

Teen Topics Discernment

The Issue:

Discernment in the spiritual sense refers to the ability to recognize truth from error. When considering the variety of opinions and beliefs in our culture today, the need to screen out what is false and accept what is true becomes clear!

What does the Bible say?

Note God's warning and advice concerning false teaching:

- > **II Cor. 11:13-15** – Satan appears at times as an angel of light, so just because something sounds right doesn't mean it is right.
- > **I John 4:1** – Many false teachers are in the world, so we must learn to "test the spirits" (evaluate what we hear).

How do we know what is really true?

- > **John 17:17** – Thy Word (the Bible) is truth; we can rely on it.
- > **Heb. 4:12** – God's Word is the key to revealing what is right.

What is the end result of discerning what we hear?

- > **Eph. 4:14** – We will not fall for everything we hear.
- > **Heb. 5:13-14** – It is a sign (evidence) of spiritual maturity.

What should I do?

Many people are quick to accept a belief because it "sounds good" or because it is popular. However, we are told to be grounded in the truth, not popular opinions! We must be careful about what we listen to, for when we are not careful, it can be easy to be deceived. God calls us to filter what we hear and be able to distinguish right from wrong. That is the key to standing for truth! And it all starts with being rooted and established in God's Word (note Acts 17:11; Col. 2:7-8)!