

TARGET #5: DISCERNMENT

Memorize the definition and verses for Discerning:

“The ability to see people and circumstances as they really are.”

Hebrews 5:14

“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

I Corinthians 2:14

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Introduction: *Ephesians 5:15-17* “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” God wants His children to be alert, perceptive, wise, and discerning.

It will help you to...

1. Determine God’s will (*Eph. 5:17; Matt. 26:39; James 4:15*).
2. Between truth and error (*I John 4:1*).
3. Between right and wrong (*Isaiah 5:20; I Thess. 5:21-22*).
4. Know God’s timing in decision making (*Prov. 3:5-6; James 4:14*).
5. Pick proper friends (*I Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20*).
6. Maintain a Godly musical appetite (*Eph. 5:29; Psalm 95:1*).
7. Understand God’s design for dress (*I Peter 3:3-4; I Tim. 2:9*).
8. Live a separated life (*James 4:4; II Cor. 6:17*).
9. How to ask penetrating questions (*I Samuel 15:13-22*).
10. Differentiate between what is good and what is best (*Phil. 1:9-10*).

Discernment - the ability to see people and circumstances as they really are (*Mal. 3:18*).

What is the Definition of Biblical Discernment?

1. The ability to be led by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 2:14-16-Gr. - Anakrino-to examine or investigate).
 - A. Apart from the illuminating ministry of the Spirit, we can neither know nor implement the mind of God in our lives. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (*Rom 8:14*).
 - B. No person, no matter how perceptive his senses and how high his IQ, can imagine or understand Divine truth.

- I. We have the ability to measure life and its decisions against the absolute standard of revealed truth (*Heb. 4:12*).
 1. The ability to see below surface conflicts to root causes (*Heb. 5:14 Gr. – Kiakris – to judge by evidence*).
 - A. It is an ethical understanding, which corresponds to the Holy mind of God.
 - B. It looks at each situation within the eternal creative-redemptive purpose of God.
 - C. The mature Christian discerns between right and wrong, righteous and unrighteous, and even helpful and harmful elements.
 2. The ability to apply common sense acquired through life experiences (*Matt. 16:2-3-Gr. Dokimazo - to test*).
 - It involves study, research, counsel, maturity and logic (*Gen. 31:32*).
 - It involves time, truth, and the tests of life (*Prov. 7:7*).
 - The fires of opposition and criticism will purify the ability to discern (*James 1:2-12; I Peter 1:6-7*).

