Small Groups Question:

Sermon: Discerning of Spirits: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Saints

Speaker: Brian Buhler

Text: Luke 3 and 4 (excerpts) The baptism and temptation of Jesus

1. After reading the text aloud and praying for the Holy Spirit to bring enlightenment, discuss the various voices (influences) that Jesus experienced in the wilderness. Can we expect to experience the same influences day to day? Why, why not?
2. Did the temptation of Jesus fulfill anything relating to his role as Messiah, or was this just a tough month? Why did Jesus require a testing like this?
3. Do you agree with the statement, “**There are two fundamental directions in life: towards God and away from God.”?** If the answer is yes, what role does the enemy play? What role the Holy Spirit play?
4. Do you agree with the statement, “**The Spirit-led life demands that we discern the spirits.”** Through becoming **Aware, Understanding, and taking Action.** What “action” did Jesus take? Why did he take that particular action? What does his strategy tell us about what we need to be paying attention to?
5. **“**So… discerning “the spirits” is the spiritual practice of identifying, naming, and separating that which is from God and that which is not.” Do you practice this? If so, how? Provide an example.
6. How much of your life do you spend time living “within” as apposed to “without”? In other words, do allow yourself to be undistracted long enough to pay attention to the movements within your heart? Is your heart a place you visit regularly? Why is it that we remain so distracted and participate in so many diversions, when hearing the voice of the Spirit requires stillness and solitude?