

Discernment and other spiritual gifts 10.9.16

1 Samuel 3:1-10 Like Samuel, have you ever had a difficult time recognizing the voice of the Lord? Explain

Three types of discernment: 1. Natural discernment that comes with keen observation and a journey filled with time and life-experience.

2. Spiritual discernment that comes with spending time in the word of God and in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

3. The Gift of Discerning of / Distinguishing of spirits that Paul teaches about in 1 Corinthians 12:10. Keen insight into human nature is not discerning of spirits. The discerning of spirits is the supernatural power or ability to look into the spirit realm. Power to discern or see spirits, and to distinguish between good and evil, and the simple human spirit.

Discernment is a product of the kingdom of light, deception is a product of the kingdom of darkness. Where deception is a stronghold, it cancels the influence of discernment. But where discernment is under the control of the Holy Spirit, it supercedes the influence of deception.

Discuss This! [Discernment is] a mental sense of smell that helps you notice when “something smells fishy”... How can you develop discernment? 1. you need to have a spirit of obedience to Jesus Christ...2. you need to study the Word of God and Christian literature. We’re talking about a mental, not physical, sense of smell. In order to develop it you have to use your mind. 3. you need to practice smelling. Smell everything. Your power of discernment is like a muscle. Use it or lose it. 4. you need to be accountable to other believers in a healthy Christian fellowship. If you try to learn to smell by yourself, your mental sense of smell will be eccentric. You’ll be like someone who takes a deep whiff of dung and says, “Ah, roses!” J. Budziszewski

1 John 4:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:21 says **Test everything**. How do we test the spirits? By comparing what they are teaching and prophesying with the Scriptures, and if they are living in the fruit of the Spirit.

How critically important is discernment today? Why is there a lack in the world? Is there a lack in the church? Why or why not?

Discernment is all about learning to listen to, hear, & understand the Lord’s voice. Includes being sensitive to the Holy Spirit, also searching & knowing the scriptures God’s wisdom & being moldable in the hands of the Lord.

True discernment means not only distinguishing the right from the wrong; it means distinguishing the primary from the secondary, the essential from the indifferent, and the permanent from the transient. And, yes, it means distinguishing between the good and the better, and even between the better and the best. Sinclair Ferguson

So, actually we are dealing with “truth” versus “lies.” This being the case, we must first establish what “truth” is. As Christians, our standard is the Bible, so we must look at the Bible to determine what the truth is.

Wisdom is a prerequisite to discernment. Discernment is wisdom in action.

2 Timothy 3:12-17 - We will not believe more than we know, and we will not live higher than our beliefs. Albert Mohler

Words Matter! Colossians 2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. NKJV and Ephesians 5:1-11

Why was Jesus the ultimate example of discernment? Give examples. Are we called to walk in discernment? What may hinder us?

1 Cor 2:13-16 The two main Greek words translated as “discernment” are *anakrino*, meaning to examine, scrutinize or judge closely, interrogate, investigate, discern / and *diakrino*, to separate out, to investigate, to examine.

Here verse 15 uses the word judge, which is the Greek word *anakrino*, (discern, examine, scrutinize) Discuss “Only God can judge me” John 3:18 Amplified Discernment is never to be used to justify a critical spirit. John 7:24 “Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a *right judgment*.”

Some Keys to Discernment:

(1) Know God.

(2) Know the Word (the Bible).

(3) Love the Truth John 8:32

(4) Keep your heart pure

(5) Stay Humble

(6) Obey the voice of the Holy Spirit – the inner witness. NEVER over-ride this “still small voice”, as it will save us from deception again and again.

(7) Surround yourself with an atmosphere of faith, and people of faith Read and meditate on Isaiah 11:2-3