

DISCERNMENT

SOMETHING WE ALL NEED

I. How Do I Get Discernment?

A. Comes from the Spirit of God

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

B. Comes from the Word of God

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

I. How Do I Get Discernment?

C. Requires spiritual maturity

Hebrews 5:14

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

II. Discernment Allows One To Try The Spirits

How do you try the spirits on everyday questions/problems?

A. Why I need to

1 John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

B. Why I want to

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

II. Discernment Allows One To Try The Spirits

C. How do I do it

1 Corinthians 2:13

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

D. What do I see afterwards

1 John 4:6

We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

III. Discernment Enables Perception Of The Proper Use Of The Word Of God

How do you make sure that you are not pulling verses out of the Bible that you have picked and not that God led you to?

A. The principle of content

Does it make sense?

2 Peter 1:20

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

III. Discernment Enables Perception Of The Proper Use Of The Word Of God

B. The principle of context

Does it apply?

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

C. The principle of completion

Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

IV. Discernment Enables Perception Of Who Is Guiding You

Luke 9:52-56

52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

IV. Discernment Enables Perception Of Who Is Guiding You

How do I know the difference in God speaking to me, the devil speaking to me, or my own head getting the better of me?

A. Try the voices

John 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

- 1. Consistent with the Word of God?**
- 2. Consistent with the Will of God?**
- 3. Consistent with the Walk of God?**

IV. Discernment Enables Perception Of Who Is Guiding You

B. Listen to your heart

1 John 3:19-21

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

V. Discernment, Knowledge, And Understanding Are Connected

How much time do I need to devote to the study of the word of God to gain knowledge and understanding?

As much as necessary to find the answer

Acts 17:11

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

V. Discernment, Knowledge, And Understanding Are Connected

Job 23:12

Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

DISCERNMENT
SOMETHING WE ALL NEED
BUT DO WE HAVE?