

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 72

Learn to Discern Your Own Thoughts & Motives First!



(See Matthew 7:1-5)

01-23-2001

HAH HAH, YOU JUST TOLD HIM THAT HE HAS A
SPLINTER IN HIS EYE, AND YOU HAVE A BEAM
IN YOURS

2013

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

In our Bible study of discernment, there is something very important that we have to understand and that is: WE must first LEARN to DISCERN by the Word of God before we are capable or able to discern others. In other words you have to have the Word in your soul first before you can point out any sin or problem with a fellow believer. Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to dividing soul and spirit and the joints and marrow; and is a critic of the thoughts and intentions of the heart."



Remember in our last lesson we learned that the Word of God must be in your soul before you can be discerning about good and evil in Hebrews 5:14! "But solid food is for the mature (grown up believer), who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." Get your own "house" (soul) in order before taking on what is outside our souls!

Some people think they have the right to discern or determine the intentions of others BUT these same people are totally deceived about what their own intentions really are! We as believers have to learn to discern our own thoughts and intentions first! There is only ONE who can truly judge perfectly and that is God but He has given us the BOOK called the Bible...HIS WORD to learn so that we can first look at ourselves and clean up our own sins through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Word in our souls before we can counsel anyone else about their sins or bad habits. That is the only way. Psalms 19:9-14 "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. (10) They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. (11) Moreover, by them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward."



Psalm 19:12-14 "Who can discern his errors? Clear me of hidden faults. (13) Also keep back your servant from arrogant sins; let them not rule over me; then I will be blameless, and I shall be cleared of great evil doings. (14) Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

As usual, our Lord put it best in Luke 6:41-43. "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? (42) Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will **see clearly** to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye." Seeing clearly – that's discernment.

What comes first? ANSWER: take the log out of our own eye! Before you can judge or criticize something you first have to be able to see it clearly! We have to BE judged first! God uses His word to discern the thoughts in our heart, our soul. Are those thoughts genuine truth or is there garbage and pollution? 2 Tim 2:15-16 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who

does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (16) But avoid worldly and empty talk, for it will lead to further ungodliness..”



Again, we must first learn to discern from the Word of God before we are qualified to be able to be discerning or criticizing others. In other words Hebrews 4:12 must come before Hebrews 5:14!

Heb 4:12 “For the word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of the soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Hebrews 5:14! “But solid food is for the mature (grown up believer), who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”



We get discerned...tested...by God first, before we are qualified to do any discerning on our own.

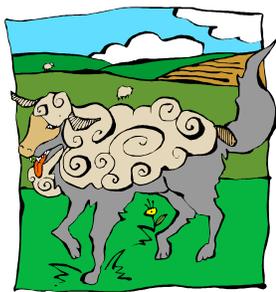
And what does God judge or appraise in us?

He judges the His Word that is permanent in our souls from learning and believing what we learned from the Bible and what has been applied or used by us. In other words it's the real thing in our souls...the Word! And then that tested Word then becomes the GOLD STANDARD we use to do our own discerning. It is our measuring rod. You see we have a trained spiritual eye that spots imperfections when we compare the subject to the GOLD STANDARD of the Word...our benchmark or standard of the tested and approved Word of God in our soul. Again look at: Heb 5:14 “But solid food (advanced doctrine that nourishes the spiritually mature believer) is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good (or honorable) and evil (or useless).

The discernment that results from growing spiritually is vital part of being prepared to function effectively in our spiritual gift.

Let me show you an example by using the spiritual gift of evangelist.

An evangelist is a believer with the gift of Evangelism. He goes out and brings the Gospel message to a crowd of believers...large or small. He gives the Good News to unbelievers and usually by the power of the Holy Spirit many believe in Jesus and are saved.



But there are false evangelists and teachers that go out to stop the Gospel message from being brought clearly to the unbelievers. They are evil and savage wolves (false teachers) that put out false gospels that usually carry works with them. These are stumbling blocks so the unbeliever won't trust in the good news of the TRUE Gospel (faith alone in Christ alone) and therefore prevent them from believing in Christ for salvation.



These false teachers sound good and even look good. But they are evil. It's just like what the Pharisees did and Jesus condemned them for it: Matt 23:4 “They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.”

These false teachers add things to the gospel of Jesus that are works and FALSE like:

- Feeling sorry for your sins
- Giving your life to Christ
- Making Jesus Lord of your life
- Making a public confession
- Repenting of all your sins
- Changing your life
- Inviting Jesus into your heart
- Water baptism

The above things are adding to faith alone in Christ alone and that's not salvation. They want you to work for salvation rather than trust in the precious Lord Jesus who did ALL the work on the cross for us. Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have

eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." Eph 2:8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God (9) not by works, so that no one can boast."

This is adding stumbling blocks and burdens at the point of Gospel hearing that may result in the unbeliever walking away without accepting Jesus as Savior!!!

Let's look at the TRUE Gospel message again so we can have this truth in our souls and be able to discern what the real thing is!



John 3:16-19 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (18) He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the One and only Son of God. (19) This is the verdict: Light (Jesus) has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath (anger) of God abides on him."

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

John 6:40-41 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:47-48 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. (48) I am the bread of life."

John 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water (the Holy Spirit).'"

John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

John 11:25-26 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

John 14:10-13 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. (11) Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works (miracles) themselves. (12) Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. (13) And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father."

John 17:20-21 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; (21) that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."

John 20:27-29 "Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.' (28) Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!' (29) Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.'"

Why was this Gospel written? John 20:30 "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the

presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) **but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have (eternal) life in His name.**"

Now, these verses tell the TRUE GOSPEL of Jesus and bring salvation to many. But if you didn't learn and believe these true Gospel passages from the Bible, you wouldn't be able to tell what is true or false. The false teachers sent from Satan can easily fool the unbeliever but not you! You have the TRUTH, kids and this is discerning what is good and evil.

Satan can't fool you, can he? You have Jesus' TRUTH!!!

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on January 5, 2012
Lighthouse Bible Church

