

Series – Walking in Dominion

Lesson #4 – Learning to Discern

Foundational Scripture: 1 John 4:1 “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.”

1. What is discernment?
 - a. Discern comes from the Greek word, diakrisis. Meaning a distinguishing, discerning, judging.
 - b. Discernment is the ability to judge a situation accurately – to see the full reality of a situation, relationship, experience, or circumstance.
 - c. The capacity to understand accurately and clearly what is; to see the truth of things as they are from God’s viewpoint.
 - d. Seeing and understanding as God sees and understands; the ability to make godly judgments and right appraisals.
2. Discernment comes from the Spirit of God. **1 Corinthians 12:10** - It is a Spiritual Gift.
3. Two parts to spiritual discernment (**Acts 17:11-12**)
 - a. Examination or investigation
 - b. Judgment
4. God has given us discerning of spirits to protect the Body and warn others.
5. Discernment is a function of the Holy Spirit. He helps us to navigate through life in truth. **John 16:12-13**.
6. Discernment must be learned. **Hebrews 5:12-14**
7. Things to look for when exercising discernment:
 - a. Discernment is governed by love for without love, it is worthless. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**.
 - b. Discernment centers us onto Jesus and His teachings **1 Corinthians 12:3**.
 - c. Discernment leads us to Scripture, not away from it **Isaiah 8:19-20**.
 - d. Discernment builds up the church and its members giving it power, wisdom, character, boldness, and unity. **Ephesians 4:11-12**
 - e. Discernment helps create in us a love of righteousness, a heightened sense of sin, and a turning away from known evil.

Antioch Christian Church Wednesday Night Bible Study

Quote by Oswald Chambers, "God never gives us discernment in order that we may criticize, but that we may intercede".

8. Spiritual Discernment:
 - a. Truth spiritually discerned, **I Corinthians 2:14**
 - b. Discern what's right, **Luke 12:56-57**
 - c. Distinguish good from evil, **Hebrews 5:14**
 - d. Judgment to approve right things, **Philippians 1:9-10**
9. Without discernment:
 - a. We will be deceived by sin
 - b. We will not bear righteous fruit in our lives

Discernment is a three-way key – it is a key to understanding God's will, having good judgment, and knowing God's voice.

10. Be committed to the process of learning to walk in discernment. **Acts 16:16-18**