

**A Bible study on
Discernment #1
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Spiritual discernment is what we are addressing:

“that ability to know and be informed of what is happening in the spiritual realm, supernatural insight into the realm of the spirit, revealing the type of spirit behind a person, situation, action or message, knowing supernatural revelation in the spirit concerning the source, nature, and activity of any spirit.” Michelle McClain-Walters, “The Deborah Anointing”

In the Bible, the word “discern” and its related words (discerned, discernth, discerning) is used 25 times.

Here are the Old Testament words and meanings:

H 5234 – NAKAR – to scrutinize; look intently
H 8085 – SHAMA – to hear intelligently; attention, obedience
H 3045 – YADA – to know; to ascertain by seeing
H 995 – BIYN – to separate mentally, distinguish
H 7200 – RAAH – to see

These are the New Testament words and meanings:

G 1252 – DIAKRINO – to separate thoroughly. Taken from 1219 – in public and 1223 – the channel, through
G 1381 – DOKIMAZO – to test, approve
G 350 – ANAKRINO – to scrutinize, investigate
G – 2924 – KRITIKOS – decisive “critical”, discriminative, skilled in judging

What we can conclude from these words is that discernment is the ability to see beyond the obvious into the spirit realm and to distinguish, test and prove unseen powers and motivations.

Other words used in place of discernment could be: insight, perception, judgment, sensitivity, shrewdness, discrimination of refinement.

It is God’s desire to communicate with His people and He has created us with five physical senses for just that purpose. Through those senses he has equipped us to communicate with Him in more than just the realm that we live in but in the realm that He lives in as well.

Therefore, we must learn to discern between the physical world (that we live in) and the spiritual world (that He lives in).

In order for this to occur, for those desiring such communication, our senses must be offered to God. As some pastors say, we must “activate our senses.”

There is much scriptural precedent for this.

Romans 12:1-2 – offer your bodies to God, be transformed by renewing your mind
Romans 6:13 – do not offer any part of your body to sin, but rather offer yourselves to God
1 Corinthians 3:16 – you are God’s temple and His Spirit dwells within you
Galatians 5:17 – the flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit and the spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other...
Hebrews 5:14 – solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

God wants us to yield all of our members and senses to Him.

Our hands, our feet, our mind, our words. Our sight, our hearing, our touch our taste and our smell.

He wants to speak to us via these senses, about and in the spirit realm but unless we yield to the Spirit at work in us, all we will move in is in the natural/fleshly realm.

So, let’s start by praying a prayer of dedication of our senses to Him. Yielding them each one to Him and asking Him to break us free from the worldly realm, set us free from being slaves to sin and allow our senses to be renewed and atuned to His Spirit.

Prayer – Dear Lord; You made me and want to speak with me and share with me. So, Lord, I offer you my senses so that I may see you, hear you, sense you, feel you and speak of you.

Take my eyes and help me see in the Spirit what you are saying and doing.

Take my ears and dig them so that nothing obstructs the sound of your voice to me.

Take my nose and sense of smell and let me be an aroma of praise to you as well as enabling me to smell out when “something is not right”.

Take my taste/my mouth and help me to savor the sweet things of the Spirit.

And **take my touch** and allow me to feel what you feel.

I yield to you my senses and ask you to sharpen each one in spiritual discernment.

Amen.