

November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## ***The Desire of Biblical Discernment***

### *1 Samuel 24*

#### **What is Biblical Discernment?**

*1 Samuel 24:5 “And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe.”*

☞ David's heart struck him.

📖 1 Samuel 26:1-12

#### ❖ Protection through good discernment:

- ☞ David - 1 Samuel 24/26
- ☞ Paul's Conversion - Acts 9:1-8
- ☞ Ananias talking with Paul - Acts 9:10-17

#### ❖ Discipline and correction in poor discernment:

- ☞ David with Nathan - 2 Samuel 12:1-15
- ☞ Peter - Matthew 26:30-35, 69-75
- ☞ Ananias & Sapphira - Acts 5:1-11

#### **Biblical Discernment is TRUTH in Everything**

*1 Samuel 26:9-11 “But David said to Abishai, ‘Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?’ And David said, ‘As the Lord lives, the Lord will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish. The Lord forbid that I should put out my hand against the Lord's anointed. But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go.’”*

📖 1 John 4:1-6

*Hebrews 5:11-14 “About this we have much to say, and it is 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 basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup>for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”*

*Acts 17:10-13 “The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup>Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. <sup>12</sup>Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. <sup>13</sup>But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.”*

*Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*

📖 Matthew 20:20-28

*Matthew 7:1-5 “‘Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup>For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”*

## How to Practice Biblical Discernment

*1 Samuel 24:6-7 “He said to his men, ‘The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed.’ So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.”*

### ❖ Discernment:

#### ✎ In understanding:

*1 Thessalonians 5:20-23 “Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

#### ✎ Not being deceived:

📖 1 John 2:18-28

*1 Corinthians 2:14-16 “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”*

### ❖ Discernment is knowing you are transformed

*Romans 12:1-2 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

### ❖ Discernment is forgiveness

*Ephesians 4:31-32 “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”*

### ❖ Discernment in the advance of the Gospel

*Philippians 1:12-18 “I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. <sup>15</sup>Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. <sup>16</sup>The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup>The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup>What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.”*

### ❖ Discernment is listening

*Psalms 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”*

❖ Discernment is foundational

*Matthew 7:24-27 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup>And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

❖ Biblical Discernment is knowing Jesus

*2 Timothy 3:14-17 “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

❖ Discernment in identity

*Colossians 2:6-10 “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.”*

*“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them,  
for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”*

*1 John 4:4*

Endnotes:

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