

**DISCERNMENT...**  
**FOCUSING ON GOD IN CHRIST**

***“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”***

***1 Corinthians 2:12***

How does the Word of God enjoin us to be discerning between truth and lies?

Proverbs 2:1-5, “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, *and* apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, *and* lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as *for* hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”

Why?

1 Corinthians 2:10, “The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:14-15, “The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.”

As such:

Proverbs 18:15, “The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.”

Therefore:

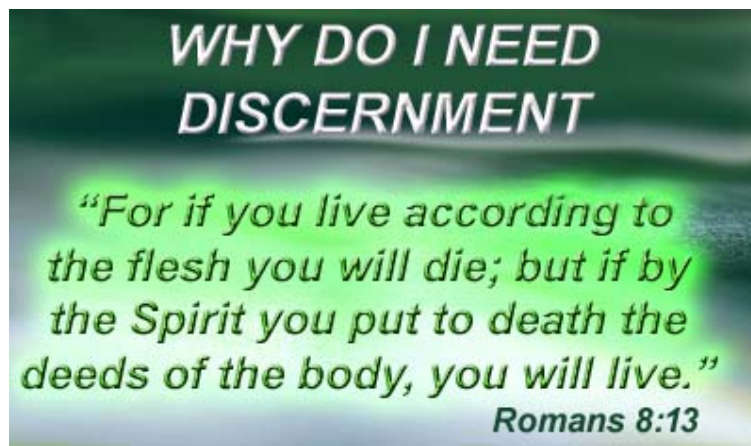
Psalms 119:15-16, “I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.”

What’s more?

Isaiah 26:3, “You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed on *You*, because he trusts in You.”

How committed am I to focus my mind on God and trust Him?

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Why does the Word of God instruct us to seek discernment?

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Romans 8:7, "Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

1 Corinthians 2:11, "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."

What's more?

Matthew 24:24, "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

As such:

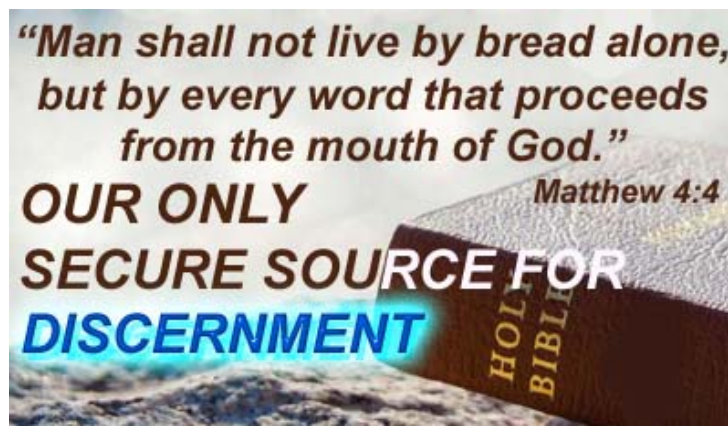
Romans 6:16, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?"

Therefore, as true believers in Christ:

1 Corinthians 2:12, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."

How steadfast am I to seek discernment to abide in Christ?

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What is our one and only trusted source of truth to lead us to discern truth from lies?

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

As such:

Joshua 1:8, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it."

Romans 12:2, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

What's more?

Hebrews 5:14, "Solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

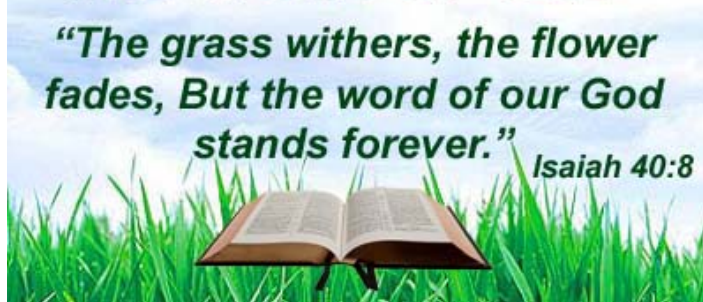
Therefore:

Psalms 1:1-3, "Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

Colossians 3:16, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom."

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# POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD



How powerful is the Word of God in a believer's life?

Hebrews 4:12, "The word of God *is* living and powerful, 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."

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Isaiah 55:11, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it."

Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

What's more?

Romans 10:17, "Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Psalms 119:105, "Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

1 Peter 1:23, "You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."

As such:

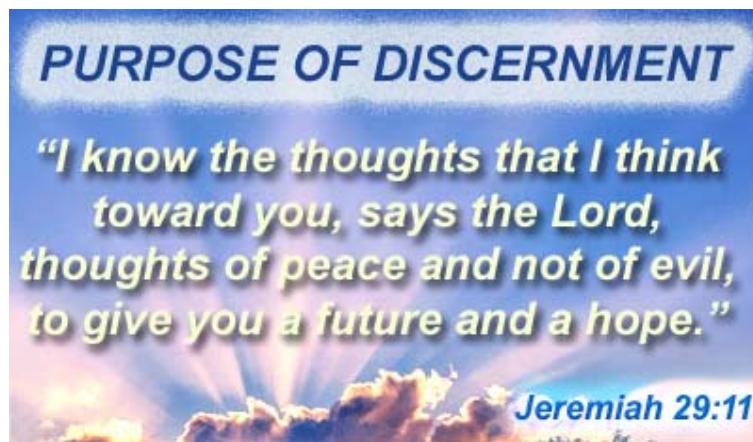
1 Corinthians 1:18, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Therefore:

Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."

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For what purpose are we enjoined to use discernment?

1 Peter 2:21, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

As such:

Romans 8:29, "Whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son."

1 Samuel 16:7, "The *LORD* does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

What's more?

Proverbs 15:14, "The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness."

John 12:25, "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

Hebrews 9:14, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Galatians 5:24, "Those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Therefore:

2 Timothy 2:15, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Corinthians 13:5, "Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves."

Am I in the faith right now?

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# THE PATH TO DISCERNMENT

*"If then you were raised with Christ,  
seek those things which are above,  
where Christ is, sitting at the right  
hand of God. Set your mind on things  
above, not on things on the earth."*

*Colossians 3:1-2*

How watchful must we be so as to truly live with discernment?

Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

1 John 2:15-16, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world."

John 7:24, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

As such:

Colossians 3:10, "Put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."

Romans 13:14, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts."

Therefore:

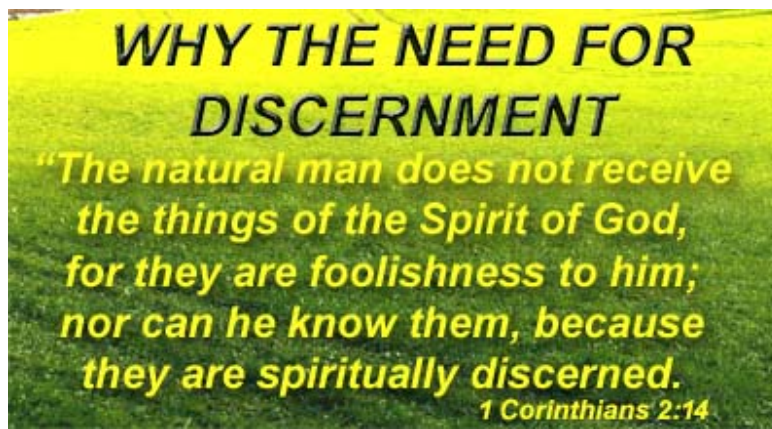
Lamentations 3:40, "Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the LORD."

Proverbs 4:23, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life."

1 Timothy 4:15, "Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all."

How committed am I to live with discernment, so as to truly abide in Christ?

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Why is discernment so important and vital so as to not be deceived by the world?

1 Timothy 4:1, "The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."

2 Peter 2:1, "There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction."

As such:

Romans 8:5-6, "Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace."

1 John 2:4-6, "He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

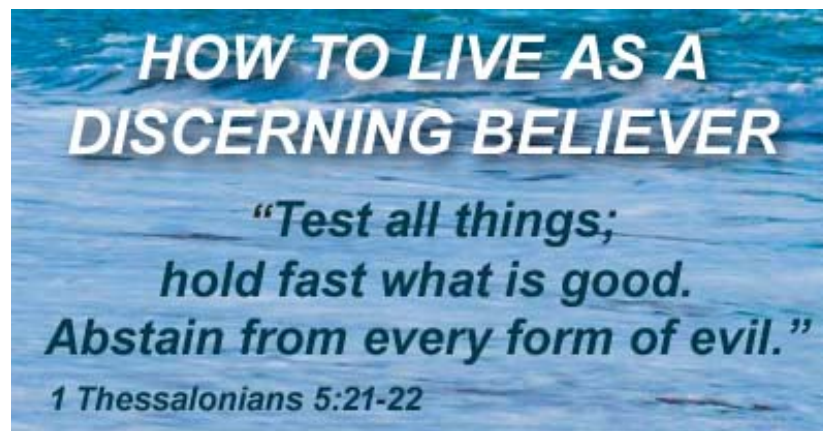
What's more?

2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Therefore:

1 John 4:1, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

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How is discernment applied in the life of a believer in Christ?

Philippians 4:8, "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

1 Peter 4:1-2, "Since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God."

1 Peter 5:8-9, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith."

Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

Why?

Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

Therefore:

2 Timothy 2:19, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

How determined am I to live to follow Christ at His Word, and abstain from every form of evil?

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