



Lesson 8: Discernment: The Safeguard of Revival

SABBATH

“Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness. The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever” (Psalm 119:159-160, NKJV).

What is “discernment”?

1. the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure : skill in discerning
2. an act of perceiving or discerning something.

Discern:

1. to **detect** with the eyes <*discerned* a figure approaching through the fog>
 - a. to detect with senses other than vision <*discerned* a strange odor>
2. to **recognize** or identify as separate and **distinct** : **discriminate** <*discern* right from wrong>
3. to come to know or recognize mentally <unable to *discern* his motives>

Origin: Middle English, from Middle French *discerner*, from Latin *discernere* to separate, distinguish between, from *dis-* apart + *cernere* to sift.

Any thoughts regarding the story told of the man claiming he was cured of lung cancer while smoking a cigar? How do the two law concepts relate?

SUNDAY

God’s Will and His Word

“All true spirituality is focused on knowing God and doing His will (*John 17:3, Heb. 10:7*).” AMEN. Well said.

Isn’t the root of all [spiritual] discernment the knowledge of God and His ways/methods/principles??

What is God’s will? Is it not for EVERYONE to be healed, and none be lost? Is it not for those on the path to healing to share the source of our healing with those who are “dying”? Is it not to have a people who speak about God “that which is right”? Did not Christ do “God’s Will” in completely revealing God Himself [Heb. 10:7]?

The lesson states “the Word of God is the foundation and heart of all true revival.” How, then, can we have upwards of 34,000 sects of Christianity all using the same Word of God? Might there be something else involved? Think the three threads of scripture, science, and our experience [relationship].



MONDAY

God's Love and His Law

Is there any difference between God's love and His Law??

God is the life-giver. From the beginning, all His laws were ordained to life. But sin broke in upon the order that God had established, and discord followed. So long as sin exists, suffering and death are inevitable. It is only because the Redeemer has borne the curse of sin in our behalf, that man can hope to escape, in his own person, its dire results. {AG 73.3}

“Revival is all about knowing Jesus. It is a reawakening of the spiritual faculties of the soul. It is a personal and vital experience with the Savior. Knowing Jesus—really knowing Him as a friend—is the essence of all revival. From the depth of his personal experience with Jesus, the apostle Paul shared that he is praying for the Ephesians to “know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (*Eph. 3:19, NKJV*.)” Again, very well said from the lesson.

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a ^dliar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But ^ewhoever keeps His word, truly the love of God ¹is perfected ^fin him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ ⁸He who says he abides in Him ^hought himself also to walk just as He walked. 1 John 2: 3-6.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:7–8.

²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. 1 John 4: 20-21.

TUESDAY

Formalism, Fanaticism, and Faith

Do we see any examples of formalism in Christianity today?? in Adventism?

- Baptism by immersion vs sprinkling. Baptism by an ordained minister.
- Rote / perfunctory prayer.
- Only certain types of music allowed in church / on Sabbath.
- Day of worship. Might we worship on the “correct” day and miss the relationship with its Creator? Might we worship on the “incorrect” day and love with all our hearts/minds/spirits?
- What foods are acceptable, etc.
- Being resistant to new “light” – greater revelations of God.



What about fanaticism??

- Following false messiahs.
- “Faith” healings, Snake handling, speaking in tongues, etc.
- Bombing abortion clinics / shooting physicians who perform abortions
- Belief that if a church doesn’t have 10,000 members or more, a coffee shop, and its own football team, it has nothing to offer.
- Belief that if a church has more than 30 members, it has nothing to offer.
- Failure to test new “light” against Scripture, known science, and our experience.
- Belief that only men have anything to contribute to a worship service or discussion about religion.

What is “Faith”? see Heb. 11: 1

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Substance = under standing. How many of us can conclusively prove that Earth was created in 6 days?? How many have “faith” [based on understanding] that the Earth was created in 6 days?

WEDNESDAY

Ministry and Miracles.

I saw a billboard that asked “Do You Need a Miracle?” Come to our church on this date and we guarantee you one. I didn’t need a miracle, so I didn’t go. I wondered, though, if people were disappointed.

We have discussed many times in class that miracles are NOT for the strong in faith, they are for the weak.

The lesson states: “False revivals emphasize spectacular signs and wonders; genuine revivals recognize that the greatest miracle is a changed life.” Yet again, well said. The greatest miracle is our character transformation, and it’s what we will spend eternity sharing with angels and un-fallen intelligent beings. What does the following passage represent?

12 I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father. 13 Ask me, and I will do whatever you ask. This way the Son will bring honor to the Father. John 14: 12-13. CEV.

Ever notice that the Son was glorifying the Father and vice versa? What does this tell us about their



relationship?

What about this one?

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. II Thess. 2: 9-12.

Why do the wicked die in the end?? BECAUSE THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH. How much more clear can Scripture be??

THURSDAY

Fruits and Gifts

Have you ever known someone with strong discernment?? Were they born with it, or were they reborn with it? see I Cor. 12: 10.

How can we be more discerning?

*13 For every one that useth milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.
14 But strong meat belongeth to those who are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Heb. 5: 13-14.*

What is the purpose of ALL of the spiritual gifts?? The building up and strengthening of the body of Christ [the Church].

Can we have discernment without the specific gift of the spirit? Can we use discernment for self instead of building up the church?

Why do we need to look for fruits of the Spirit as well as gifts??