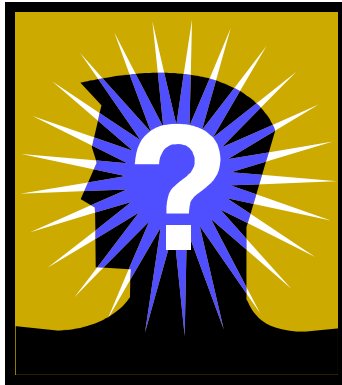


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 70

How Do I Get Spiritual Discernment?

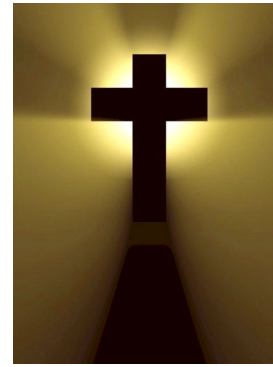
How Can I Become a Discerning Believer?



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.



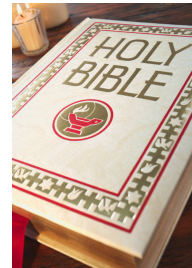
(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."

(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Lesson

Our lesson today is how do I get spiritual discernment and how can I become a discerning believer?

The answer is from the Word of God living in your soul and on the launching pad ready to take off and be used in everyday situations. It is the place we can go to in our minds filled with Bible doctrine where we can get the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to compare various ideas, philosophies, and everything else we hear about in the devil's world and to judge them in a right way.



REMEMBER?

Let's review a bit here...**DISCERNMENT is the ability to judge things wisely or smartly.** In other words **to judge things in a RIGHT WAY.** In addition, this ability to discern from the Word of God in our souls depends on the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor 2:12-16 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the 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 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 judged. (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 (Jesus)? But we have the mind of Christ."**

The filling of the Spirit and the Word of God in the soul are so very important to discern correctly. The believer of course **MUST USE** the Word of God to be able to tell the difference between what is and what is not from God's will and plan.



Again all discernment is performed by and through the Holy Spirit. He uses the tools from the Bible that were already tested and that are found in your soul. Remember you are a priest and you became a priest the minute you believed in Jesus as your Savior. What does that mean? It means now that you are a believer/priest you can go directly to God for all you need.



NEWS BULLETIN!!!! You will NEVER become a discerning believer UNLESS you have the **WORD of GOD IN YOUR SOULS** and become mature!!!! Without God's Word in your souls you will be deceived by the kingdom of darkness...the devil and his demons!!! They want you to fail as a believer! **DON'T FAIL!!!** Take the Word in **EVERYDAY.**

Don't become dull of hearing the Word. You know what I mean! You sit there and think of other things instead of listening to what the Holy Spirit is teaching you. Or you just tune out! You may need that some day when you're having a problem and need discernment. Without good discernment you can make some **REALLY BIG MISTAKES** and sometimes those mistakes can really hurt you.

Heb 5:11-13 "Concerning Him (Jesus) we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. (12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the Word of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. (13) For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant." Dull of hearing means that you are being undisciplined concerning the learning and application of Bible doctrine when you need it!

You don't want to stay an infant believer forever, do you? Heb 5:14 "But solid food is for the mature (believer), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil." "Solid food" means advanced doctrine. "Mature" means the spiritually mature believer. The reason you are sitting here learning God's Word is so you can become mature so you can have wisdom and discernment. They all go together.

Okay, practice makes perfect or mature! Studying the Word of God must become a habit. "Mature" refers to something that is a habit, whether of body or of mind. Learning the Word is a power you can use in the devil's world so you won't be deceived and it takes a lot of practice to be able to do this and use it. Don't forget though, the Holy Spirit is doing all the work but you need to be filled with the Spirit to have Him guide you through. Confess and study the Word. "Practice" refers to constantly learning, believing and especially applying bible doctrine.



Spiritual adults are people who develop really good solid habits when it comes to learning and obeying the word of God. They don't need entertainment. They don't need the spectacular thrills. They have established a routine and made Bible class their highest priority. They go to the Bible "gym" everyday!!! They exercise vigorously everyday. So for our spiritual lives, it refers to consistently exercising our spiritual organs or equipment before God everyday! Get it? EVERYDAY! Our spiritual organs include our soul and our human spirit. Let's get in SHAPE SPIRITUALLY. Heb 4:12-13 "For the Word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as dividing the soul and spirit, and of both joints and the marrow, and is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (13) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare before the eyes of Him (God the Father) with whom we have to do." There is nothing about our soul that is hidden from God. He can see all the faults and the false moves we still have in there. We don't fool God.



God is just like a coach watching an athlete working out. He can see which muscles are developing correctly and which ones need work and whether or not the athlete is sticking to the right diet or whether he is cheating. The diet God wants us to have is our necessary spiritual food...the PURE WORD of GOD. Heb 5:14 "But solid food is for the mature (believer), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil." So "senses trained" means the work of the Holy Spirit in guiding the believer to use proper discernment in applying the Word of God from your souls.



See you just worked out your soul and human spirit. Don't you feel great? I hope so.

Close in prayer

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

