1. DEVELOPING DISCERNMENT TO OVERCOME IN THE LAST DAYS

(The numbers in this outline correspond to the number of slides in the Powerpoint)

DEVELOP DISCERNMENT FOR 2 REASONS:

**2)** We need increasing discernment to overcome increasing deception

**3)** We need increasing discernment to prepare a victorious, glorious church! Discernment helps

 us to grow in the Spirit and get ready for revival!

**4) KEY # 1. PRACTICE** **DEVELOPS DISCERNMENT**, Heb.5:14.1 “Who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” -Heb.5:14. What we exercise is what will grow stronger!

**5)** When you encounter spiritual situations, seek to understand them- evaluate & test them! Exercise!

“Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.” -1 Thess.5:20-21

“But he who is spiritual judges all things” – 1 Cor.2:15

**6) KEY # 2. EVALUATE SPIRITUAL MINISTRY BY ITS FRUIT**, not its gifts, Mat.7:15-17. “Beware of false prophets…you can identify them by their fruit”-Mt.5:15-16 (OR ANY FALSE MINISTRY)

GIFTS SHOW US ABOUT THE GIVER, GOD!

FRUIT SHOWS US ABOUT THE PERSON- WHAT GROWS OUT OF THEIR LIFE?

**7)** MANY PEOPLE ARE GIFTED AND POWERFUL- CAN ATTRACT A FOLLOWING- BUT ARE NOT PURE!

Does the spiritual leader have a godly life? Proper finances? A balanced marriage & family? Proper relationship / submission to a local church?

**8) KEY # 3. TEST ALL THINGS BY THE SCRIPTURES**. “Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict His word are completely in the dark,” Is.8:20 NLT

9) In Luke chapter 4 we can study how Christ overcame satan thru his use of the scriptures:

 TEMPTATION # 1 & 2 Lk.4:3-8. Is it ever Scriptural that you can worship satan? NO!

 Or turn stones into bread? NO!

 Jesus quoted ‘It is written’- the ‘Logos’ written word contradicted what satan said these 2 times

 TEMPTATION # 3, Lk.4:9-12 Is it Scriptural? YES!

 -but is it Scripturally balanced? NO! Jesus spoke, “It has been said”-the spoken ‘Rhema’ word that

 was relevant & balanced, it corrected the wrong balance of Scripture that satan was using, 2 Tim.2:15

 TWO SCRIPTURAL TESTS: Is it Scriptural? (Lk.4:3-8). Is it balanced? (Lk.4:9-12).

**10) KEY # 4. THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** is to guide us, Col.3:15, Acts 16:16-17

Let His peace, like a referee, guide you and warn you.

**11)** EX: Paul was troubled about the prophecies of the woman following him around…

**12)** After several days, Paul understood the problem and how to solve it- he cast the demon out!

**13)** Discern if the Holy Spirit is no longer giving you peace in your heart, but a warning- then seek
to understand what the warning is!

**14)** ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, THE LEADING OF THE SPIRIT WANTS TO GUIDE US TOWORD REVIVAL!

-When the peace of the Holy Spirit continues to lead us, we can flow deeper & deeper into the river of God- into revival!

**15) KEY # 5. CHALLENGE THE SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATION**, Mk.5:9. Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

Josh.5:13 Joshua challenged the person who suddenly stood before him: "Are you for us or for our enemies?" (Not all spiritual manifestations are bad- many are good! Test the spirits, **1 jn.4:1**

in the name of Jesus command the spirit to identify itself. (speak out loud, or command in the spirit!)

**16) KEY # 6. LET MATURE LEADERS GUIDE WITH THEIR COLLECTIVE DISCERNMENT**, 1 Cor.14:29,

**17)** Prov.24:6 Ezek.44:23 Spiritual people who are “independent” often get led away into deception

**18)** **KEY # 7. THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS**- one of the Holy Spirit’s gifts -can reveal spiritual sources, 1 Cor.12:10-11 (Can reveal the good as well as the bad!)

\* Angels (good and fallen), Heb.1:14, Eph.6:12

\* Anointings of the Holy Spirit, Is.11:2, Lk.5:17, Zech.12:10

\* Demons, Acts 16:18, Rev.16:14

\* The human spirit, Mk.1:8, Acts 5:3

**19) KEY # 8. DON’T MAJOR ON THE “DARK SIDE”** & looking for demons- look for what God is doing! 2 Kgs 6:15-17. What we seek we will find: Jesus or demons? “There are more on our side than on theirs”

**20)** Our protection comes from abiding in God! He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty…. Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler (deception) and from the deadly pestilence (like covid-19).–Psalm 91:1 & 3

**21)** “GREATER IS HE WHO LIVES IN YOU THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD.” -1 Jn.4:4 **LET GOD ARISE!**