

Ch. 11 “How To Acquire Spiritual Discernment” What is spiritual discernment and how do we grow it in our life?

Have you ever thought about the difference between intelligence and discernment? What do you think it is?

Spiritual Discernment – “the ability to be guided by the Holy Spirit to see things from God’s point of view.”

What are some attributes you might recognize in those with spiritual discernment?

1. See things from a different perspective than a “rational mind”.
2. Distinguish from right and wrong.
3. Distinguish from wise and unwise.
4. Distinguish from self-will and God’s will.

Do you recognize these in your life? What are some examples you can think of?

There are four ways we can get this kind of spiritual discernment:

1. Seeking it
2. Submitting to the Holy Spirit
3. Studying God’s Word
4. Following God’s instructions

Seek Spiritual Discernment

Psalm 119:66-67 – King David wrote: “Teach me knowledge and good judgement, for I believe in your commands. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.” What is David saying about his life?

Are you or have you taken the first step, seeking spiritual discernment?

Submit To The Holy Spirit

1 Cor. 2:9-12 – Paul wrote: “...No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.”

What is Paul telling us about God and the Spirit of God?

Can we determine God’s plan without the Holy Spirit? Why?

Study God’s Word – The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself. It is His guidebook.

Heb. 4:12 – “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

What does this tell us about the Bible? Why did God provide us with such a large book of stories and teachings?

2 Tim. 3:16 – “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Do you see this truth in your life?

Follow God’s Instructions

How do you follow God’s instructions in your life?

Eze. 44:23 – Ezekiel wrote about the priests: “They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.”

God gave His people laws throughout the Old Testament and the priests to help them understand them.

Why was it necessary for the people to have this?

“The process of gaining discernment is progressive, not static. We gain discernment bit by bit throughout our lives.”

James 1:22 – James wrote: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

Why is it important to be a doer of the word and not just a reader and a forgetter?