

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 69

Wisdom & Discernment

Be a Wise Judge



2013

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

Discernment!!!! Uh oh another **BIG** word!!!! Don't worry, it's easy to understand. Remember the Holy Spirit is teaching you, okay? *Discernment is the ability to judge things wisely or smartly...the right way!* In order to judge things wisely, you have to have WISDOM!!! Makes sense, right?

One reason we believers need discernment is because there are those two kinds of wisdom. There is a wisdom that comes from below and the wisdom that comes from above.

The wisdom that is from below is the kind the Bible in **James 3** calls earthly, natural, demonic or cosmic.

The wisdom that comes from above is God's Truth...the mind of Christ.



Here's a passage in the Bible that tells us about the two kinds of

wisdom in **James 3:13-18**. "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom (from God's Word). (14) But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts (minds), do not boast about it or deny the truth. (15) Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. (16) For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. (17) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, obedient, full of mercy and good fruit, not prejudice and sincere. (18) Peace makers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness."

Now the naturally minded man...the unbeliever...can't discern or judge in a wise way or tell the difference between the two wisdoms! Let's read what the Bible says about this.

1 Cor 2:1-16. "And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of (superiority of) **wisdom**, saying to you the testimony of God. (2) For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. (3) I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, (4) and my message and my preaching were not in convincing words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the (Holy) Spirit and of (His) power, (5) so that your faith would not rest on the **wisdom of men**, but on the power and wisdom of God. (6) Yet we do speak **wisdom** among those who are (spiritually) mature; a wisdom, however, not of this time nor of the rulers of this time, who are passing away; (7) but we speak **God's wisdom** in a mystery, the **hidden wisdom** which God appointed before the ages to our glory; (8) the **wisdom** which none of the rulers of this time has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; (9) but just as it is written, 'THINGS WHICH *the EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND the EAR HAS NOT HEARD*, and which *HAVE NOT ENTERED THE THINKING OF MAN*, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.' (10) **For to us God revealed them through the (Holy) Spirit**; for the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (11) For who among men can read the thoughts of a man except

the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the (Holy) Spirit of God. (12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the (Holy) Spirit who is from God, **so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,** (13) which things we also speak, **not** in words taught by **human wisdom**, but in those taught **by the (Holy) Spirit**, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (14) **But an unbeliever does not accept the things of the (Holy) Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually understood (*anakrino* = " to discern, to judge wisely in a formal trial").** (15) **But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged by no one.** (16) **For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ."**

Now the wisdom from below can be very tricky and deceiving, just like Satan and he wants it that way. We can be fooled into thinking that we are judging in a right way when in fact we are NOT. Look at what Proverbs 16:25 says. "There is a way which seems right to a man but its end is the way of death." In other words it'll turn out bad for you. It was really WRONG and we were deceived by the kingdom of darkness.

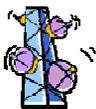


Now the wisdom from above is EXCELLENT because it is perfect and from God our loving Father. Let's read Proverbs 16:20-24. It shows us the difference between the two wisdoms. "He who gives attention (studies) to the Word will find good, and happy is he who trusts in the Lord. (21) The wise in mind will be called understanding, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness (ability to influence others in a right way). (22) Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it, but the order of fools is stupidity. (23) The mind of the wise instructs his mouth and adds persuasiveness (ability to influence in a right way) to his lips. (24) Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."

The Bible warns us over and over again to be on your guard because there will be MANY false teachers among us. Peter warns us in 2 Peter 2:1-3. "But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies (those things against God's Word...false doctrines) even denying the Master (Jesus) who bought (redemption) them, bringing fast destruction upon themselves. (2) Many will follow their sensuality (lust patterns of the sin nature), and because of them the way of the Truth will be slandered; (3) and in their greed they will use you with false words; their bad judgment from long ago is active and their destruction is active."



1 John 4:1 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." The Bible tells us that in the last days (close to the Rapture), the believer will be attacked with an incredible amount of evil through the different medias like TV, movies, radio and yes, even video games!! But the worst part is they will take the Word of God and falsify it so that you will not benefit from the Word's true meaning.



1 Tim 4:1-2 "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times (close to the Rapture) some (believers) will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, (2) by insincere liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron..."

2 Tim 3:1-6 "But realize this, that in the last days (close to the Rapture) difficult times will come. (2) For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, criminals, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) unloving, contradictory, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, (4) dangerous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; STAY AWAY FROM such men as these." The Old Testament of our Bible also warned us about this in a prophecy in Daniel 12:4. "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and

forth (heavy travel), and knowledge will increase (about all things through the internet)." We live in a day and time where this is literally coming true before our eyes – and ears! Here are a few examples:

The internet

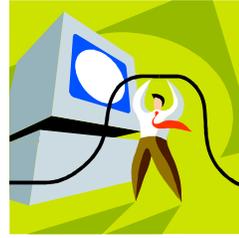
Wireless communication

Facebook, Twitter, Tumbler and so on

24 hour cable news

An explosion of the printed word

An explosion of cults and false religions



These things are being pushed upon all of us and the increases in the amounts of available information along with the rapid increase in how fast the information comes at us...the INTERNET and TV!!

You are actually witnessing the increased intensity of the invisible phase of the angelic conflict. We are in a war against invisible fallen angelic creatures...demons who are more intelligent and more powerful than human beings. And they are angrier than ever and more wound up than ever.

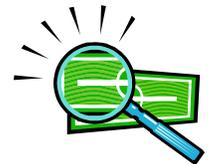
Now you know why you should care about wisdom the need to discern, right? Because you are in the middle of a war zone! In the middle of a fight with the dragon Satan and his demons. If you don't know how to tell the difference between a friend from an enemy, you will get hurt badly!! And your enemy definitely doesn't fight fair. In fact, they disguise themselves to look as much like our friends as possible. Satan's game is **deception**. It has been his game from the very beginning, and it will stay that way until he is destroyed by God.

John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies." Jesus told this to the Pharisees who hated Him because they were unbelievers and would not see the Truth that Jesus was the promised Savior of the world...the Messiah! He called them children of the devil and they were.



Satan's goal is to appear to be as much like God as possible. He wants to be "the king". He wants to take over God's position. **Isa 14:14** tells us what Satan wants. "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High (God)."

So Satan is the original master counterfeiter. He fakes everything. What is a counterfeit? A counterfeit is an imitation of the real thing with the intention to trick us into thinking it's real.



Do you understand this? We want to recognize the real thing...the genuine. It's bad enough that we have our own sick heads from our sin natures and we don't see clearly at times. But on top of that, there is a whole army of demons out there...the kingdom of darkness...who are hard at work pumping out all the counterfeits...the fakes...to trick us up! They are actively trying to deceive us and cheat us of our prize, which are the blessings and privileges God has given us. They hate us!!! And in our human nature, we are way outmatched in trying to tell the difference of what is from God and what is from the kingdom of darkness. You need the Word of God for this fight!!! **SO BE ON GUARD!!!!** Paul warns us in **2 Cor 2:10** when he says, "But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, (11) so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes." Why aren't we ignorant of the devil's schemes and tricks? Because we have the Wisdom from above...the Word of God...in our souls and from that Wisdom we get discernment, the ability to judge wisely or smartly.

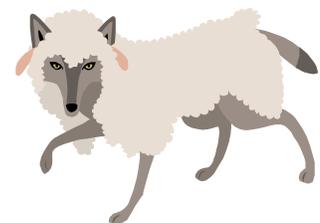
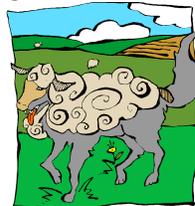
Satan's secret weapons are counterfeits and the best counterfeit is one which is as close to the real thing as possible! That makes it hard to detect!!! But we have a great **MAGNIFYING GLASS** to discern with. What is it again? Yes, the **WORD** of **GOD!!!**



The wisdom from below is from Satan and he has a counterfeit for everything:

1. Counterfeit doctrine. 1 Tim 4:1 "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times (close to the Rapture) some (believers) will leave the faith by dedicating their time to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons..."
2. Counterfeit Ministers. 2 Cor 11:13-15 "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (15) So it is no surprise if his servants (human servants), also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will match up to their deeds."
3. Counterfeit Gospel. 2 Cor 11:3-4 "But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (4) For if someone comes and announces another Jesus than the one we have taught you, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received (Holy Spirit), or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough."
4. Counterfeit Communion table. 1 Cor 10:20-21 "No, I mean that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. (21) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot share of the table of the Lord and the table of demons."
5. Counterfeit Spirituality. Gal 3:2-3 "Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? (3) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being (spiritually) matured by the flesh?"
6. Counterfeit Righteousness. Matt 19:16-28 "And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" (17) And he said to him, 'Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only ONE who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.' (18) He said to him, 'Which ones?' And Jesus said, 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, (19) honor your father and mother, and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' (20) The young man said to him, 'All these I have kept. What do I still lack?' (21) Jesus said to him, 'If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.' (22) When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (23) And Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. (24) Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.' (25) When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, 'Who then can be saved?' (26) But Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.' (27) Then Peter said in reply, 'See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' (28) Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world (Millennium), when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'"
7. Counterfeit Power. 2 Thess 2:8-10 "And then the lawless one (the anti-christ) will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming. (9) The coming of the lawless one will be in agreement with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, (10) and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing (going to the Lake of Fire). They perish (go to the Lake of Fire) because they refused to love the truth (true Gospel) and so be saved."
8. Counterfeit Gods. 2 Thess 2:3-4 "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day (Second Coming of the Lord Jesus at the end of the Tribulation) will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness (the anti-christ) is revealed...the man doomed to destruction. (4) He will oppose and will praise himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

In the passage on counterfeit ministers, it tells us that there will be false teachers who disguise themselves as apostles and pastor-teachers and evangelists for Christ. They are counterfeits...FALSE!! They are imitating the real thing with the intent to deceive you.



So they say they are sent by God. They use the name of Jesus. They may even perform signs and wonders to deceive people into believing they are from God with a special message. Matt 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect (believers)."

There are forces of evil in the universe who are pretending to look just like the messengers sent by God. They talk the talk. They look the part. They will be likable. They will look like they have their act together. They will be daring, confident, attractive, smart, and powerful.

What ability do we need in order to recognize the genuine from the counterfeit? Eph 6:11 "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

1 Cor 2:9-16 "A THINGS WHICH the EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND the EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE MIND OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." (10) For to us God revealed them through the (Holy) Spirit; for the (Holy) Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (11) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the (Holy) Spirit of God. (12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the (Holy) Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, (13) which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the (Holy) Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (14) But a natural man (unbeliever) does not accept the things of the (Holy) Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually understood. (15) But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged by no one. (16) For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ."



Since we are each day wrestling with superior forces of evil and deception that are everywhere, we need spiritual power in the form of wisdom and discernment to make our way through this mine field!

Another reason that we need discernment or to judge in a right or smart way is that we face decisions each and every day that press us to do just that or we are in trouble. God has a will and a plan for our life, and each day we make decisions that either get us further in God's plan or move us away from His will.

So ask yourself and discern wisely:
 Where does God want me to be? (Geographically)
 What does God want me to think? (Mental)
 What does God want me to do? (Operational)



Our enemies...the kingdom of darkness, the world system and our sin nature...will use tricks and deception to tempt us away from discovering God's will for our lives. You constantly have to ask: is this conviction (Holy Spirit convincing us) or is this condemnation? Is this blessing or temptation? Is this advanced doctrine or a false teaching? Is this testing or discipline? You must have the discernment to tell the difference!

So I want to have discernment. I know I need it to operate effectively in my spiritual gift. I know that without it I will be tricked and deceived by the lies and counterfeits of the kingdom of darkness. So do you, kids. You need to have it, too! Don't be fooled!!! Prepare well to discern from the WISDOM FROM ABOVE...GOD'S WORD.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on January 5, 2012
 Lighthouse Bible Church

