

THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCERNMENT

Discernment

Definition:

Wisdom in perception, and judgement. Spiritual discernment is a SPIRIT-enabled capacity in believers to understand YAHUVEH GODs truth. (1 Corinthians 2:9-16) as well to identify SPIRITUAL error. (1 John 4:1-6).

Being led by the SPIRIT (THE HOLY SPIRIT, RUACH HA KODESH), is crucial. Discernment, and understanding is necessary to understand GODS Word. We are to walk by the SPIRIT, not our Flesh. Something I have learned is that it's very important to not go by your feelings. Feelings are of the flesh, and we want to learn to walk by the SPIRIT, which is why we need discernment, and also wisdom. These two things can help us significantly in our daily walk with YAHUVEH, with YAHUSHUA. They help us to make wise decisions and use good judgement.

Testing the SPIRIT that speaks:

- Helps you to understand GODS Word
- HIS instructions for you & knowing HIS will and the things HE wants you to do in obedience.
- It helps you to recognize who's of GOD & who isn't.

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit [speaking through a self-proclaimed prophet]; instead test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because

many false prophets *and* teachers have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know *and* recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges *and* confesses [the fact] that Jesus Christ has [actually] come in the flesh [as a man] is from God [God is its source]; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus [acknowledging that He has come in the flesh, but would deny any of the Son's true nature] is not of God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and is now already in the world. "-1 John 4:1-3

The Definition when looking it up:
The Ability to judge well.
Similar Words: Judgement, refinement, wisdom, intelligence, awareness, sharpness, perception, insight, sensitivity.
In Christian contexts: perception in the absence of judgement with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding

Verses on Discernment:

Hosea 14:9
9 Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

1 John 4:1

1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 Kings 3:9

9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

1 Samuel 16:7

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Thessalonians 5:21

21 but test them all; hold on to what is good,

1 Timothy 4:1

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

Hebrews 5:14
14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

James 1:5
5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Other notes on Discernment:

- It is related to wisdom.
- A discerning mind demonstrates wisdom and insight to go beyond what is seen and heard.
- For example: GODS word is "Spiritually discerned."
- To the human mind without the SPIRIT the things of GOD are "foolishness" (1 Corinthians 2:14)

- The SPIRIT then gives us spiritual discernment.
- King Solomon was known for his discernment of making wise decisions and moral judgments. (1 Kings 3:9-11)
- As believers, we need to be discerning as well.
- Paul prayed for believers to discern what is best, until the day of YAHUSHUA (Phil 1:10)
- A discerning person will acknowledge the worth of GODS word.
- Proverbs 8:8-9) seeking discernment is a goal for all who desire to walk righteously (Hosea 14:9)

We are commanded to "hate what is evil, cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9)
 But unless we have true discernment how can we determine what is "evil" and what is "good"? (Romans 12:9)

(Proverbs 3:21-24)

If you preserve it, (sound judgement) and discernment, provides benefits:

1. You will walk in safety.
2. you will not stumble.
3. you will not be afraid.

4. you will sleep better.

Solomon sought discernment and wisdom. (Proverbs 1:2), 1 Kings 3:9-12) to:

1. Explore the handiwork of GOD (Ecc 1:13)

2. Seek the meaning of life (Ecc 12:13)

We should as believers, seek "The Wisdom that comes from heaven" (James 3:17)

We must study the scriptures which are able "To make you wise for salvation through Faith in YAHUSHUA" ~2 Tim 3:15

May our prayer be " I am your servant, give me discernment that I may understand your statues" (Psalms 119:125)

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Wisdom:

"The ability to discern or judge what is true, right or lasting."

How can Discernment help a believer?

- Having discernment can help you not be led astray.
- Make wise decisions.
- It helps you to be aware and have clarity of thought.
- It helps you identify right from wrong. (What's truth and a lie)

Because of all the decisions we are faced with daily, and what the world wants for our attention we need discernment more than ever to protect against false teaching and to walk a path of holiness

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(Proverbs 17:24)

As believers we know our hearts are deceitful and that we cannot stake our life decisions upon our feelings. (Jeremiah 17:9)
Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Proverbs 9:10 tells us "The fear of YAH is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy one is understanding."

Wisdom starts with the fear of YAH

Fear of YAH:

1. In great awe Psalms 33:8
2. By showing honor.
3. Deep respect and gratitude 1 Tim 1:17
4. And trembling before YAH Phil 2:12

This means we understand our own insignificance and magnify the greatness of who YAH is.

- To have understanding, we need to have knowledge of the HOLY one.
- Wisdom and Discernment is finding twofold, we fear YAH and seek to know HIM intimately

5 Ways to Cultivate a Spirit of Biblical Discernment

1. Cultivate a discerning spirit by asking for wisdom. Unless God has so graciously and supernaturally gifted us, wisdom will not come without desire, effort, and request from us. Solomon was known as a great ruler because he did not ask for riches or jewels, but rather he asked for wisdom and discernment (1 Kings 3:1-15).

If we want to cultivate a heart of biblical discernment, we need to do as the book of James teaches, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him” (James 1:5). Let us prayerfully take our pains, joys, decisions, requests, and needs to the Lord as we ask for His wisdom in each area of our lives. Proverbs 2:3-5 says: *If you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.* We must make a habit of calling out for insight, raising our voice for understanding, and seeking discernment and wisdom as a hidden treasure. We must take part in cultivating a spirit of discernment by prayerfully asking for wisdom, and by searching the scriptures to understand what is truth and what is a lie.

2. Cultivate a discerning spirit by reading the word. In a world where the word “truth” is subjective, Christians ought to be even more clear on what the Truth is. First and foremost, we know that “Jesus is the way the truth and the life” (John 14:6)

If we believe this statement, then it becomes imperative that we seek to know, understand, and apply the truth that Christ speaks of – and we find this truth in His word. The Bible provides us with spiritual nourishment, truth, and intimacy with God (Matthew 4:4), as it humbles our prideful, selfish natures.

Hebrews 4:12 says:

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. God's word discerns our thoughts and intentions. If we want to be wise, loving, patient, gentle, kind, and God-glorifying followers of Christ, then we must submit ourselves to the Word of God, and allow it to cut to the soul.

3. Cultivate a discerning spirit by turning away from evil. Job 28:28 says, “And he said to man, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”

We cannot cultivate a spirit of discernment if we continue to engage in activities that are clearly against the truth and commands of God’s Word. Fearing the Lord implies we honor the Lord and obey His voice. A discerning heart is one that seeks repentance and intentionally decides to walk away from sin. Wisdom is not only what we know, but it is what we do with what we know.

As Paul writes in **Philippians 1:9-10**, “And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may

approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ to the glory and praise of God.”

The chief end of man is to glorify God and make Him known. Therefore, as we walk out our purpose, we will abound more and more in love, with knowledge, and discernment so that we may be pure and blameless and approve what is excellent. A discerning spirit turns away from what is evil and seeks to exemplify what is good according to Scripture

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4. Cultivate a discerning spirit by taking every thought captive. Our thoughts and emotions can be a swirling whirlpool of death. Maybe not literal death, but if we allow our emotions to rule our thoughts and actions, then they will quickly run us amuck, leaving us lost without wisdom. Thankfully, when we submit our thoughts and emotions to the Lord, He provides the wisdom and discernment to process them properly

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Romans 12:2 says, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

We are called to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We do this by reading the Word, praying, and submitting our emotions and thoughts under the authority of God’s Word. Our emotions were created by God as a gift. They allow us to feel, process, take in, and release information.

However, what we do with our thoughts and emotions can either be pleasing to the Lord or sinful. Emotions in and of themselves are neutral, but we should

heed the book of Psalms as we learn to process with the Lord. When we do this, we will be able to discern what is the will of God. What is good and acceptable and perfect

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5. Cultivate a discerning spirit by living in the true freedom of Christ. As we grow in our understanding of the gospel, we will grow in discernment. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are provided freedom unlike any other. The undiscerning will not experience this freedom.

The more they look into themselves for answers, or look to the ends of the earth, the more miserable they will become as they enslave themselves to others, to their own pride, and to such an unbiblical pattern of life.

But when we put our faith and hope in Christ, we are saved out of our sin, and into relationship with the Lord. The more we come to understand this reality and its implications, the greater our spirit of discernment will be.

What Does This Mean?

Faith in Christ provides true freedom – freedom from emotional stress as we submit our thoughts and emotions to the Lord (2 Corinthians 10:5). Freedom from guilt as we are no longer condemned but forgiven (Romans 8:1). Freedom as we seek goodness by repenting of our sin often (Hebrews 10:26-27). Freedom from shame, as our identity becomes more centered on who Christ has created us to be (2 Corinthians 5:17). Freedom to make decisions with hope, knowing that our sources of truth and happiness do not come from within, but are found ultimately in the Lord (Psalm 16:11).

*Credit too: Why Is Discernment Important in the Christian Life? (christianity.com)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does the way you spend your time and energy reveal what is important to you and reflect the deep desires of your heart?

2. When making decisions, do you procrastinate or become so uncomfortable with waiting that you jump in and decide so you don't have to endure uncertainty? How does this affect your discernment process?

3. To discern where the Holy Spirit has been recently working in your life, answer the following questions:

- a. For what am I longing?
- b. What themes keep recurring in my life?
- c. Where am I struggling?
- d. What is most life-giving to me? What is least life-giving?

2. It is seldom wise to make a decision at a deep point of desolation, because it can provoke premature decisions. Name some causes of desolation in your life: fatigue, overextension, sloth, fear, emotional blocks, loss of trust. • How do these things play into your decision-making process?

- When you make a choice out of desolation, what is that like?

- Ask God to enable you to wait through a time of desolation so as better to hear his voice.

Catalog major decisions in your life to date. Beside each one, write your decision-making process. • Which decisions felt best and worst? Why?

*credit too: [Discernment+-+reflection+&+exercises.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#)