

The NAR Discernment Checklist: Testing the Spirits

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God..." — 1 John 4:1

Use this checklist when evaluating a sermon, a book, or a new church movement. If you find yourself checking multiple boxes in the "Warning" columns, it may be time to exercise biblical caution.

1. The Test of Doctrine (The Message)

- **The Gospel:** Does the teaching focus on the finished work of Christ (the Cross), or does it prioritize "personal breakthrough," financial gain, or political dominion?
- **Scriptural Authority:** Is the Bible the final authority, or is "New Revelation" from a modern-day Apostle/Prophet given equal or greater weight?
- **The Person of Jesus:** Is Jesus presented as the unique Son of God, or is He reduced to a "model" for how we can all become "little gods" or "anointed ones"?
- **Syncretism Check:** Are there New Age or esoteric terms being "Christianized" (e.g., "vibrations," "energy," "Seven Rays," or "quantum leaps")?

2. The Test of Character (The Messenger)

- **Transparency:** Are the leaders and the organization's finances transparent, or are they hidden behind an "Ecclesiastical Shield"?
- **Accountability:** Is there a plurality of elders, or is the leader an "Apostle" who is beyond correction or questioning?
- **Humility vs. Elitism:** Does the leader point followers toward Christ, or do they cultivate a cult of personality centered on their own unique anointing or "mantle"?

3. The Test of Outcomes (The Fruit)

- **Spiritual Liberty:** Does the teaching lead to freedom in Christ, or does it use "Acoustic Warfare" and high-pressure tactics to produce emotional "highs" and dependency on the leader?
- **Mission Focus:** Is the goal to fulfill the Great Commission (making disciples), or is it the Seven Mountain Mandate (seizing societal power)?
- **Divisiveness:** Does the movement label those who ask questions as having a "religious spirit" or being "enemies of the move of God"?