

Discernment....

What Does The Bible Say

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Discernment-sound judgment which makes possible the distinguishing of good from evil, and the recognition of God's right ways for his people. It is necessary for the understanding of spiritual realities, and, on a practical level, for right governance and the avoidance of life's pitfalls. (Manser, M.H. (2009). Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies. London: Martin Manser.

Discernment-is given by God, through his Holy Spirit. It is received through God's word and through the insight of a renewed mind. Discerning believers seek to grow in their understanding and knowledge of God's truth. (Manser, M.H. (2009). Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies. London: Martin Manser.

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Discernment-is simply good judgment, judgement according to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God

This means worldly judgement and intelligence will not always coincide with discernment according to the Word of God.

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Jesus wants us all us to integrate discernment into the fabric of daily life. Discernment is not just head knowledge, but is must be accompanied by the Spirit and Word of God.

I suggest that all of us will encounter situations in the coming days and months when it will be important to be discerning.

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When discernment is necessary:

- * Deciding on a career move or changing jobs
- * Moving from dating, to courtship to marriage
- * Deciding on what neighborhood and house to purchase

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What is God asking of me: when discernment is important....

- * Is this the ministry assignment for me in this season
- * When is it time to do something different (shift from area to a new ministry work)
- * Is God speaking to me about how to address this situation
- * How do I make sure that I am applying the scripture correctly in my life

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What does the word of God say about discernment:

I Corinthians 2:13-15 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with the Spirit-taught words. 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. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgements.

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1 Corinthians 2:13-15 helps us to understand discernment:

Discernment:

1. The Spirit of God is the genesis of discernment
2. We cannot determine or figure out life's issues without spiritual direction
3. The person without the Spirit cannot understand the things of God
4. We are unable to discern the will of God if we are not saved
5. When we know Jesus and are led by the Holy Spirit we can distinguish between truth and falsehood

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God desires that we study and take heed to the word of God and when we do these things discernment is possible. When we are not in the Word of God and do not understand or accept His precepts, we are not able to discern what He desires for us.

Basics to discernment:

First, study...study to shew thyself unto God a workman that needeth not be ashamed, dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

Second, believe in the Word of God...All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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Basics to discernment:

Third, practice the Word of God. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me-practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9

Fourth, prayer is always key. Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2

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There is no way to discern what God wants for us to do in any area of our lives if we are not committed to study and prayer. God speaks through His Word and he talks with us in our prayer time. You and I cannot discern what God wants for us by our own intelligence or wisdom, it must come from God. We cannot be all that God desires for us in our own strength we must be led by the Spirit.

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II Chronicles 1:7-12, I Kings 3:4-15

- * God appears to Solomon and this is what God said “ask whatever you want me to give you.”
- * Solomon thanks God for the kindness shown toward his father David
- * Solomon thanks him for being crowned king
- * This was Solomon’s request “give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people for who is able to govern this great people of yours”
- * God said, since that is your request—You will receive wisdom and knowledge (wealth, possessions and honor-such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.)

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We ought to ask God for discernment:

Teach me knowledge and good judgment for I trust your commands. Psalm 119:66

Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds. Psalm 119:27

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. James 1:5

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May the peace of God be with you....

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