

Remnant Life Church
September 3, 2023
The Holy Spirit
Pt 12
The Gift of Discernment - 3
Proverbs 2:1-11

What is present in our lives that requires we have and utilize discernment?

They are the three spirit natures that speak into our lives

- The first is the spirit of humanity
- The second spirit nature that we must contend with is the demonic
- The third spirit nature that will speak to us is the angelic

READ – Proverbs 2:1-11

Why is spiritual discernment important?

1. It is essential to knowing the will of God in your life
 - a. Because there are other voices trying to speak into your life you must know His voice
 - b. **READ - John 10:1-18; 24-30**
 - i. Jesus speaks first in verse 5 of the voice of a stranger
 1. That is the voice of humanity
 2. Why is it called a stranger?
 - a. Because the nature of man is the flesh
 - b. IOW before Jesus becomes a part of your life and the Spirit of God enters in, the only voice you have is the voice of the flesh
 3. That is what satan is continually working on through temptation to give in to that nature
 4. Paul writes in **Eph 2:3-5** - *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*
 5. Discernment tells you the difference between the will of the flesh and the will of God
 - ii. The thief Jesus refers to in verse 10 here is satan and his demons
 1. That is the voice of the demonic
 2. Please do not fall into the lying trap that the demonic is not real
 - a. That is one of the lies and one of the plots of satan to minimize his danger and evil
 - i. Born in 1925 Father Gabrielle Amorth was the chief exorcist for the catholic dioceses of Rome
 - ii. He claimed to have exorcised over 60,000 demons prior to his death in 2016

- iii. He stated that 2 of the most dangerous entry points into people's lives of the demonic is through Yoga and the Harry Potter series
 - iv. Harry Potter has done more for the rise of the demonic in this country than anything else in my lifetime
 - v. Yoga is the Hindu practice of inviting their gods (which are demonic spirits) into your body by assuming specific poses
 - vi. Once again, there is no such thing as Christian yoga and if you or someone you love is involved you are presenting yourself to the satanic realm and giving them full access to your body, your mind, your heart, and your home
 - iii. The sheep who know the voice of Jesus (discernment) know that the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy (**John 10:10**)
 - 1. Steal your joy, your peace, and your faith
 - 2. Kill your hopes and dreams
 - 3. Destroy your life with Jesus through sin and compromise
 - iv. satan doesn't want us to be lifted out of loneliness and despair; he wants to keep us there.
 - 1. satan doesn't want us to be encouraged, he wants us to be defeated.
 - 2. satan doesn't want to renew our joy, he wants to rob us of our joy.
 - 3. satan doesn't want to comfort us, he wants to cause us more pain.
 - 4. He doesn't want to boost our spirit he wants to break our spirit.
 - v. satan's voice can give the illusion of being positive but his purpose is to turn us away from God.
 - vi. God's voice will point us toward acknowledging our need for him and we will, through discernment, know that to be true.
 - vii. Because the second part of **John 10:10** tells us that Jesus came *that we may have life, and have it to the full*
- c. Paul writes in **Eph. 5:11** that we are to *speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs*.
 - i. If we are supposed to speak to each other this way, we can be sure that God will speak to us that way.
 - ii. God's voice isn't just about dos and don'ts; it's about encouragement and comfort.
 - iii. God's voice calms us down when we're stressed. God's voice cheers us up when we're feeling down. God's voice encourages us when we need a boost. God's voice comforts us when we're hurting.
 - 1. And we can hear His voice speaking to us in His Word through the Psalms and throughout the scriptures
 - iv. Discernment is necessary so that we can know the will of God for our lives

2. The second reason discernment is so important is to distinguish between truth and error

- a. What is error?
 - b. It is anything not given by the voice of God
 - i. As we said last week, our own inner voice can many times lead us into falsehood and error
 - ii. Many so-called experts of today are the same ones who will be contradicting themselves this same time in 6 months from now
 - Let me give you just a sampling of scientific “facts” that have been proven wrong
 - Lightening never strikes the same place twice
 - In fact it will strike the same place twice. Lightening is simply coming to the closest point and the taller the point the more likely it is to be struck
 - It is important that everyone drink 8 glasses of water a day
 - In fact healthy water intake is determined by a number of variable factors including the temperature of your environment, your activity level, and your size among others
 - Taking large doses of vitamin C will prevent you from getting sick
 - Drowning yourself with multiple glasses of OJ or eating bags of oranges will not keep you from getting sick. It may however shorten the duration of your illness
 - There are course many, many more
 - And today, the experts regarding health issues are constantly changing their narrative
 - And the most prominent question of the day is, who and what can we believe?
3. The third thing that discernment does is help you avoid being deceived by sin
- a. satan’s greatest desire is to cause one of God’s children to fall into sin
 - b. He makes the temptation attractive and even good or right
 - i. But it is a deception that leads to pain and even death
 - ii. Discernment will cause you to recognize and sense when something is not right
 - iii. You must not ignore it!
4. And within those first three there is another thing that discernment does and that is to help you distinguish between good and best
- a. There is a perfect will of God for your life
 - b. And there is a permissible will of God for your life
 - i. Few follow in the perfect will of God and no one but Jesus lived his entire life in it
 - ii. Because we allow our flesh to rise up and direct us
 - iii. And because we often take our eyes off of Jesus
 1. **READ – Matt 14:22-32**

2. The perfect will of God for Peter in that moment was for him to meet Jesus on the water and they walk back, together, on the water
 3. The permissive will of God allowed Peter to walk toward Jesus, but Peter's lack of faith caused him to start sinking, and Jesus had to rescue him.
- c. But this does not mean that we do not desire to have the best of God's will for our lives
- i. First, remove the world's definition of best from your thinking
 1. It is not in any way connected to the satisfaction of the flesh
 2. But that does not stop book after book from being published that states just the opposite
 3. Book titles from one of the most popular "ministers" of today who pastors the largest and fastest growing church in America (read separate list)
 4. What is the common thread through these titles?
 - a. The focus is on self; on you
 - b. The absence of God
 - ii. Discernment, the voice of the Holy Spirit, helps us to tell between settling for good and the best that God desires for us
 - iii. But we must be willing ask and then WAIT ON HIM
 1. Noah was told to build the ark and wait on the judgement of God to come
 - a. By all accounts it took between 50 and 75 years to complete the project
 - b. But Noah remained faithful and obedient
 2. Abraham was told God would give him a son through Sarah
 - a. But Abraham and Sarah both grew impatient
 - b. When Abraham was 86 years old he fathered Ishmael through Sarah's handmaiden Hagar
 - i. While that practice was common in the day it was why it happened that should their lack of faith
 - ii. It took another 24 years for God's promise to be fulfilled
 - c. Ishmael, the one through whose line would be the contention and opposition to Isaac's line would be there
 - d. Ishmael is the father of the Arabic and Muslim nations
 - i. Even today their number one goal is the destruction of Israel – the line of Isaac
 - ii. All because Abraham was not willing to wait on God's best

Prov 2:11 – *Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.*