

## **Black and White** - Proper Discernment!

Discern: simply means “to know” with the absence of “doubt”

To recognize the source of – Is something, someone, some organization from God or not -

### **Objectives:**

- So we don't make wrong decisions
- So we KNOW, not think so, hope so, maybe
- No more gray living, but clear black / white recognition
- Distinguishment between what is God, the devil or our flesh
- What is God and what is not!

When we do not have our discernment operating at its highest level we will not recognize sin in its subtle forms.

### **Discernment has but two basic operations.**

To hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and to see what the Spirit sees THEN OBEY -

1Co 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

1Jn 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.

Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Mat 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

- Our responsibility is to obey the Spirits leadings and we stay out of trouble.
- Disobedience causes us to end up in messes we should not have had.

Our main source to have good discernment is the Bible – we need to know what it says. We can never develop the accuracy of discernment without a strong full knowledge of the Word of God.

This knowledge will clear up many situations from the start, alleviating much unwanted trouble.

**Familiarity** can cloud discernment – we begin to analyze from our own thinking and knowledge concerning situations or people, not giving proper position to the Holy Spirit and the Word.

- It can cause us to compromise and overlook sin with people we know, when God is saying “address it”.
- Another aspect is when we experience something we are not comfortable with we will throw it out as not being God, not by discernment, but based on **our knowledge** of what we are comfortable with.
- Another cloud which impairs discernment is “negative focus” – always looking at what is wrong, what is lacking, what we don't have – This is a very unhealthy place to live from.

We must focus on what we have, not what we do not have – This mode of negativity is fear based and is not of God. It will cause us to stop seeing what God has given to us and done for us.

It the glass half full or half empty. Either way you have a glass to be thankful for and it is half full of water.

*Heb 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.*

**Strong meat:** Living and operating in and by what we have already been taught.

**Full age:** maturity, complete, grown up

**Reason of use:** practiced, used, and used to gain confidence in the discernment

**Good or Evil:** we must know the difference

The strength of our spirit man is determined by our surrender, submission to God.

- Our life choices will be greatly effected by our ability to know (discern) what is God and what is not.
- Our growth in the things of the Spirit will be greatly effected by our ability to know when our experience in meetings etc. is from God, from the devil or just our flesh acting up.

Another cloud over discernment is our past “negative experiences” – If we do not let God heal us we can never use our bad experience to help “discern” other situation in the present or the future. We can learn from our bad and our good situations. Both help us to see by the “Spirit” and discern properly and accurately.

Pro 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

We must make sure our “multitude” are Godly counselors -

We must learn to look to the Holy Spirit as our number one counselor – Crying out to Him for His gifts to flow through us, many of our problems would vanish in moments by His presence and operation.

### **A Major warning:**

Do not ever discern from your soul – from your **emotions** – it is dangerous

Its characteristics are anxiety and suspicion. Discernment is not based on what we feel.

It is completely dependant on the Spirit of God and on our going from “knowing to knowing” – not from “wondering to wondering” – “maybe to maybe”- We can never discern a spiritual situation from a soulish standpoint.

Discernment is not for the purpose of saying, “I got you” – it is not a “snooping” assignment from God.

### **What do we do with Discernment?**

When we discern, we wait for a green light from the Holy Spirit to act on what we have discerned, if not simply pray about the situation. Do not discuss your discernment unless promoted to do so, and it will benefit all who hear.

### **Growing in our discernment –**

We need to consume the Word of God and spent time with Him to gain the fullness of discernment He wants for us. One of the items we need the most is to allow the Holy Spirit to correct, adjust and point out our weaknesses so that we can grow up in Him and in the giftings He has given to us. This will help and insure our discernment to grow.

Our overall motivation with the gift of discernment is faith, hope and love. To benefit others not point out trouble. We can never get away from these foundational principles, they are God and all that He represents.

Discernment is to help people find God, get right with God, get loosed from something that is not God, And to enjoy and embrace all that God is.

### **When to retreat -**

Sometimes we discern something because God is saying “Run” get away from this person, this situation, it is not healthy for you. It can be damaging, hurtful etc. We need to know when to say “NO” with any person, any situation, any circumstance as we are led by the Holy Spirit. We need to know when to walk, (run) away.

### **The greatest hindrance to proper discernment –**

Mixture: the mixing of the holy and the profane will strongly cloud our ability to see the good from the bad.

Because what we may call good is nothing more than a whole lot of bad covered over with a little good on the surface. Mixtures and those who live by them and in them have no spiritual absolutes. A mixture is no more than lowering our standards, lowering or changing what the Word says and it brings apostasy and deception.

### **To operate properly in discernment we must have a strong spirit man:**

A weak inner man will be led by the head, by weakness, crumbling under persecution, being influenced by the opinions of others and so on. Weakness leans to others for guidance, not the Holy Spirit and the Word.

Inner strength is: to have learned the Word of God and continue therein, to know how to hear God, know the character of God, and to draw from the anointing within.

### **One last point – (Something we are weak in doing on a regular basis)**

1Jn 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. **(What do we try the spirit with or against?)**

A lot of this failure is a lack of knowing what the Word says. - We must “try, test, prove, judge the spirits” of every situation, circumstance, people, and so forth.

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