

## **SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT**

### **Matthew 13:11**

Spiritual discernment has to do with spiritual wisdom and the ability to distinguish between truth and error, see (**Hebrews 5:12-14**). Spiritual discernment is the ability to think biblically in all areas of life.

**I Corinthians 1:30; 2:12-14** God's word teaches us that spiritual wisdom, or spiritual discernment is something that only believers can have because both come from Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

### **WHY DISCERNMENT IS IMPORTANT**

**I Thessalonians 5:21-23; I John 4:1** Notice that both Paul and John share the same message and concern for the believer to examine and test everything by God's wisdom and His standards.

**I Corinthians 3:1-4** Unfortunately many believers stumble with this gift that every believer can have in abundance. Many of us exhibit lifestyles and personalities of worldliness in our decision making and behavior causing a testimony that negatively affects us, our family, our friends and even our church.

**Luke 12:54-57** Jesus warns us about so called spiritual leaders who have no spiritual discernment and He calls them hypocrites because they are leading people down the wrong road to destruction.

**John 7:24; II Corinthians 10: 7a** Consider the lack of Godly discernment through the many denominations of today's Christianity. Some teach diseases are all the act of the devil, some teach a works based salvation, some teach that devils and demons must be cast out by "spiritual" believers.

**I Corinthians 4:2-5** Paul is warning believers not to be hasty in judgment of another believer. God is the ultimate judge for every person.

**James 1:5-8** If we would be slow to judge others and wait on God for His wisdom and knowledge we would be much more forgiving with one another and much less hasty to criticize others.

### **JESUS DISCERNMENT**

**Luke 11:9-10** Our Savior has great advice for believers who seek out wisdom and discernment.

**Matthew 16:3** Once again Jesus warns about a little truth in leadership and then false discernment.

**John 8:15-16** Again Jesus warns about judging others with human wisdom and mans discernment.

**John 12:48** There is a lot of hidden truth in this verse. Judgment that is true comes from God's word.

### **DISCERNMENT IN THE CHURCH**

**II Timothy 3:16-17** Is the church really suppose to judge and discern others in the body? Many believers are fearful of making Godly judgments and are unclear on the duty of the local assembly so many obvious destructive things go on within the church that cause the Holy Spirit grief.

**I Corinthians 5:11-6:8** Paul tells us that it is not our business to make judgment of lost people because God is responsible for that. However, it is the responsibility of church leadership, (spiritual leadership) to take care of business within the church to keep spiritual order and a Spirit led church.

**Matthew 7:15-16, 22-23** Millions of true believers are involved with false doctrine and wasting their time, talents and money because they are not able to discern good from evil, false doctrine from truth.

**Matthew 7:1-5** Sin can be debilitating and painful. These verses teach us to help others by making sure we also are helped by others. The eye is sensitive and must be full of light in order to help others.

**James 4:8-11** We are not to judge or to speak evil of others when we are not right with God.

**Philippians 1:9-10** Does your discernment of others lead you to help, heal, love and share? Does your discernment of others cause you to feel superior, scandalous, bitter or disdain for that person? The Holy Spirit desires us to love and help one another not to feel more 'spiritual' and better than others.