



Discerning vs. Deciding (Pt. 1)

Spirit-Led Leadership in Seasons of Church Transition
(in partnership with CBA1)

A. CHURCHES IN TRANSITION

Many churches today are experiencing:

- Pastoral transition
- Leadership fatigue
- Generational tension
- Conflict and mistrust
- Pressure to change
- Fear of losing identity

(Mark all that apply)

Fill in the blank:

"Transition does not create problems ... it _____ them."

Complete the statement:

Leadership teams are not just managing _____.

They are shepherding people through _____.

BIG IDEA

Fill in the blanks:

Healthy churches do not simply make _____.

They discern the movement of the _____ together.

Complete the verse:

"It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to _____." Acts 15:28

B. DISCERNING VS. DECIDING

Decision-Making often asks:

- What works?
- What is _____?
- What protects _____?
- What do we _____?



Discerning vs. Deciding (Pt. 1)

Spirit-Led Leadership in Seasons of Church Transition
(in partnership with CBA1)

Spiritual Discernment asks:

- What is God _____?
- What is the Spirit _____?
- What aligns with _____?
- Where is God bringing _____?

Match the correct words:

Decision-Making

Spiritual Discernment

Fast

Reactive

Opinion-driven

Control

Outcome-focused

Majority rules

Word Bank:

Spirit-led / God-focused / Spiritual unity / Patient / Prayerful / Surrender

DECISION-MAKING

Decision-making often focuses on:

- Efficiency
- Urgency
- Problem-solving
- Voting
- Outcomes
- Institutional preservation

(mark all that applies)



Discerning vs. Deciding (Pt. 1)

Spirit-Led Leadership in Seasons of Church Transition
(in partnership with CBA1)

Without spiritual discernment:

- Anxiety drives meetings
- Loud voices dominate
- Conflict deepens
- Leaders become reactive

(mark all that applies)

Complete the statement:

"You can make a good organizational decision and still _____ God."

C. DISCERNMENT VS SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Fill in the blank:

Discernment is the ability to judge wisely, perceive clearly, and distinguish between

_____, _____, or _____.

C. DISCERNMENT

Fill in the blank:

Spiritual Discernment is:

Prayerfully recognizing and responding to the movement of _____ together.

Spiritual Discernment requires:

- Prayer
- Listening
- Humility
- Patience
- Spiritual maturity
- Surrender

(Mark all that applies)

Complete the quote:

"Spiritual discernment is not merely choosing between good and bad, it is learning to recognize God's _____."



Discerning vs. Deciding (Pt. 1)

Spirit-Led Leadership in Seasons of Church Transition
(in partnership with CBA1)

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT BEFORE THE MEETING

Fill in the blanks:

True spiritual discernment begins:

- In _____
- In surrender
- In stillness
- In personal spiritual _____

Reflection Questions

Am I led by anxiety or by the _____?

Do I enter meetings already _____?

Am I listening or defending my _____?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES OF HEALTHY LEADERS

Leaders who discern well practice:

- Prayer
- Scripture meditation
- Silence & stillness
- Self-examination
- Wise counsel
- Humility

Complete the statement:

"Spiritual leadership flows from spiritual _____."

D. ACTS 15: THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

The early church faced:

- Conflict
- Cultural tension
- Fear of change
- Questions about identity
- Disagreement about tradition

(mark all that apply)



Discerning vs. Deciding (Pt. 1)

Spirit-Led Leadership in Seasons of Church Transition
(in partnership with CBA1)

Fill in the blank:

This was a church in _____.

THE CONFLICT WAS DEEP

The issue involved:

- Theology
- Tradition
- Identity
- Belonging
- Authority

(Mark all that apply)

Modern Church Questions

"Are we losing our _____?"

"Who gets _____?"

"What needs to _____?"

"What must _____?"

Complete the statement:

"Deep history can become either wisdom or _____."

THEY DID NOT RUSH

The leaders:

- Slowed down
- Gathered together
- Stayed in the tension
- Refused quick reactions

(Mark all that apply)

Leadership Lesson

Fast decisions often deepen _____.



Discerning vs. Deciding (Pt. 1)

Spirit-Led Leadership in Seasons of Church Transition
(in partnership with CBA1)

Healthy spiritual discernment requires:

- Patience
- Listening
- Prayer
- Safe conversation

(Mark all that apply)

THEY LISTENED DEEPLY

Fill in the blanks:

Peter _____.

Paul and Barnabas _____.

The leaders _____.

They listened for:

Evidence of God's _____.

Spiritual Discernment Questions

Where is God bringing _____?

Where are we seeing _____?

What stories reveal God's _____?

Complete the statement:

"The loudest voice is not always the voice of the _____."