



CHAMBER OF REVELATION SERIES  
EQUIPPING A PROPHETIC ARMY

THE  
DISCERNER

*Study Guide*

JAMES W. GOLL

## Endorsements

When I think about my friend James Goll, I think of a man without compromise, a man without guile. His pursuit of all that is true seems to attract insights and revelation that is not normal for most of us. James Goll's passion is to make it practical, and then give it all away. I believe *The Discerner* is a gift from this prophet to the church. And much like his book *The Seer*, it will mark the church for decades to come. Enjoy, and be inspired, equipped, and empowered *for such a time as this*.

- *Bill Johnson*  
Bethel Church, Redding, CA  
Author, *When Heaven Invades Earth* and *God is Good*

The number one weapon the devil deploys in the last days isn't the mark of the beast, radical Islam, or a nuclear holocaust. His number one weapon is deception. If his number one weapon is deception, the number one gift most needed (and most frequently absent) in the body of Christ is—the discerning of spirits! James does a masterful job of detailing how you can surrender all your senses to the Holy Spirit so you can see, hear, feel, taste, smell and know—with a deep inner knowing—the Spirit of God. He also exposes the spirit of deception and how it operates, outlining the traps and influences it uses to try to set you up for offense or error. James is an experienced guide and teacher...the ability to discern truth and discern error is the path that leads you into the “all” that God has planned for your life.

- *Lance Wallnau*  
Founder, Lance Learning Group  
Author, *God's Chaos Candidate: Donald J. Trump and the American Unraveling*

I just finished James Goll's *The Discerner*, and—wow! Let me say it this way: there are many resources about hearing God's voice, but this goes way deeper, gifting you from the riches of James' life experience and prophetic ministry. It gives you a road map for navigating how to manifest the revelation you receive, and letting God change your very nature in the process. James is an encyclopedia of revelation and supernatural materials, and this is like a capstone of all his previous wonderful works on revelatory gifting. I highly recommend it!

- *Shawn Bolz*  
[www.bolzministries.com](http://www.bolzministries.com)

James is such an immense treasure trove of wisdom and revelation on everything to do with spiritual seeing and discerning. No matter what level of discernment you presently have, this will provide an upgrade to the next level. The lessons on your spiritual senses are priceless. It is all connected to growing in intimacy with God—and that will be the fruit.

- *Johnny Enlow*  
International speaker and author, *The Seven Mountain Renaissance*

One of the greatest gifts God has given to His people is the gift of discernment. How we need wise, compassionate discernment in these last days! In *The Discerner*, James Goll lays out before us a clear and concise teaching on having a heart to discern the works of God and the deeds of the enemy. I've not read a better book for preparing us for the days to come. The ones who discern the ways of God will be the ones to lead us into the coming glory. Every pastor, leader, intercessor, and worshipper must read this book. Every believer will be built up and given tools to be a valuable discerner in the days ahead. Buy one for yourself and one for a friend. They will thank you for it!

- *Brian Simmons*  
Stairway Ministries  
Lead translator, The Passion Translation Project

Dr. James Goll is one of God's chosen and anointed vessels to identify prophets and to grow the prophetic gifts and abilities within the body of Christ. He has skillfully taught and mentored on various aspects of prophetic revelation over the years, and now he introduces a very important component: *The Discerner*. There is very little written about this subject, and yet it is vital for us to understand...a remarkable work that will continue to teach and train others for generations to come. Well done!

- *Patricia King*  
Founder, Patricia King Ministries  
[www.xpministries.com](http://www.xpministries.com)

As I travel the nation teaching spiritual warfare principles, one truth becomes painfully clear: the body of Christ, at large, lacks discernment. The reality is that many believers have simply not been activated or trained to discern spirits. Yet discernment is a vital gift in this hour as false prophets, false teachers, and even false christs are rising around the world with smooth sayings, rhymes and riddles. James Goll's *The Discerner* equips the body in discernment. Given the goings-on in the world and in the church, this is right on time...understand with clarity how to press into the gift of discernment to test the spirits.

- *Jennifer LeClaire*  
Senior Editor, *Charisma* and *SpiritLed Woman*  
Senior Leader, Awakening House of Prayer, Fort Lauderdale, FL

It would be difficult to imagine a time in which discernment was more important than now. James Goll has been an observer of, participant in, or leader of almost every important wave of the Holy Spirit in ministry for forty years and is perfectly suited to teach the church how to navigate the various competing moral, spiritual, and political paradigms in this modern world. *The Discerner* is full of rich insight and allows us to benefit from all that experience as he has watched and interacted with leaders, churches, denominations, and movements. You will gain a greater understanding of the forces that affect your life and how to intelligently maintain your walk with God.

- *Joan Hunter*  
Author and Healing Evangelist, Joan Hunter Ministries

*The Discerner* carries important truth and revelation that the Church desperately needs concerning discernment to detect and defeat the deception of the spirit of this age by tuning in to discern and hear the voice of truth from our Shepherd, Jesus. I recommend *The Discerner* as it will help readers understand how to cultivate a greater level of biblical discernment in general, as well as how to activate and grow in the gift of discernment in particular. Full of deep yet palatable revelation and practical teaching, I am sure that *The Discerner* will serve countless many as a beacon in the dark and a compass accurately pointing northward.

- *Apostle Guillermo Maldonado*  
King Jesus International Ministry, Miami, FL

With *The Seer*, James Goll delivered a groundbreaking book on the seer gift, releasing many into greater understanding, appreciation, and application of their anointing. Now, with *The Discerner*, James has again led us to another level of insight. When operating in the prophetic, there is the revelation, the interpretation, and the application of what has been revealed. The sharpening of our discernment takes us beyond just revelation to operating effectively in divine wisdom, which helps us not only perceive and receive from the Lord, but to practice and activate that prophetic wisdom with clarity. As believers, we cannot afford to live without the necessary discernment to distinguish between the voice of God, the voice of the enemy, and our own voice. *The Discerner* is a very timely work that will impart truth and bring instruction as to how we might have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) in every situation.

- *Dr. Ché Ahn*  
President, Harvest International Ministry  
Founding Pastor, HROCK Church, Pasadena, CA  
International Chancellor, Wagner University

I have known James Goll for over a decade. My friend and, even more, this friend of God is known for combining three strands of truth together in whatever he does. James brings a weight of scriptural teaching to produce a solid foundation. He then builds upon this by adding a second component of precedents found in Jewish and church history. This is followed by a third necessary ingredient of contemporary testimonies of the work of the Holy Spirit today. James has done it for us once again in *The Discerner*. What an excellent handbook to help believers in Messiah know how to live a supernatural life with effectiveness today.

- *Sid Roth*  
Host, *It's Supernatural!* TV  
Author, Evangelist and Inspirational Speaker

James Goll is not just a dear friend, I consider him to be one of profound mind and insight in relation to prophetic perception. As the Church continues to move forward into the intention of God for its future, more and more, you will be hearing of the need for a Pentecostal and Charismatic “Theology of Discernment”. As people who believe in the fullness of the Spirit, our comprehension of the process of perception and discernment is influenced by our encounters with God the Father’s three-fold cord that is never to be separated: The Holy Spirit, The Son of God, and The Scriptures. Within the interrelationship of the three, we as God’s company of prophetic and kingly priests are coming to terms with how the entire purpose of discernment has to issue in godly responses and actions that bring about God’s desired results. James’ newest release, *The Discerner* gives us all a seat at the table where this conversation is taking place, and will continue to take place and expand as we move forward into the future Jesus has prepared for us.

- *Dr. Mark J. Chironna*  
Church On The Living Edge  
Mark Chironna Ministries  
Longwood, Florida



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with James W. Goll

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## **Classes and Other Resources**

The following *The Discerner Study Guide* is great for individual study in your own home, with a small group, or in a classroom setting. It also serves as part of *The Discerner* class at God Encounters Ministries, along with *The Discerner* book and 12 Class Sessions taught by James W. Goll. Visit [www.GodEncounters.com](http://www.GodEncounters.com) for more information about this and many other life-changing classes.

At the end of each detailed lesson are simple questions for your reflection and review. In the back of this study guide, you will find the answers to these questions to aid in your learning.

James W. Goll has many other resources available. They may be purchased at [www.GodEncounters.com](http://www.GodEncounters.com). For more information, visit our website, email [info@godencounters.com](mailto:info@godencounters.com) or call 1-877-200-1604.



## **Dedication**

As I prayed over the dedication for this particular study guide, two people came to my mind. Both of them have been friends and peers, and yet also spiritual leaders and advisers who have spoken into my life many times over many years.

In gratitude and as an act of honor, I wish to dedicate *The Discerner Study Guide* to the influential prophetess Cindy Jacobs and to Ché Ahn, one of the most significant apostles in this generation. Both of their lives have impacted me deeply, and I have needed and valued their discernment.

Thank you for investing in my life for so many years!

***With Gratitude,***

***Dr. James W. Goll***



## **Acknowledgments**

Over the years, the Lord has graced me to walk with a company of people who have cheered for me, prayed for me, challenged me, and assisted me in many practical and spiritual ways. It has been said that a successful person surrounds himself with people with greater skills than he himself possesses. That is definitely true in my case. I want to acknowledge and honor a few of these stellar people who have helped me produce yet another study guide for your use.

I wish to thank the Staff and Board of God Encounters Ministries. You bring out the best in me and I am truly grateful! I have three board members who have been with me longer than I can remember: Dr. William (Bill) Greenman as Vice President, Dr. John Mark Rodgers as the Secretary of the Board and Elizabeth (Beth) Alves as a Director. For them, “thank you” is an inadequate statement for your years of faithfulness.

I would love to mention all the staff personnel who have worked with me over my 40 plus years in ministry. But that would be a very long list. But I do wish to acknowledge, the core of my current ministry staff—Jeffrey Thompson, Executive Director, Kay Durham, Financial Administrator, Don Clark, IT Director, Tyler Goll, Graphics Designer and Katie Sarvak, Executive Assistant—who have all also served me well for these many years, and their excellence and faithfulness mean the world to me.

***May the Lord Bless Each One of You!***

***Dr. James W. Goll***



## **Introduction: Dropping the Plumb Line**

Back in Old Testament Judah, the prophet Amos started out as a nobody. He was not a priest or a member of a noble family; he herded sheep and tended sycamore fig trees. He never expected to hear God's voice, and he did not expect to become a prophet. But he applied himself to learning what he needed to know in order to be faithful to his prophetic calling:

*"I was no prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet, but I was a sheep breeder and a tender of sycamore fruit. Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said to me, "Go, prophesy to My people Israel." (Amos 7:14-15 NKJV).* Amos obeyed, and he is best known for making public a word about how God was setting a "plumb line" in the nation of Israel to measure the truth and righteousness of the people and their rulers. The Spirit of God gave him this vision:

*"The LORD was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD asked me, 'What do you see, Amos?' 'A plumb line,' I replied. Then the Lord said, 'Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.'" (Amos 7:7-8 NIV).* God's plumb line is all-important, not only for aligning crooked human life to His perfect uprightness, but also for discerning His voice in the first place. In the midst of all the noise of the world, we need to be able to distinguish God's voice clearly.

Like Amos, I work hard to bring a plumb line that can help the people of God do everything according to the word of the Lord. Whether I compose books or study guides, conduct seminars or lead prayer gatherings, I try to operate to the best of my ability according to what He has taught me. My primary resource, of course, is the Word of God, the Bible. But years of personal experience have made a huge difference in how I have learned to apply the Word. The Spirit is our best teacher, and in *The Discerner Study Guide* my desire is to bring you what I have learned from Him about receiving and discerning what God reveals to His people.

The twelve lessons contained in *The Discerner Study Guide* will take you on a journey of discovery. The first half of the study guide contains six revelatory lessons explaining how you can receive revelation from God by surrendering your natural senses. Then second half, lessons seven through twelve, help you bring the art of discernment right home. You will learn what to do when Satan tries to infiltrate God's message, and I will help you to create a lifestyle of faith that is healthy, balanced, dynamic and discerning.

In the final analysis, developing discernment is not as much about knowing the

future as it is about bringing the kingdom of God to bear on the time and place in which you live. The gospel of John begins with the words, “*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us..., full of grace and truth*” (John 1:14), referring to the first coming of Jesus Christ.

In a very real way, you and I cause God’s Word to dwell in the midst of the world as we remain sensitive to the flow of His Holy Spirit. Through our relationship with God, we receive revelation. And as we bring that revelation to the world around us, we actually incarnate His Word in very practical ways. Please join me in this “plumb line” course—*The Discerner Study Guide*. I want to pass on to you what has been passed down to me.

***God Bless You Deeply!***

***James W. Goll***

Section One:

# **Receiving Revelation**



# **Lesson One: Surrendering Your Senses to the Holy Spirit**

## **I. WHEN LIFE BECOMES “VIBRANT AND FULL OF COLOR”**

### **A. Hebrews 5:14 – Theme Scripture**

*“But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”*

### **B. My Personal Experience: When Everything Became Vibrant**

Years ago, my Christian life looked like our old black-and-white television. The programming and reception were not too bad, and I thought things were going along fine. Then everything shifted unexpectedly, and I have never wanted to go back.

For some time, I had been getting various brief mental snapshots. I would notice something for a millisecond and think, “Where did that come from?” What was that? It was as if my senses were waking up. It was like beginning to see in color instead of in black-and-white. Or it was like growing out of being a baby, who drinks only milk, and beginning to sample solid food.

### **C. Believing for More**

Do you want to stay on your current level or do you want to believe for more from the Lord? How do highly gifted and empowered believers do what they do? Faith is always the commodity needed to move progressively forward.

### **D. What Does “Solid Food Is for the Mature” Mean?**

I have often pondered what the writer of the book of Hebrews meant when he stated, “*Solid food is for the mature.*” I want to be mature, don’t you? Some maturity comes from a thing called practice. But this I know for sure, to be mature means that you grow from one stage to the next.

## **II. WHAT SENSES ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?**

### **A. This Is Something More than “Common Sense”**

Sometimes when we read Hebrews 5:14, we automatically think of the phrase, “common sense.” Is this what the writer of the Book of Hebrews meant or are there other senses to which this verse is referring?

**B. We Each Have Five Natural Senses**

1. Sight – Seeing with our Eyes
2. Hearing – Hearing with our Ears
3. Touch – Feeling with our skin
4. Taste – Tasting with our Tongue
5. Smell – Smelling with our Nose

**C. Practice Sessions – There Is No Perfect Start!**

Yes, practice does make perfect. Remember learning how to ride a bicycle? If you took a tumble and quit trying, then you would never have learned. So we must continually take practice sessions until our “training wheels” can be removed and we are able to glide with great joy.

**D. Discern Both Good and Evil**

Discernment involves discerning good and discerning evil, but many people find that they start out a lot better at one or the other. Maturity entails growth in both. We must learn to differentiate good from evil and evil from good, but we must grow in our capacities for discernment in both arenas—not just one.

**III. THE NECESSITY OF PRESENTATION**

**A. From Romans 12:1-2**

*“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

**B. From Romans 6:13, 19**

*“And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness to God... I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.”*

**C. We Are a Triune Being: Spirit, Soul and Body**

We are created in the image and likeness of God. There is only One God but expressed in three personages: God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. So we are triune beings and comprised of these three equally important aspects.

**D. Prayer of Presentation and Consecration**

Pause right now, and in your own words from your heart, present the members of your body, the temple of God, to the Holy Spirit. Set your senses apart unto the Lord, realizing that to whomever you present yourself, to Him they become a slave. So, consecrate yourself and all six of your senses as instruments of righteousness in Jesus' name.

**IV. THERE ARE A VARIETY OF GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**A. From I Corinthians 12:4-7**

*“Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are a variety of ministries, and the same Lord. There are a variety of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*

**B. From I Corinthians 12:8-11**

*“For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.”*

**C. The Necessity of the Gift of Discerning of Spirits**

In this study, we will major on the gift referred to above as “the distinguishing of spirits,” or discernment. I suggest that the responsible exercise of any spiritual gift requires an ever-increasing degree of discernment and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

**V. THE GOLDEN ANOINTING**

**A. My Personal Encounter with Jesus**

We each have defining moments in our lives and ministries. An encounter I had with the Lord Jesus Christ right after I graduated from college has forever changed my life.

**B. Two Drops of the Golden Anointing**

In this visionary encounter, I felt a single drop of golden anointing oil land on my head—one drop. Then another came. I looked up again and saw a pitcher over my head. The Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, *“Today I am giving you two drops of My golden anointing. One is for you and one you are to give to your wife.”*

**C. A Promise Given**

In that defining moment, He promised me that if I would be faithful with the one drop He had given to me, a day would come when I would receive more of the golden anointing. *“As you are faithful with this, there will be a day I will pour the golden anointing upon your head.”* I still live for the fullness of that day.

**VI. THERE IS A HIGHER REALM**

**A. Ministry Proceeds on Three Different Levels**

1. By Faith
2. By the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
3. The Glory Realm of God

**B. There Is Always Another Realm**

Have you plateaued in your walk with Him? Do you hunger for another dimension? Rest assured, there is always more of God to experience and encounter! Yes, just for you!

**C. When All Things Are Possible**

By faith all things are possible. Greater works are available for every true believer in Christ Jesus to step into. So let's go on a journey together where all things are possible.

**VII. JOIN ME IN SURRENDERING YOUR SENSES**

**A. I Surrender All – All to Jesus I Surrender**

Most of you know that I love the old hymns and that singing seems to unlock my heart. One of those traditional hymns is “I Surrender All.”<sup>1</sup> Isn't He worth everything? Have you surrendered everything to Jesus? Yes, Lord, I surrender my whole self to You, including my senses. I long to know You better.

**B. An Invitation to an Adventure in the Supernatural Ways of God**

Yes, our good, good Father is extending an invitation to each of us to learn from Him and to grow into the next level, another realm. It just requires a willing heart which hungers for more of the Lord Himself.

**C. Let's Pray Together!**

*Father, in Jesus' great name, we present our entire beings to You as an act of obedience and worship. We surrender our five natural senses to you now: our sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Holy Spirit, release Your life giving presence upon us in a fresh manner. We need Your touch upon our lives! We desire an increase in the anointing of God to flow in a higher level in the gifts of the Holy Spirit! Here we are Lord; all that we are and all that we hope to be. We surrender our senses as instruments of righteousness for Jesus Christ sake. Amen and Amen!*



# **Reflection Questions**

## **Lesson One: Surrendering Your Senses to the Holy Spirit**

*Answers to these questions can be found in the back of the study guide.*

### **Fill in the Blank**

1. We have both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ senses.
2. Part of the purpose of the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ is to know \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.
3. As our discernment increases we must become more in tune with \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Multiple Choice — Choose the best answer from the list below:**

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| A. Discern | C. Surrender |
| B. Seeing  | D. Practice  |
4. We must \_\_\_\_\_ to become adept at seeing in the spirit.
  5. We must \_\_\_\_\_ to interpret correctly what God is communicating.

Continued on the next page.

