

“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.” 1 Corinthians 2:14

Why is discernment so important if we are to follow Christ as Lord?

Philippians 1:9-10: “That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.”

Ephesians 5:8, 10: “For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”

As such:

Proverbs 9:10: “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.”

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?

1 Corinthians 14:33: “God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace.”

James 3:17: “The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

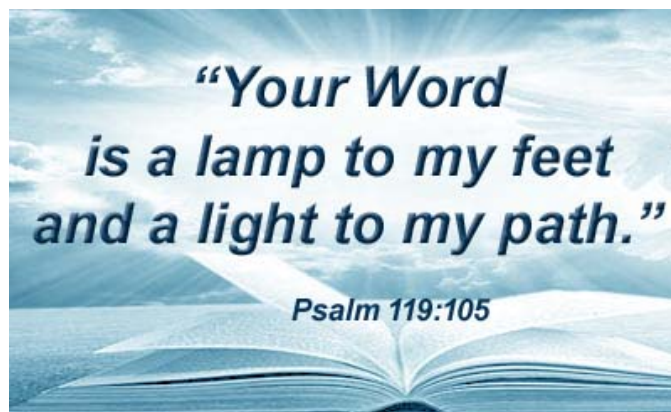
Therefore:

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

1 Corinthians 2:15-16: “He who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. For who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

Do I?

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How does one acquire discernment?

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

As such:

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."

The reason Jesus said:

Matthew 11:29: "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

What's more?

James 3:13: "Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom."

Why?

James 3:17: "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

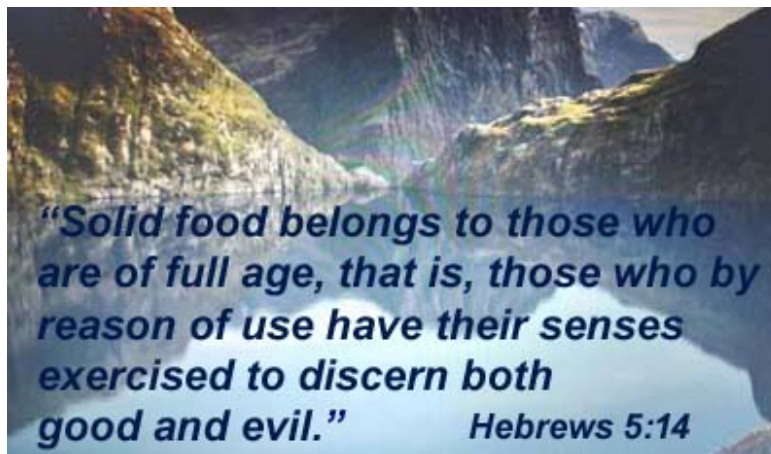
Therefore:

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."

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

1 Thessalonians 5:21: "Test all things; hold fast what is good."

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What is the core purpose to attain discernment?

Philippians 1:10: "That you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ."

As such:

1 John 2:27: "The anointing that you received from Him abides in you, —just as it has taught you, abide in Him."

1 Corinthians 2:10-12: "The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 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. 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."

Therefore:

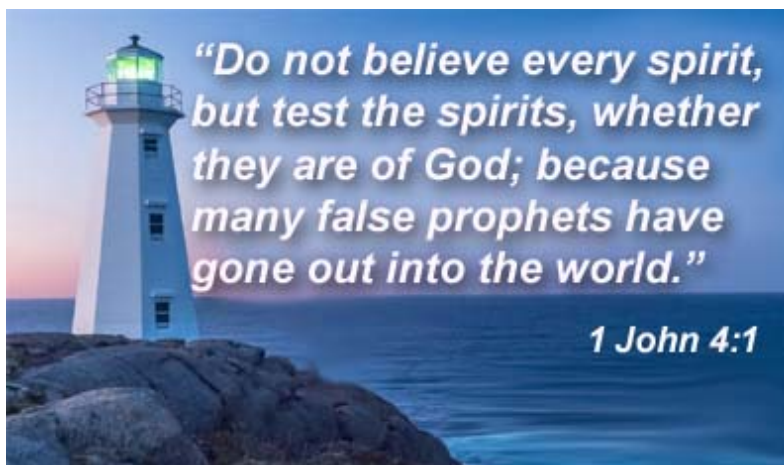
James 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

Why?

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;

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."

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What warnings are we given to avoid being deceived?

Ephesians 5:6-7: "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them."

Why?

2 Corinthians 11:13-14: "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

As such:

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

What's more?

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

With the result that:

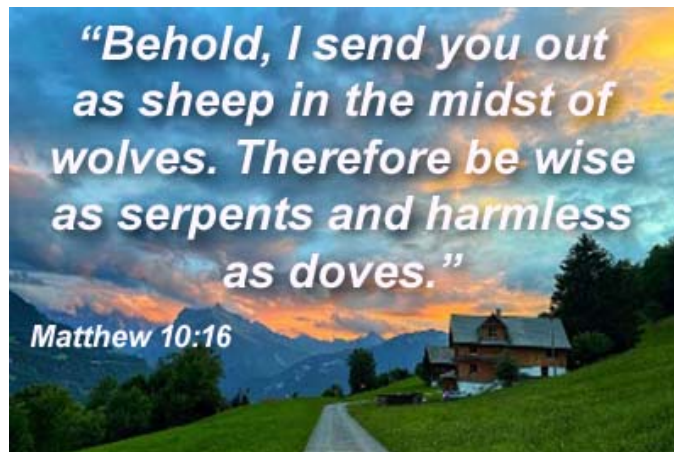
1 John 4:3: "Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."

Therefore:

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."

How strongly am I anchored in Christ, so as to avoid being deceived?

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What is the path to using discernment?

Philippians 2:12-13: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure."

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

As such:

1 Corinthians 3:11: "No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1 Timothy 6:3-5: "If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of* gain.

From such withdraw yourself."

Therefore:

James 4:8: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

Ephesians 5:17: "Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

James 1:22: "Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

What's more?

Matthew 7:24: "Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."

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