

Finding the middle ground: Learning to Sacrifice Self Without Compromising Faith

Part 4: A season of Growth...Transition and Transformation

Lesson 3 (Obedience from the Heart)

Recap:

Discernment

Judgement that comes from a distorted, self-righteous perspective; but discernment is looking at a person/ situation through the lens of the Holy Spirit.

*Some are given the gift of Discernment (an added portion) but all of us can and should operate with the spirit of discernment

References: Spiritual Gift of Discernment

The spiritual gift of discernment is also known as the gift of “discernment of spirits” or “distinguishing between spirits.” The Greek word for the gift of discernment is *Diakrisis*. The word describes being able to distinguish, discern, judge or appraise a person, statement, situation, or environment. In the New Testament it describes the ability to distinguish between spirits as in 1 Corinthians 12:10, and to discern good and evil as in Hebrews 5:14.

The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment to enable certain Christians to clearly recognize and distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh in a given situation. The church needs those with this gift to warn believers in times of danger or keep them from being led astray by false teaching. See also I Corinthians 12:10, Acts 5:3-6; 16:16-18; 1 John 4:1.

Everyone should operate with Discernment from the Holy Spirit
Phil 1:8-11

For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

*Discernment is like having Spiritual Goggles- they allow us to see the truth as HE sees it and not as we see it.

Benefit: The ability to see on all sides because of central/middle position.

Example: **Mountain Peak Perspective**

*While we will never be able to see all he sees on Earth...His will is to be done on earth **AS it is in heaven**. Christ looks at our lives from an elevated perspective. When we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us with discernment we get an elevated perspective and have the ability to see above the situation.

Example 2: **Christ between the religious and the World**

Religious: Claim to be Christian but walk and talk are not fruitful (Gal 5:22 love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

Where is Luke Warm Positioned? On the Border...one foot in and one foot out. (Rev. 3:16)

Religious Extreme

(Luke Warm)

Jesus Christ

(Luke Warm)

World

Spiritual Discernment Should Lead to Obedience

(Example: Jonah)

How did Jonah show a lack of discernment and/or a self-righteous perspective?

When did that change?

What was the outcome?

Romans 6:17-23

-Looking through the lens of the Holy Spirit will shape/change our perspective or vision (Spiritual Understanding)---→

-When we have spiritual understanding and a new vision it will shape and change our heart, filled with love and grace and good soil for fruit to grow (1 John 4:19-21) -→

Vs. 20 Seen: (Strongs) properly, to stare, to discern clearly, perceive (Biblical Dictionary) To see with the eyes, to see with the mind, to experience: take heed, beware, care for

- 1) 1 John is speaking to Christians
- 2) How often are we disobedient to God because we look with self-righteous perspective instead of discernment...we don't take the time or have the experience to look at it from all directions and therefore cannot tell if we should take heed, beware or care for the situation?

-When we have a good heart with good soil we produce good fruit and therefore our actions are shaped and changed, obedience to God.

Mark 7:5-9

Romans 6:16- Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, ou are slaves to the one whom you obey- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness.

Romans 6:11-14- In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore to not let sin reign in your mortal body that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under the law, **but under grace.**

Obedience Starts with Forgiveness

Matt 6:12- Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:14-15

What is the consequence/benefit to forgiveness?

We Forgive because we were first forgiven: Parable of the Debtor

Matthew 18:21-35

What can we learn from this in regards to how we operate in the world?

(vs. 29) Be Patient, (vs) 32 God refers to his lack of forgiveness with Your EVIL servant (Romans 6:11-14- Therefore to not let sin reign in your mortal body that you obey its evil desires)

Matthew 11:28-30

What can we learn about our heart's posture if we are to be Christ like?

Final Thoughts:

Do we add to the burden to those around us?

Are we gentle and humble?

Do we use grace and extend forgiveness?

How is our obedience shaped by our vision?

Additional Resources:

Study the Phrase: Obedience of Faith/ Obedience to the Faith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSkxZ0pyKik>