

## The Need for Discernment

**Psalm 119:66** - Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

**Discernment:** The ability to think Biblically about every area of your life...

### I. Teaching

**A. Teach:** Learn, train, gain information (or signals and cues) and respond properly to it with regular action, implying acceptance of, or submission to the information

**1. David understood that the Holy Spirit is the greatest teacher! There is no better teacher to teach judgements, than the one whose judgements are being taught!**

a) **Psalm 71:17** - O God, You have taught me from my youth, And I still declare Your wondrous deeds...**Psalm 119:102** - I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, For You Yourself have taught me....**Psalm 25:12** - Who is the man who fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way he should choose...**Psalm 32:8** - I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you....

**2. So not only is David saying I need you to teach me, but I am going to SUBMIT to what you are teaching me!**

a) **James 4:7** - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you...**1 Peter 5:6** - Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you...

### II. Tasting

**A. Judgement:** taste, i.e., the use of taste buds to distinguish and enjoy flavor...discretion, discernment, i.e., good judgment as a facet of wisdom and capacity for understanding

**1. Discernment will SAVE you so much heartache in YOUR LIFE!**

a) **Discernment will help you:**

- (1) **Realize a true prophetic word from a man made one**
- (2) **Tell the Truth apart from a Lie**
- (3) **Realize what relationships are temporary and which ones are life long**
- (4) **Realize what people need certain access to you, and which ones need to be kept at a distance!**
- (5) **Understand what direction to take when the forks come in the road**
- (6) **Choose the direction that is eternal...**

**2. Tasting**

**3. Jesus and Discernment**

a) **Matthew 7:6** - Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you...

(1) **Jesus said you need to discern what you give people, and what you give to things!**

b) **John 2:24-25** - 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because He knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

(1) **Jesus did not trust Himself to people because He discerned what was IN the man!**

### III. Testing

A. **1 John 3:24 - 4:3** - <sup>24</sup> Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. <sup>4</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

1. **Test:** examine

a) **You don't need to dabble in order to examine!**

b) **1 Thessalonians 5:20-22** - Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil

(1) **Test everything...but do not despise everything!**

### IV. Thriving

A. **How do you grow in discernment?**

1. **Assess Every Situation in the Light of God's Word**

a) **John 17:17** - Sanctify them in Your truth, Your Word is truth...**Proverbs 30:5** - Every word of God proves true...**Hebrews 4:12** - The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart...

(1) **Piercing:** penetrate

2. **Allow God to train you to think like HIM!**

a) **Hebrews 4:13** - And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account...

### Conclusion