

Discernment

Part 6

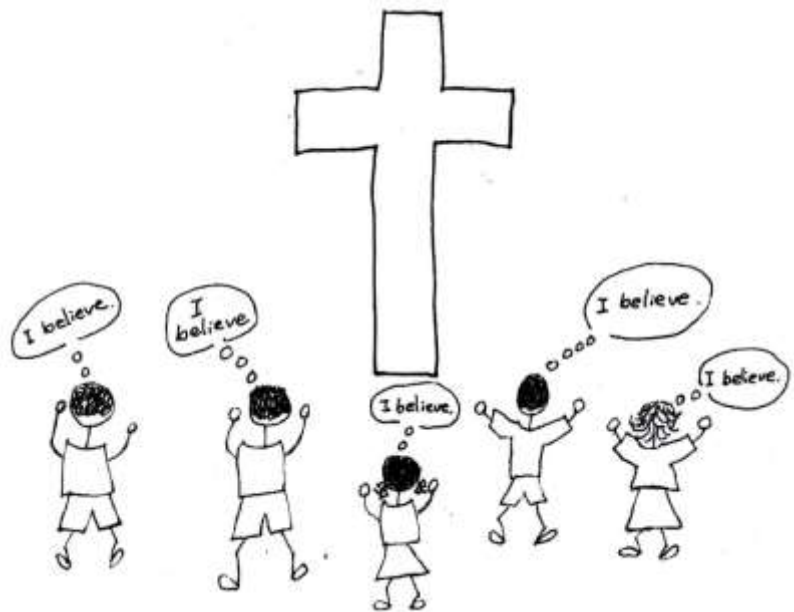
How Can I Use Spiritual Discernment?

(Revised: 4/4/2013)



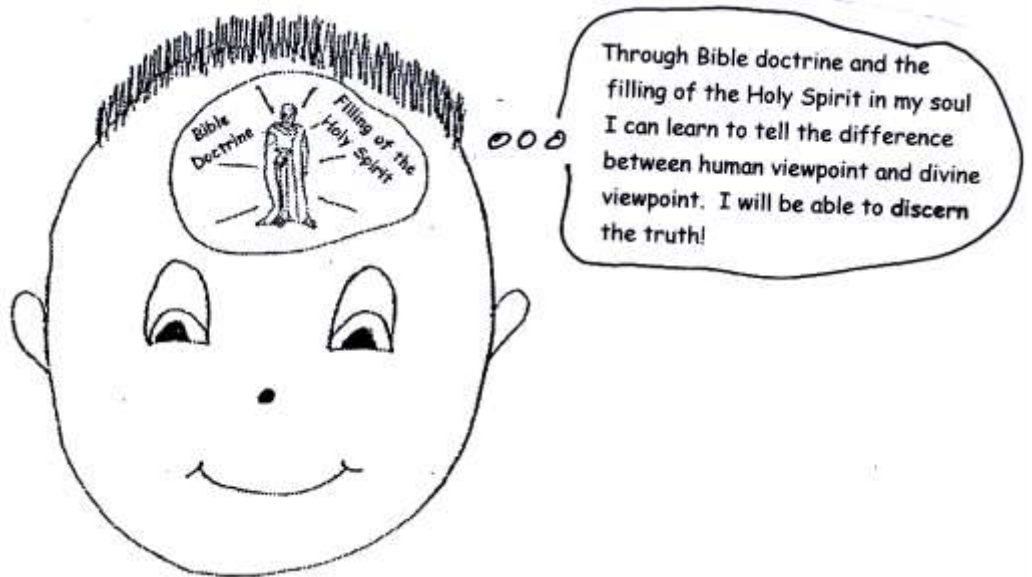
GOOD NEWS FOR UNBELIEVERS! Jesus Christ died spiritually on the Cross for everyone's sins. Then He died physically, was buried and rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father! If you are an unbeliever, you have the opportunity right now to believe! Simply tell God the Father that you are believing in His Son Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you make the decision to believe in Him in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer! You will spend eternity in heaven with Jesus Christ, your Savior!

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



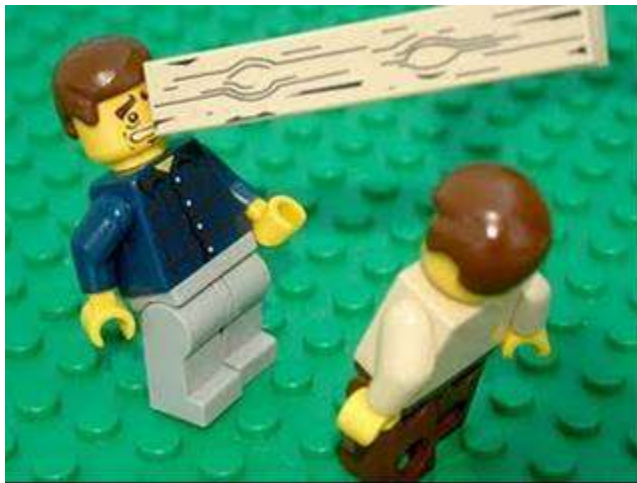
In our spiritual lives, **discernment** means we are able to see and tell the difference between divine viewpoint and human viewpoint. The Holy Spirit is the One giving us the ability and power to **discern**. He uses the Bible doctrine we know as truth in our souls! In order for us to really know it as truth, we have to hear the thinking of Jesus Christ over and over and over again! We have to use it and see that it works. Sometimes we'll forget to use it. We'll use human viewpoint. No problem. We just need to switch over to divine viewpoint - God's thinking! Since we have the filling of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine in our souls, we can be **discerning**. We can use the thinking of Jesus Christ to make our decisions!

Awesome!



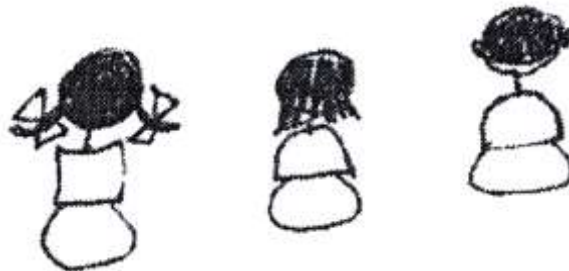
Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

How can we use spiritual **discernment** or the thinking of Jesus Christ to make our decisions? 1. We learn and use the word of God to **discern our own thinking**. We learn what is genuine and what is counterfeit, or fake, in our own minds. **Luke 6:41-42** "Why do you look at the **speck** that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the **log** that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."



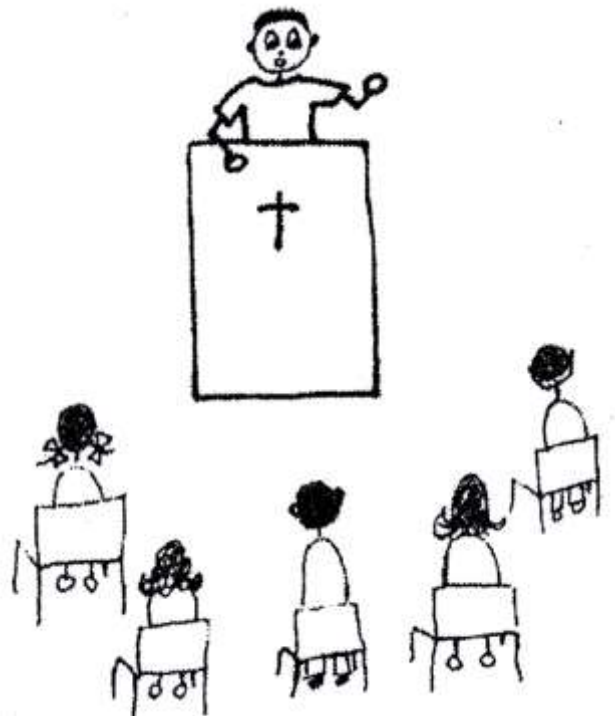
We tend to criticize the specks that are like our log. In other words, we tend to criticize others for the same things we do! We are hypocrites!

Matthew 6:23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!



There are certain blind spots in our souls. We're very good about recognizing the faults of others, right? Yet, we can't see certain faults of ourselves! However, God can point out our hidden faults! He can do it through His word in the Bible. We first get **discerned** or tested by God the Holy Spirit before we are qualified to do any **discerning**. He tests us by seeing how we use the Bible doctrine in our souls. He shows us what viewpoint we are using, divine or human. Without Him, we can't tell the difference! He wants to build up our souls; He has the blueprints for it. He knows what to do! We just have to be humble and let the Holy Spirit do His job!

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit [our own soul and spirit], of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



True friends are those who, in a loving way, point out your hidden faults. God is our true Friend! The Holy Spirit will give us what we need to use **discernment** from Bible doctrine in our souls. True love always thinks the best! The Holy Spirit always thinks and does what is best for us! As we grow spiritually, we gain capacity to **discern** our own thinking. Then we gain capacity to see if what we are learning is Biblical. The key is, because we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we learn, believe and use the word of God, the thinking of Jesus Christ!

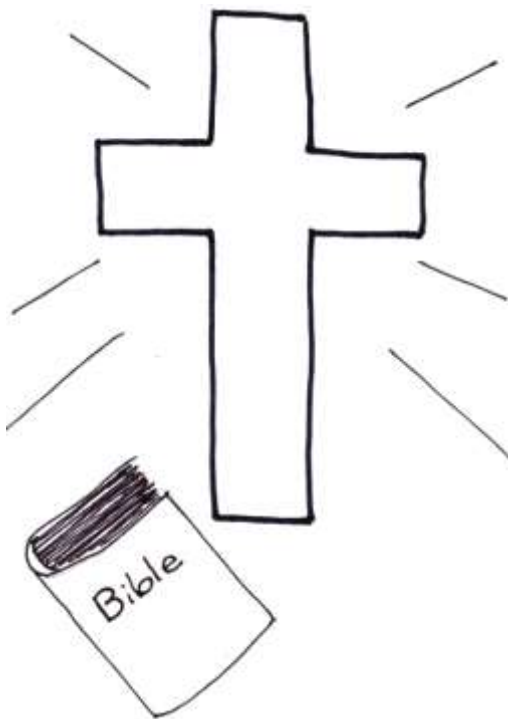
Song: "Day By Day"

Day by day, oh, dear Lord, three things I pray

To see Thee more clearly (in the mirror of the word of God)

Love Thee more dearly (make God's word part of who I am)

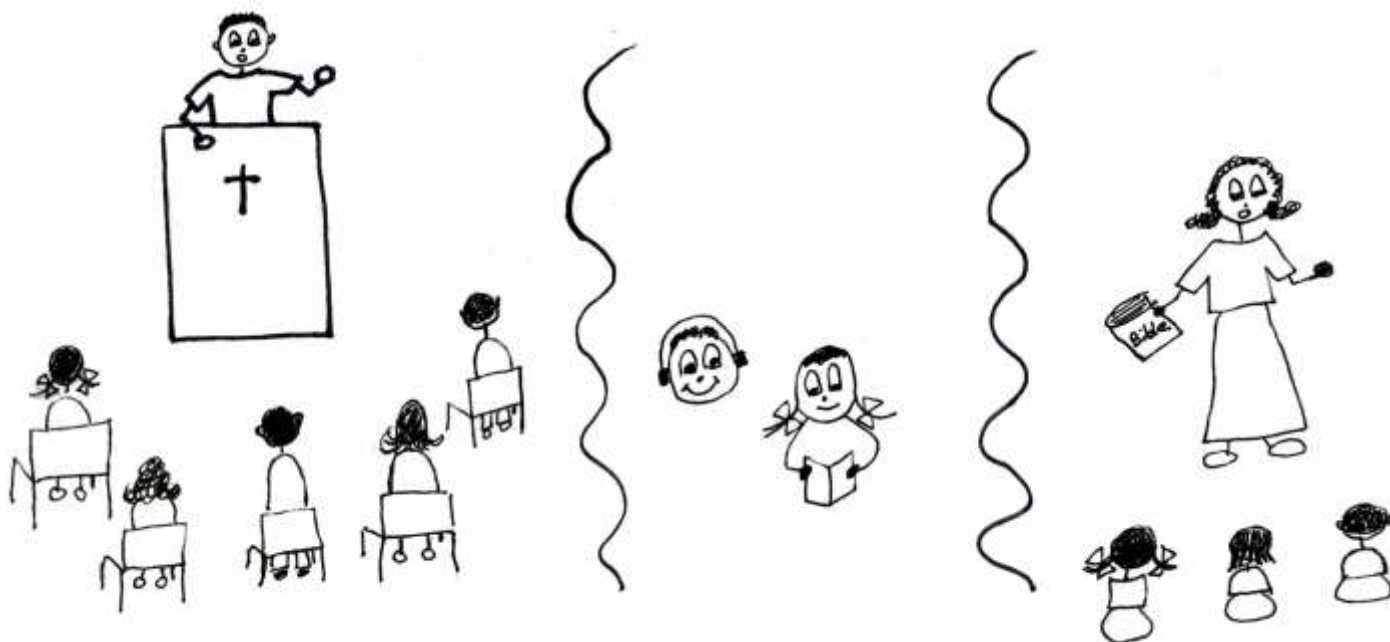
Follow Thee more nearly, day by day. (Learning, believing and using the word of God)



Psalm 19:12-14 Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not rule over me; then I will be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.



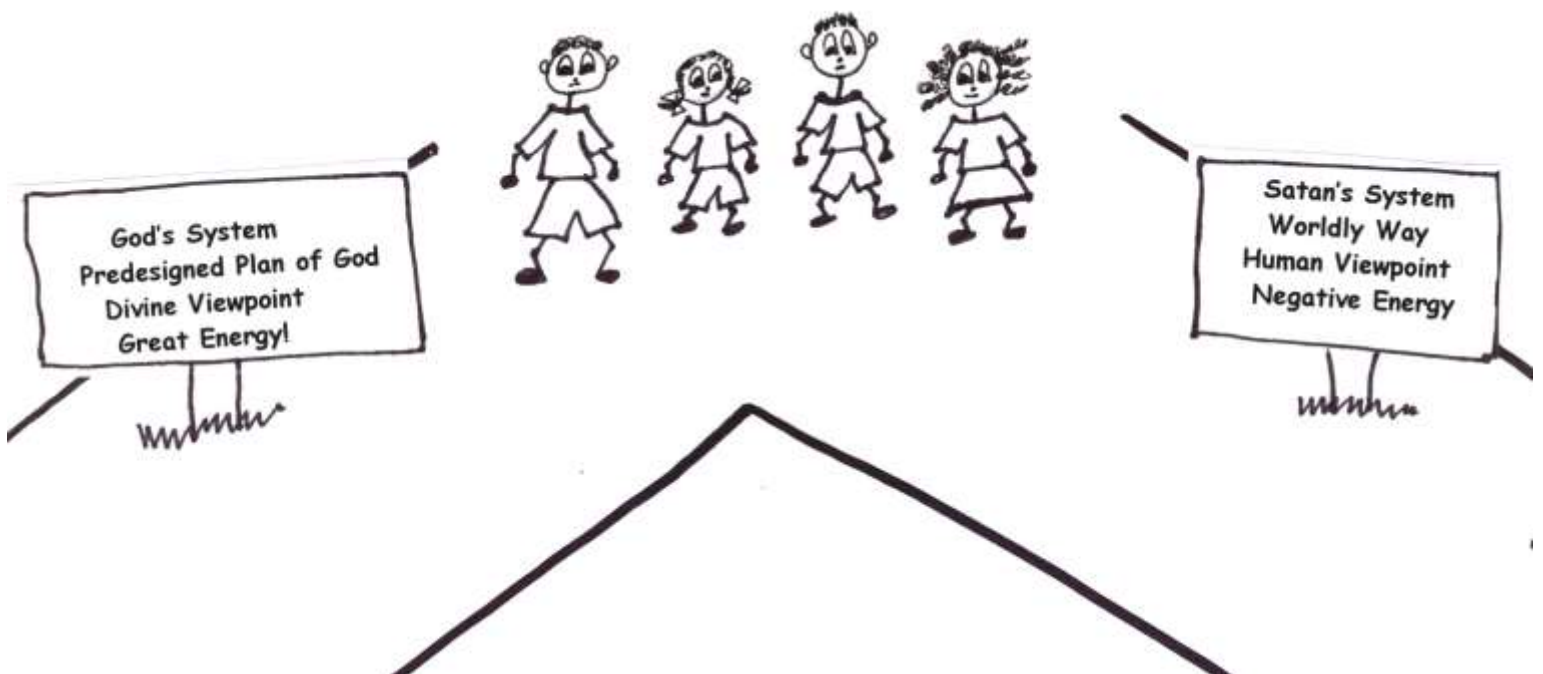
We can use spiritual **discernment** or the thinking of Jesus Christ to see what teachings are genuine and what are counterfeit or fake. The first time you are under some false teaching, you may not recognize it. The next time you will be a little more **discerning**. **Discernment** is a result of knowing and using the word of God. The Holy Spirit uses the tools in your soul; we need to learn the word of God so we have more tools for Him to use. We need the thinking of Jesus Christ so we can use good **discernment**!



Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

We can use spiritual **discernment** to make wise life decisions: what is God's will for my life, what am I to think, where am I to be, what am I to do? What is genuine and from God and what is counterfeit or fake? The kingdom of darkness and our old sin natures will try to confuse us on all these issues. God's word will give us the wisdom we need to make wise choices.

Ephesians 5:15-17 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.



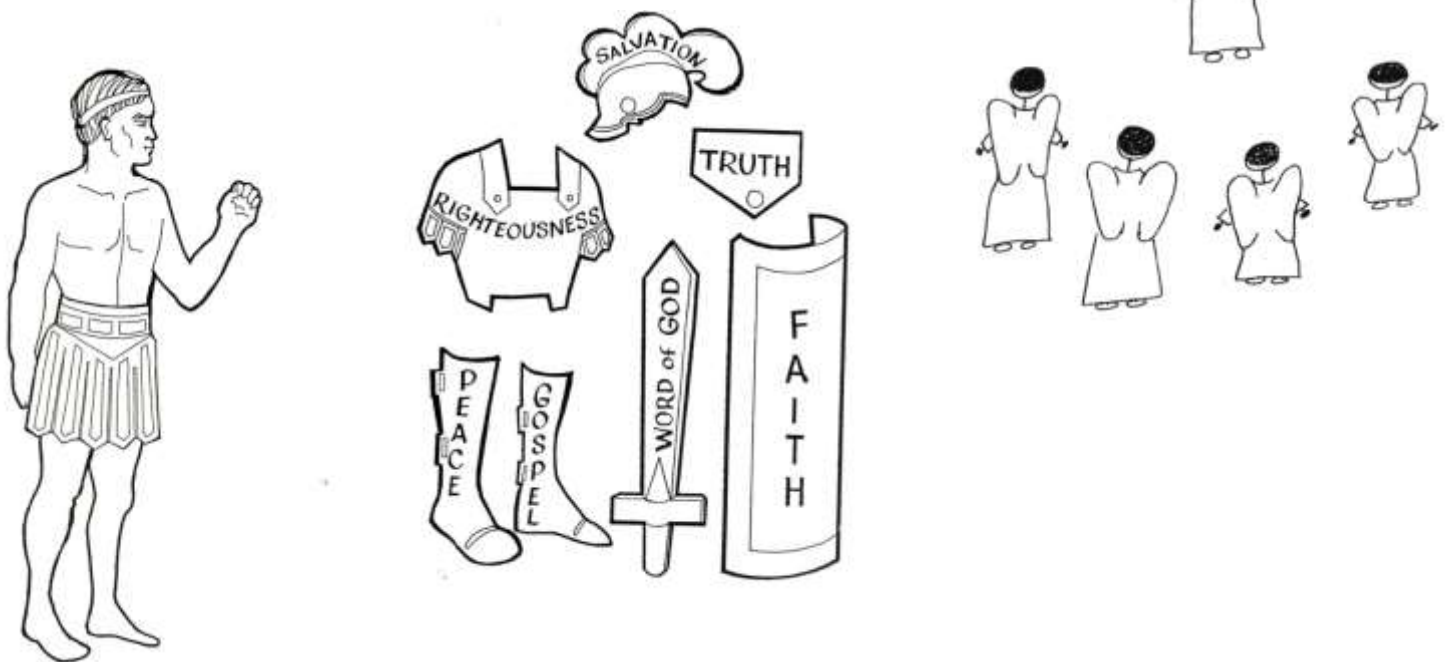
We can use spiritual **discernment** so we are able to see the people who are genuine and those who are fake. Is this person good for me? Is he/she a false believer? We must learn lots of the word of God and have it stored in our souls so God the Holy Spirit can go into our storehouse and point out the truth we need to know. He'll point out divine viewpoint we have already used and we know that it works. There have been times when we forgave others, were gentle with others, were more strict with others. He gives us the insight as to what to do in a certain situation. He teaches us how to treat others with love and grace. (Ephesians 5:18-21)



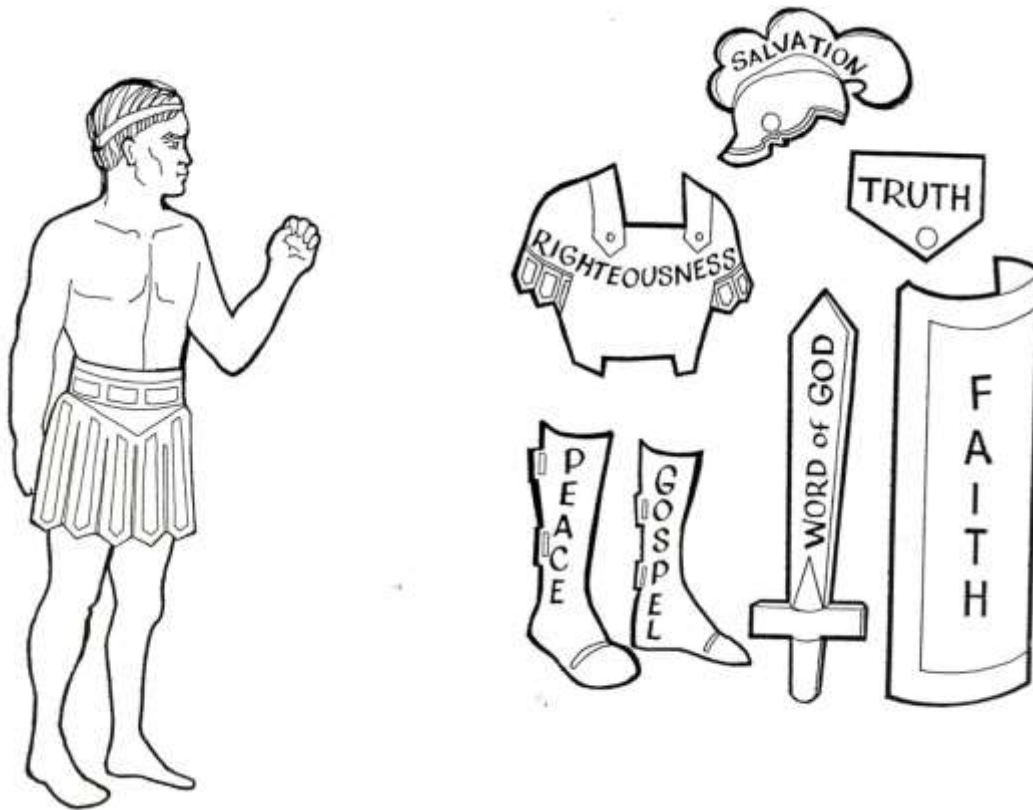
James 3:13-17 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly [worldly] natural [old sin nature], demonic [kingdom of darkness]. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing [sewer pipe]. But the wisdom from above is first pure [no confusion], then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy [pure spring water].

When we learn how to handle people with love and grace, we will be ready to **discern** the kingdom of darkness - fallen angels or demons. We'll know that our real issue is not with people, but with the fallen angels trying to get us away from using the word of God. They don't want us to use virtue love. They don't want us to give grace to ourselves and others. They don't want us to have **faith** in the word of God.

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.



Ephesians 6:13-20 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

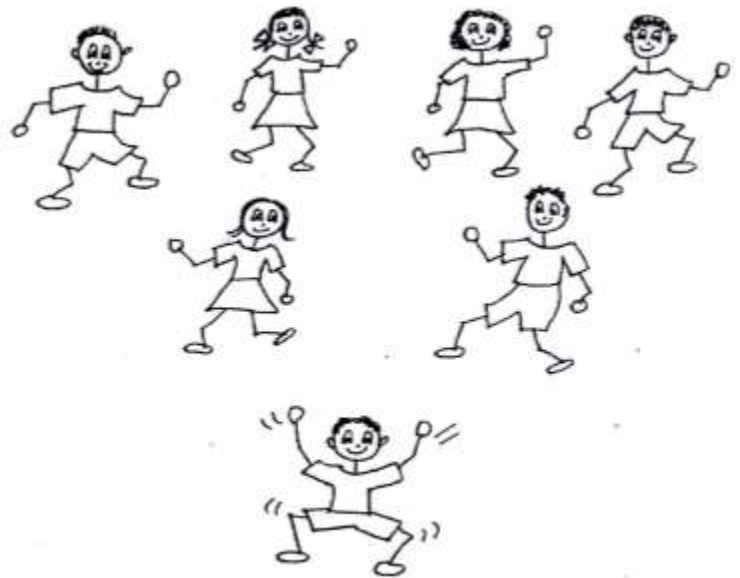


God the Holy Spirit came into our lives at salvation. In time He makes us spiritually **discerning**. We are to let the Holy Spirit train us to be able to recognize: what is going on inside our own soul, teachers of truth, correct life decisions, people for whom they are, and demons. This takes time! God wants us to have the peace that surpasses understanding and He wants us to have it abundantly! That's great peace! It comes with being able to **discern** the truth from God!



Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

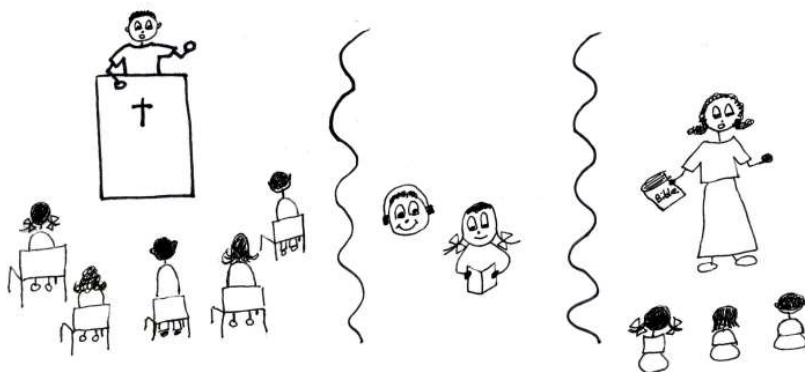
Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.



Points to Remember

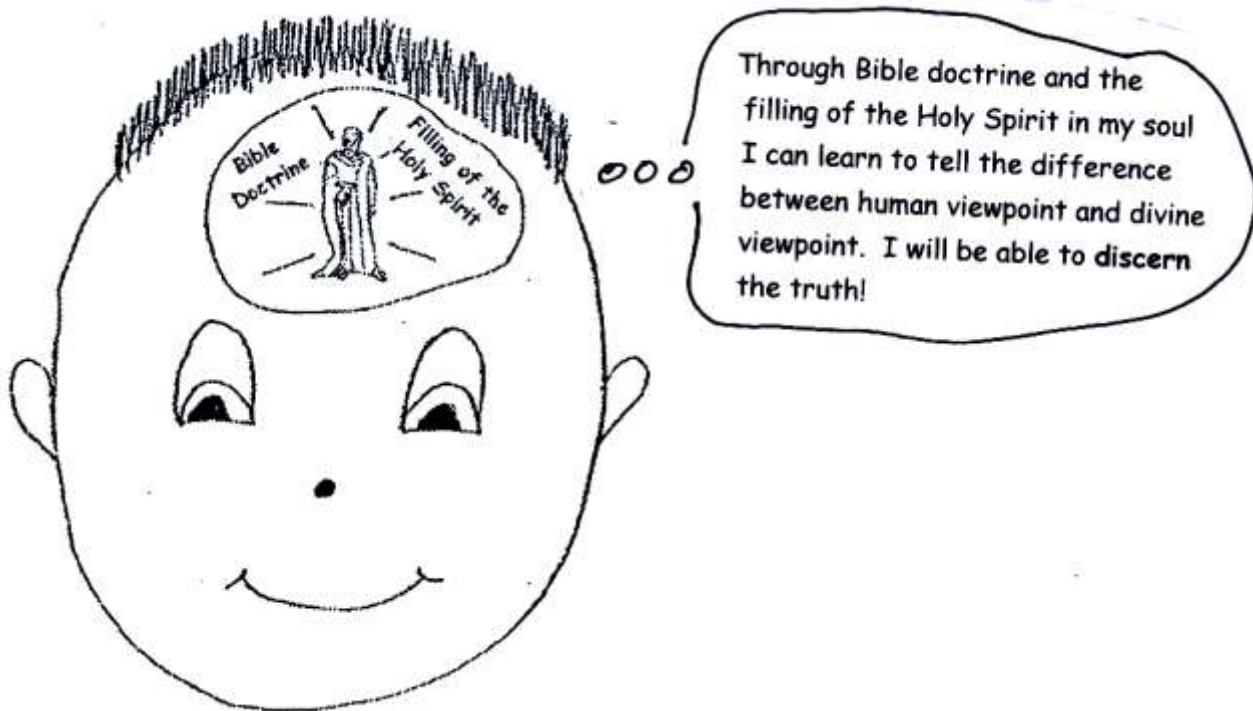
1. In our spiritual lives, **discernment** means we are able to see and tell the difference between divine viewpoint and human viewpoint.
2. We can learn and use the word of God to discern our own thinking. We learn what is genuine and what is counterfeit, or fake, in our own minds.
3. We can use spiritual **discernment** or the thinking of Jesus Christ to see what teachings are genuine and what are counterfeit or fake.
4. We can use spiritual **discernment** to make wise life decisions: what is God's will for my life, what am I to think, where am I to be, what am I to do?
5. We can use spiritual **discernment** so we are able to see the people who are genuine and those who are fake.
6. When we learn how to handle people with love and grace, we will be ready to **discern** the kingdom of darkness - fallen angels or demons.
7. God the Holy Spirit came into our lives at salvation. In time He

makes us spiritually **discerning**.



Questions for Discussion

1. Who gives us the ability and power to discern correctly?
2. What should we use to discern our own thinking?
3. How can we discern correct Bible teaching?
4. How can we tell what God wants us to do with our lives?
5. How do we make wise choices in friends?
6. How can we tell if something or someone is from the kingdom of darkness?
7. When we learn to be discerning, what kind of a life can we have?
8. What kind of armor does God want us to use in our spiritual battle?



My Word Search

B Q G C A T Y B O J D V Q Y W
I F K Y B N R X N H N T B F A
B A A T R O W H X Y R N U R H
L K U I G X F O J D E I H D O
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F I Z I T Z V A Z M K N A I A
P E O P L E Q T E E H M C D U
B V M H V E L M X P G P Z B T

Find These Words:

ABILITY
DISCERN
GOD
HYPOCRITE
POWER
VIEWPOINT

BIBLE
DIVINE
HOLY
PEACE
SPIRIT
WISDOM

DEMONS
FAKE
HUMAN
PEOPLE
THINKING
WORD

Discernment

Part 6

How Can I Use Spiritual Discernment?

References: Lighthouse Bible Church

Pastor John Farley

www.lbible.org

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