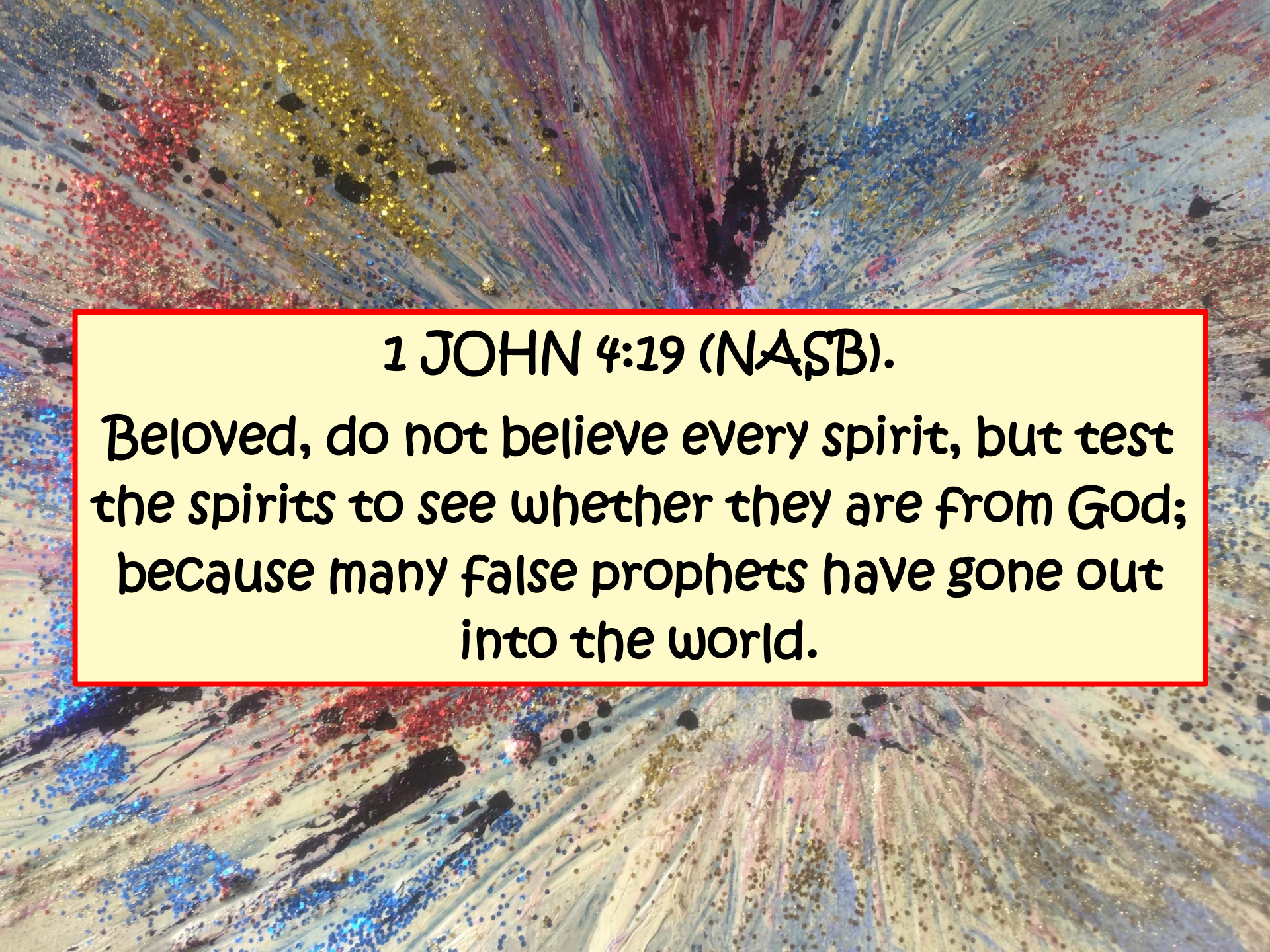
to walk in wisdom and to discover discernment. Don't
ever forget how they empower you. For they
strengthen you inside and out
and inspire you to do what's right; you will be energized
and refreshed by the healing they bring.



**MATTHEW 10:16(NKJV) Behold I send you out as sheep
in the midst of wolves. Therefore be as wise as serpents
and harmless as doves.**

(TPT)

**Now, remember, it is I who sends you out, even though
you feel vulnerable as lambs going into a pack of wolves.
So be as shrewd as snakes yet as harmless as doves.”**



1 JOHN 4:19 (NASB).

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

According to the New Testament, the ability to know the difference between truth and error is not optional for the believer-it is required.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:21-22 (NASB) "But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil."



AIDEN W TOZER (1897 – MAY 1963)

American pastor, preacher, author, magazine editor, and spiritual mentor. For his work, he received two honorary doctorate degrees.




"Among the gifts of the Spirit scarcely one is of greater practical usefulness than the gift of discernment. This gift should be highly valued and frankly sought as being almost indispensable in these critical times.

This gift will enable us to distinguish the chaff from the wheat and to divide the manifestations of the flesh from the operations of the Spirit."

DISCERNMENT CAN BE DEFINED AS:

“the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure; an act of perceiving something; a power to see what is not evident to the average mind.”





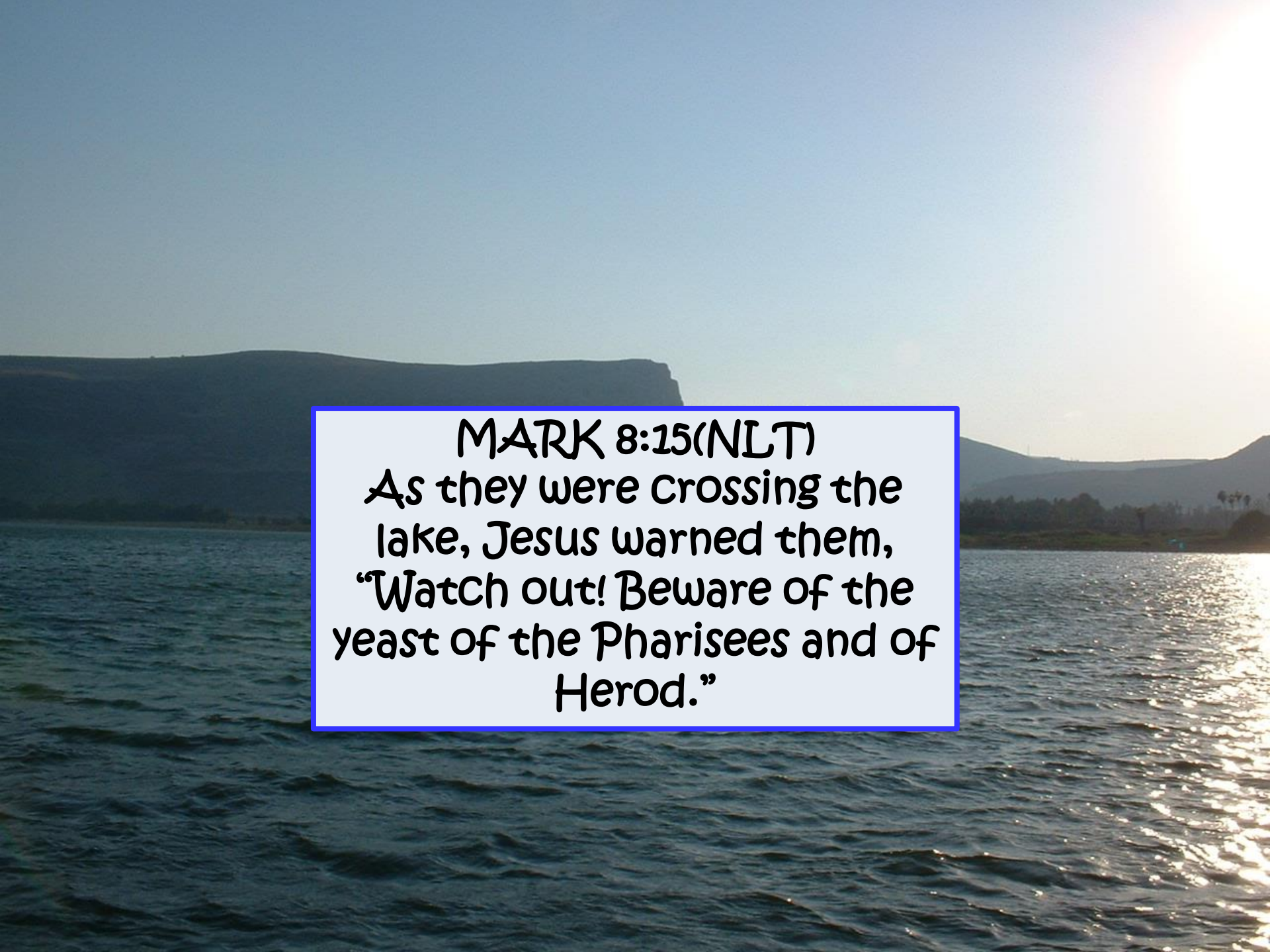
PSALM 92:6 (PT)

Those with no discernment can never really discover the deep and glorious secrets hidden in your ways.

MATTHEW 16:5-12 (NLT)

Later, after they crossed to the other side of the lake, the disciples discovered they had forgotten to bring any bread.

“Watch out!” Jesus warned them. “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn’t brought any bread. Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, “You have so little faith! Why are you arguing with each other about having no bread? ⁹ Don’t you understand even yet? Don’t you remember the 5,000 I fed with five loaves, and the baskets of leftovers you picked up? Or the 4,000 I fed with seven loaves, and the large baskets of leftovers you picked up? Why can’t you understand that I’m not talking about bread? So again, I say, ‘Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’” Then at last they understood that he wasn’t speaking about the yeast in bread, but about the deceptive teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

A scenic view of a lake at sunset. The sun is low on the right side of the frame, casting a bright glow and reflecting off the water's surface. The sky is a clear, pale blue. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted mountains or hills. The water in the foreground is dark blue with gentle ripples.

MARK 8:15(NLT)
As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, "Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod."

THE LEAVEN OF HEROD (POLITICAL SPIRIT)

LYN PACKER a prophet, teacher, conference speaker, author, artist, storyteller, poet and prophetic dance teacher with over forty years of experience in ministry. .



There is a spirit that seeks to influence or work within any system of government or anywhere that power bases and rule by law can be established – in people, families, organisations, churches, regional and national government. That spirit is a politically motivated controlling spirit that is a false, or counterfeit, governmental spirit that seeks to gain power over people and ultimately to control or dictate the boundaries within which people function.

While often seen strongly at work within society - in politics and government as well as other institutional systems, it can also be found working within church systems. When found working within Christians and churches the political spirit often works closely with the religious spirit, causing strong manifestations of both.

A political spirit will try and disguise its schemes to appear as though the people it works through want the best for people and society, all the while having hidden agendas. When a political spirit is at work you often cannot recognize its hidden agendas with your natural senses; those agendas, and the spirit itself, have to be spiritually discerned.

The political spirit is Machiavellian – it is cunning, sneaky and unscrupulous in seeking to establish its own agenda. It seeks to corrupt, manipulate, and dominate individuals, leaders and groups of people.

LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES (RELIGIOUS SPIRIT.)

The first symptom of a Pharisaical heart is an eagerness to tell other people what they're doing wrong. "You call yourself a Christian and behave like that."

"You're interpreting that verse of the Bible all wrong. Here's what it actually means."

If we are eager to "speak the truth" to someone, it's a sure sign that we are not actually ready to do just that!

2 CORINTHIANS 3:6 (NLT)

He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

Spiritual discernment is not attained by education & possessing knowledge or developing reasoning abilities or logic-they are very useful but spiritual discernment is not gained that way.

Common sense is a vitally acquired skill and a cousin to discernment.. However, discernment is given by the revelation of Jesus Christ to the believer as a gift and then developed by way of training in righteousness and prayer.

Some Christians have a special gift of discernment.

They are given a 'spiritual eye' for cutting through facades and confusion, for getting to the heart of the matter. They listen closely, notice what's happening in the world around them, and instinctively know what place it has in God's plans.

THE GIFT IS DESCRIBED IN CORINTHIANS

I CORINTHIANS 12:8-10 (CJB)

To one, through the Spirit, is given a word of wisdom; to another, a word of knowledge, in accordance with the same Spirit; to another, faith, by the same Spirit; and to another, gifts of healing, by the one Spirit; to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, the ability to judge between spirits; to another, the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues; and to yet another, the ability to interpret tongues.

(PHILLIPS) ...to another the ability to discriminate in spiritual matters.

1 CORINTHIANS 14: 1(CJB)

Pursue love!

However, keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit; and especially seek to be able to prophesy

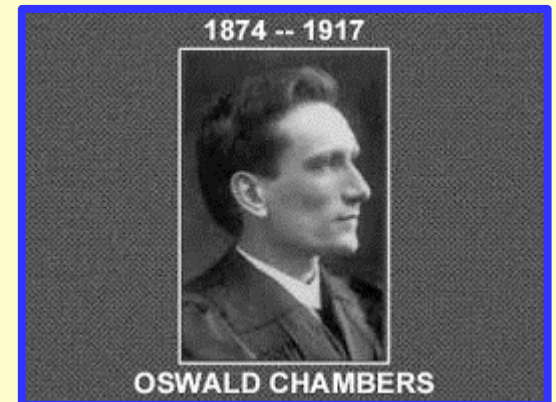
MAT 7:15-16,22-23 (NIV) "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them..."



ISABEL (ALLUM) SKULASON- Common sense is now so uncommon that some people think it is supernatural!

OSWALD CHAMBERS

"God never gives us discernment in order that we may criticize, but that we may intercede."





ACTS 8:9-10 (NIV) Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.

ACTS 8:19-23 (NLT) "Let me have this power, too," he exclaimed, "so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!"

PETER HAS LEARNED DISCERNMENT!

ACTS 8:20-23 (MSG)

But Peter said to him, "To hell with you and your money! How dare you think you could buy the gift of God for money! Your heart is not honest before God... repent of this wickedness of yours and pray earnestly to the Lord that if possible the evil intention of your heart will be forgiven. For I can see inside you, and I see a man bitter with jealousy and bound with his own sin!"



1 JOHN 4:19 (NASB).

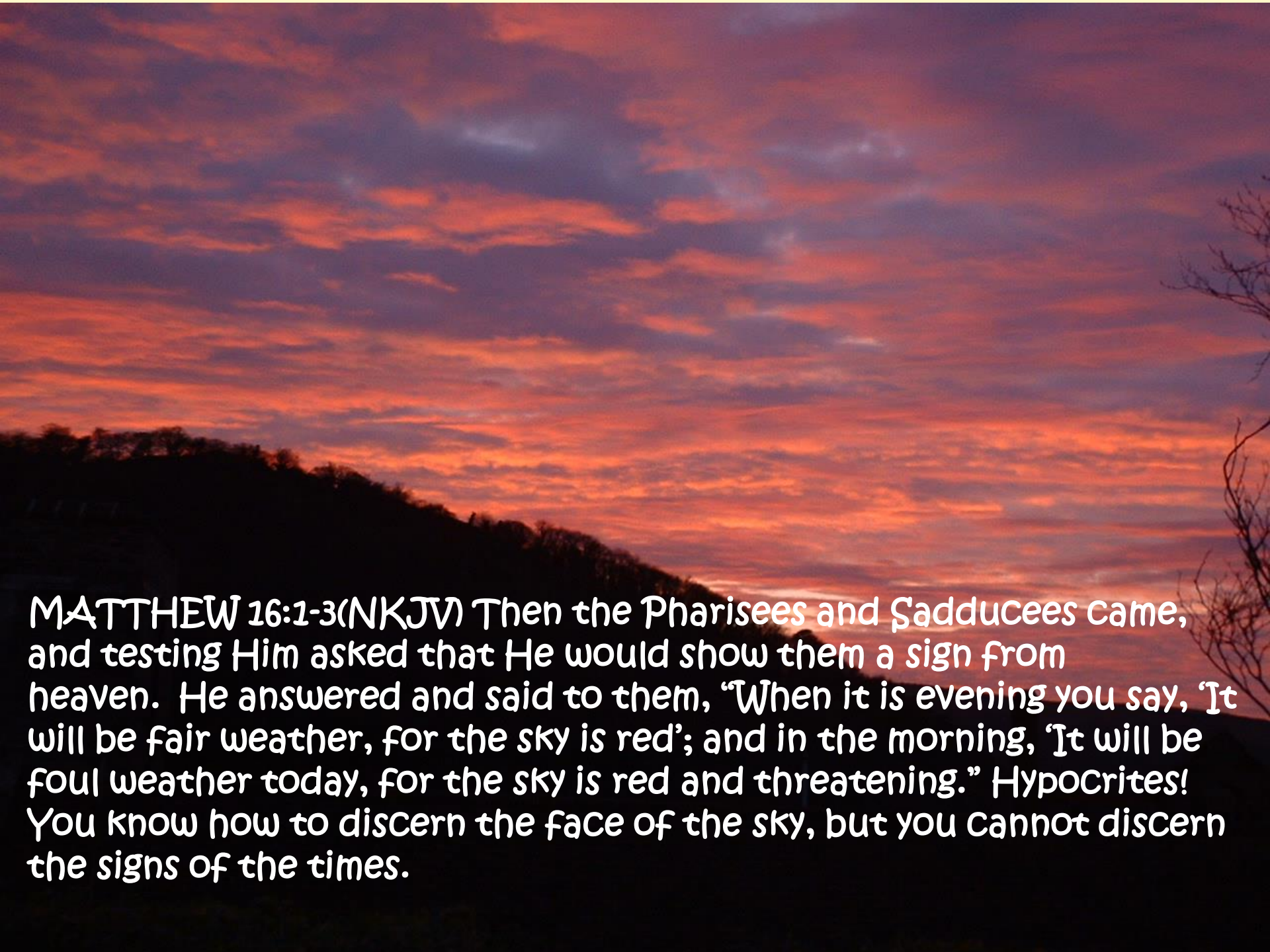
Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

HIGHLIGHTED DISCERNMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

HEBREWS 5:14 (NASB) But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

EPHESIANS 4:14 (NKJV) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.

1 THESS 5:21 (NKJV) Test all things; hold fast what is good.



MATTHEW 16:1-3(NKJV) Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.'" Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.

QUESTION TO ASK OURSELF.

Wisdom and discernment.

1. Am I eagerly seeking the things of The Spirit?

PROPHECY

1 CORINTHIANS 14:3 (NKJV) He who prophesies speaks edification & exhortation & comfort to men.

Roughly translated this means prophecy:

- Builds up
- Holds up.
- Fires up



QUESTION TO ASK OURSELF.

Wisdom and discernment.

1. Am I eagerly seeking the things of The Spirit?
2. Have I realised the importance of discernment and wisdom?
3. Have I ever asked for these gifts?
4. If yes, have I experienced these gifts?
5. Do I need to ask The Lord to increase these gifts in me?

PHIL 1:9-10 (NIV) And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

