

Proper Balance

An example of the proper balance in discernment is seen in Second Kings. The Syrian army had surrounded a city in Israel, much to the consternation of the servant of the prophet Elisha. To calm his fright, Elisha prayed that his servant's eyes would be opened. He then encouraged his servant, saying, **"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them"** (2 Kings 6:16).

As the Lord opened the servant's eyes, he also saw what Elisha saw: **"the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha"** (v 17). In spiritual warfare, the battle is never a simple "us against them" human affair.

It always includes **"those ... with us"** against **"those ... with them."** True discernment is as fully aware of the vast multitude of angels loyal to God as it is aware of the activity of the demonic realm—and it is aware that the angelic hosts on our side are both stronger and more numerous than the enemy. Remember, if you fail to "hear the music" in your times of warfare, your discernment is, at best, incomplete.

We must learn that, on a personal level, it is better to develop godly virtues than to spend our day praying against the devil. Indeed, it is the joy of the Lord that casts out spirits of depression. It is our living faith that destroys spirits of unbelief; it is aggressive love that casts out fear.

(Discerning of Spirits: Unmasking the Enemies of the Church by Francis Frangipane, Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Arrow Publication, Kindle, 1991, Location 144 & 154 of 194, Paragraph structure modified)