

Word 3: discernment

God by His divine power has given us everything we need for living a godly life.

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2 Peter 1:3

He has given us great promises, faith, a moral compass, knowledge, self-control, patient endurance, the ability to love and then He encourages us to work hard to prove you really are among those God has called and chosen. (2 Peter 1:4-10)

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:4-8

Real life situations test God's children. They reveal, prove, expose what is in the heart.

Romans 12 encourages us (2) not to live as this world lives. To allow our minds to be transformed. (3) to not think too highly of yourself. Reminding us that God has given each of us a measure of faith. (4) We are only one part of the body of Christ and each of us with our giftings are used to help accomplish God's plan.

(2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (4) For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: Just as God has given each of us a measure of faith he has given His children a measure of discernment.

Romans 12:2-4

Discernment is careful distinctions in our thinking of truth from error, right from wrong good from evil. It can be, perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtain spiritual guidance and understanding. *

When we add discernment to our faith and take time to pray, ask, and listen to God's plan, discernment can be a very powerful tool in our lives.

Discernment is not about getting everyone to go with our agenda. It is not to be used to manipulate, control or intimidate people. It is to guide us. Helping us view life through the movement of God's Spirit. To walk in discernment, you must be familiar with God's voice. You must be willing to allow God to set the direction and the speed He wants to go.⁽¹⁾

In Deuteronomy 30:19, God gives the choice of life or death. He says that the decision is not too difficult or out of our reach. It is on your lips, in your heart. Discernment is very close to us. (20) We are given a key to life – love the Lord your God, obey Him and commit yourself firmly to Him. This will make discernment easier, because now there is a compass to follow.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: (20) That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.
Deuteronomy 30:19-20

1. As you use discernment in any situation, you must believe God is good! That His intentions toward you are deeply good, very good, no matter what the circumstances look like. Without coming to this place of believing in God's goodness you will hold yourself back from fully opening up to His plan.⁽¹⁾
2. Never lose sight of love when you are discerning a situation. Will this decision continue to allow you to follow God in love? What is love calling for right now? What would love do? Any decision process that fails to involve love misses the point of the Christian practice of discernment. Discernment is intended to take us deeper into the heart of God's will.⁽¹⁾
3. You must know the voice of God as you listen for His direction in discernment. In order to truly come to Godly discernment, you must give up your agenda, wants and desires. Be open to hear when He speaks, no matter what He speaks through, a conversation, book, movie, the Bible, a church service, or just through His still small voice.⁽¹⁾

Discernment can be risky, there are no guarantees, we are limited in our thinking. Our desire to please God through listening for His directions really does please Him. The more we fall in love with Christ the greater our discernment will be.⁽¹⁾

In our prayer time we tell God our concerns, our inability to let go, we can be very truthful, He already knows every detail of our lives. As we spend time with Him, He can help us loosen our hold on things we don't want to let go of, give us discernment and fill us with His peace.

Jesus, in this hour, your children need discernment, so they may make wise choices that will honor you. In any area that we are lacking, be it love faith, hope, peace, knowledge, self-control, patience or discernment, will you forgive our weakness and increase us in the areas we are weak in. Thank you for all you have equipped us with as your children. Holy Spirit thank you for increasing our ability to discern right from wrong and good from evil. In Jesus name, Amen!

May you always discern the love of God in your life,

Pastor Cindy Orewiler

*Taken from: www.gty.org/library/questions/QA138/what-is-biblical-discernment-and-why-is-it-important

⁽¹⁾ Paraphrased Reference: Sacred Rhythms by Ruth Haley Barton