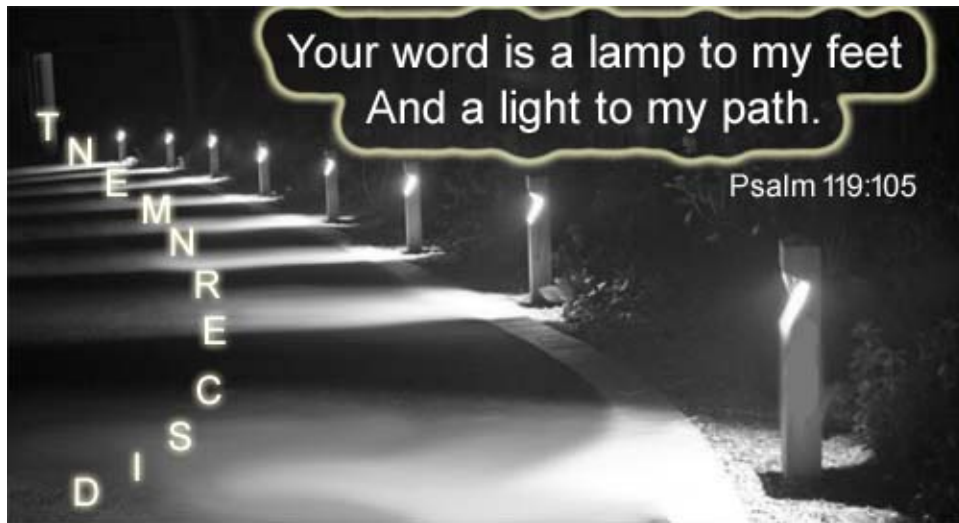


DISCERNMENT



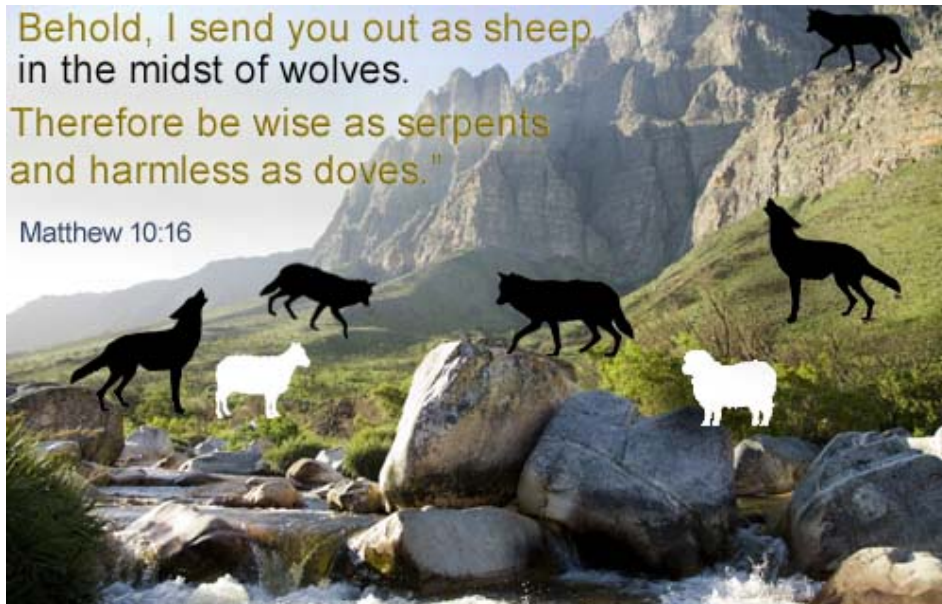
“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment... that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, Philippians 1:9

Perhaps the most needed attribute of God we need in this life is discernment. With all the deception the world offers, with the watering down of godly values by false prophets, with the humanistic psychology who redefines black and white to all shades of gray, no wonder deception can affect even Christians unless we take the necessary steps to have our hearts and minds focused on God’s Kingdom. In the world today, everything has become relative to the point that there is no more true or false, black or white, or even right or wrong. One has only to notice what’s going on around us to see how much confusion exists.

What is discernment? We could define discernment as the learned ability to perceive rightly according to a strong basic set of values and knowledge. To the true believer in God and Christ, obviously our basic set of values is based on God’s Word.

Why do we need and how do we get discernment? How can we avoid the dangers of deception? What are the blessings from discernment? Stay Tuned!

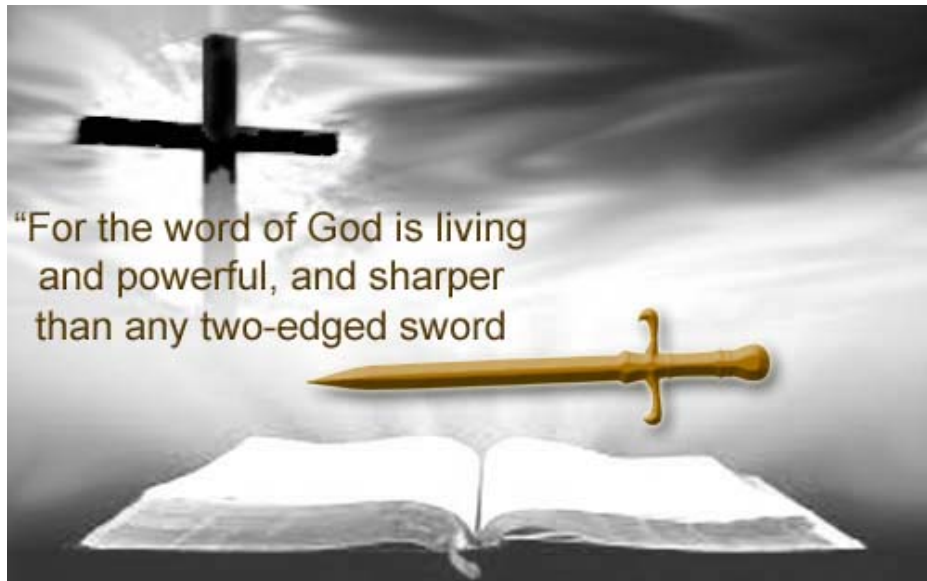
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What is our most important mission as believers in Christ, and why do we need discernment? Obviously, it is to live according to God's Word, but as well, to be out in the world to share the message of salvation. Jesus' command to be wise as we are sent out, while referring to know right from wrong, also clearly refers to the ability to discern situations, events, and obviously requires the knowledge of God's Word coupled with the Holy Spirit's guidance and inspiration.

The core reason why we need discernment is to avoid being deceived, but as well to have the ability to help, instruct, encourage and lead people into the truths of God, no matter the circumstances. In 1 Corinthians 2:14 Paul said, "But 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." Therefore, our mission as believers in Christ is to be able to bring the gospel message in its truest form, in love, with the proper knowledge of the Word, and according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Tomorrow, how do we get discernment.

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So, how do we acquire discernment so we are not deceived? Obviously, God's Word is our only source of truth that can lead us in the direction of God's Kingdom. Knowledge is a tool to prepare us for life's complexities and challenges. As a child, we learn by experience, but much more through instructions and guidance of our parents. As adults, the responsibility to learn becomes ours, the reason people choose to get a college education. In the same way, knowledge about God might start with our parents, but much more importantly through our own dedication to learn from God's Word. Paul in Romans 12:2 said, "And 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." Discernment starts with God's Word, and as a result, the Holy Spirit is ever present with those who seek and follow Christ. "The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness." Proverbs 15:14

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“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.”

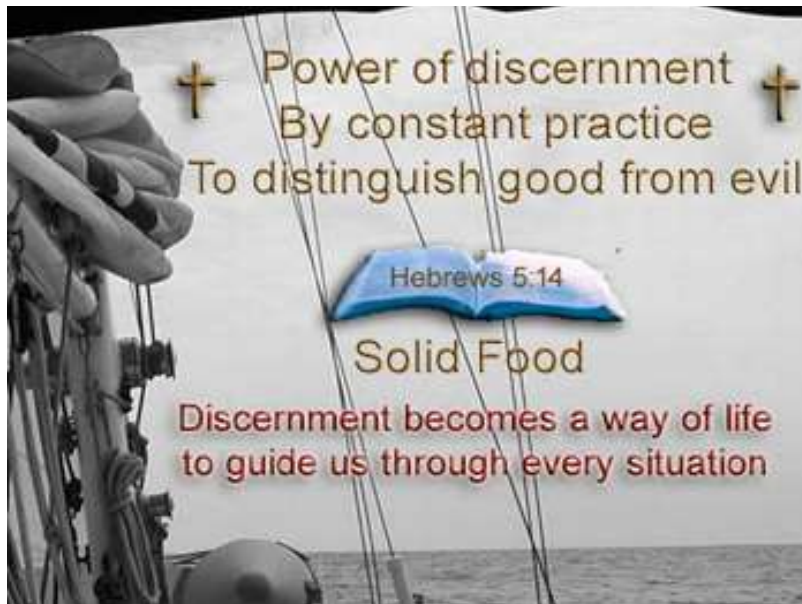


The philosophy that our world has adopted and desires to push on everyone is a materialistic godless existence that glorifies mankind through feel good psychology. It doesn't establish any relevance to true or false, or right and wrong. Everything becomes shades of the truth, thereby negating God's Word.

I remember a so-called Christian counselor, a psychologist, who preached the veganism lifestyle as God's only approved nutrition for mankind. After repeated challenges from scripture, he would not accept God's Word as truth. The apostle John in 1John 4:1 said, "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." Paul to the Corinthians said, "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ."

Our responsibility as true Christian believers is to study to know and apply God's Word to our lives. This way, we'll be able to discern when false humanistic and deceitful preachers try to deceive us.

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“But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” Hebrews 5:14

If we were to define the benefits of discernment, the above scripture says it all. In other words, discernment can only be achieved by feeding on the solid food of God, His Word. The accent is in the constant practice to distinguish right from wrong.

Assuredly, the more we feed on God’s Word, the more we will follow the lead of the Holy Spirit for guidance and inspiration, and the more we will possess the power of discernment to distinguish good from evil. That applies to every situation in life, whether at home, church, at work or social medias. In essence, before believing any message about God, we have the responsibility to ensure it is the truth of God and not some deceptive opinion, and I sure hope you do so with my own messages. Also, the more we study God’s Word, the easier it gets to spot lies and devious statements that contradict His Word.

Consequently, for those who feed on the solid food of God’s Word consistently, with the intent to serve Him, discernment becomes a way of life to guide us through every situation.

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