

## Discernment: Thinking Things through from God's Angle

### Discernment: What Is It, and Why Is It Important?

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ by Solomon's Request (& God's Granted It)

1 Kings 3:9-12 "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"<sup>10</sup> The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.<sup>11</sup> Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,<sup>12</sup> behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you."

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ of Is Condemned In Proverbs

Prov 15:21 Folly *is* joy to him who is destitute of discernment, But a man of understanding walks uprightly.

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ by Priests and Levites

Ezek 44:15-23 "But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me the fat and the blood," says the Lord GOD.<sup>16</sup> "They shall enter My sanctuary, and they shall come near My table to minister to Me, and they shall keep My charge.<sup>17</sup> "And it shall be, whenever they enter the gates of the inner court, that they shall put on linen garments; no wool shall come upon them while they minister within the gates of the inner court or within the house.<sup>18</sup> "They shall have linen turbans on their heads and linen trousers on their bodies; they shall not clothe themselves with *anything that causes sweat*.<sup>19</sup> "When they go out to the outer court, to the *outer* court to the people, they shall take off their garments in which they have ministered, leave them in the holy chambers, and put on other garments; and in their holy garments they shall not sanctify the people.<sup>20</sup> "They shall neither shave their heads nor let their hair grow long; but they shall keep their hair well trimmed.<sup>21</sup> "No priest shall drink wine when he enters the inner court.<sup>22</sup> "They shall not take as wife a widow or a divorced woman, but take virgins of the descendants of the house of Israel, or widows of priests.<sup>23</sup> "And they shall teach My people *the difference* between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ by God When He Returns

Mal 3:18 Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.

#### 5. \_\_\_\_\_ By Jesus

Matt 16:1-3 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.<sup>2</sup> He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, '*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red*';<sup>3</sup> and in the morning, '*It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening*.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times.

#### 6. \_\_\_\_\_ for by Paul

Phil 1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,<sup>10</sup> that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,<sup>11</sup> being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.<sup>9</sup> Καὶ τοῦτο προσεύχομαι, ἵνα ἡ ἀγάπη ὑμῶν ἔτι μᾶλλον καὶ μᾶλλον περισσεύῃ ἐν ἐπιγνώσει καὶ πάσῃ **αἰσθησει**<sup>10</sup> εἰς τὸ δοκιμάζειν ὑμᾶς τὰ διαφέροντα, ἵνα ᾖτε ἐλικρινεῖς καὶ ἀπρόσκοποι εἰς ἡμέραν Χριστοῦ, <sup>11</sup> πεπληρωμένοι καρπῶν δικαιοσύνης τὸν διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ εἰς δόξαν καὶ ἔπαινον θεοῦ.

#### 7. \_\_\_\_\_ About by Scripture

Heb 4:9-12 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.<sup>10</sup> For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.<sup>11</sup> Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.<sup>12</sup> For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.<sup>9</sup> ἄρα ἀπολείπεται σαββατισμὸς τῷ λαῷ τοῦ θεοῦ.<sup>10</sup> ὁ γὰρ εἰσελθὼν εἰς τὴν καταπαυσιν αὐτοῦ καὶ αὐτὸς κατέπαυσεν ἀπὸ τῶν ἔργων αὐτοῦ ὡσπερ ἀπὸ τῶν ἰδίων ὁ θεός.<sup>11</sup> Σπουδάζαμεν οὖν εἰσελθεῖν εἰς ἐκείνην τὴν καταπαυσιν, ἵνα μὴ ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ τις ὑποδείγματι πέσῃ τῆς ἀπειθείας.<sup>12</sup> Ζῶν γὰρ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ ἐνεργὴς καὶ τομώτερος ὑπὲρ πάσαν μάχαιραν δίστομον καὶ διϊκνούμενος ἄχρι μερισμοῦ ψυχῆς καὶ πνεύματος, ἄρμων τε καὶ μυελῶν, καὶ κριτικὸς ἐνθυμήσεων καὶ ἐννοιῶν καρδιάς.

#### 8. \_\_\_\_\_ by Mature Believers

Heb 5:9 – 6:3 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,<sup>10</sup> called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"<sup>11</sup> of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since *you have become dull of hearing*.<sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, *you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food*.<sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.<sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,<sup>2</sup> of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.<sup>3</sup> And this we will do if God permits.<sup>9</sup> καὶ τελειωθείς ἐγένετο πᾶσιν τοῖς ὑπακούουσιν αὐτῷ αἴτιος σωτηρίας αἰώνιου,<sup>10</sup> προσαγορευθεὶς ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ ἀρχιερεὺς κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισέδεκ.<sup>11</sup> Περὶ οὗ πολὺς ἡμῖν ὁ λόγος καὶ δυσερμήνευτος λέγειν, ἐπεὶ νωθροὶ γεγόνατε ταῖς ἀκοαῖς.<sup>12</sup> καὶ γὰρ ὀφείλοντες εἶναι διδάσκαλοι διὰ τὸν χρόνον, πάλιν χρεῖαν ἔχετε τοῦ διδάσκειν ὑμᾶς τινὰ τὰ στοιχεῖα τῆς ἀρχῆς τῶν λογίων τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ γεγόνατε χρεῖαν ἔχοντες γάλακτος [καὶ] οὐ στερεᾶς τροφῆς.<sup>13</sup> πᾶς γὰρ ὁ μετέχων γάλακτος ἄπειρος λόγου δικαιοσύνης, νήπιος γάρ ἐστιν.<sup>14</sup> τελείων δέ ἐστιν ἡ στερεὰ τροφή, τῶν διὰ τὴν ἕξιν τὰ **αἰσθητήρια** γεγυμνασμένα ἐχόντων πρὸς διάκρισιν καλοῦ τε καὶ κακοῦ.