



## Inner Growth - Discern

**Detect** ----- 1 John 4:1  
**Informed** ----- Proverbs 8:9  
**Spiritual** ----- 1 Corinthians 2:15  
**Character** ----- Proverbs 10:9  
**Eyes** ----- Psalms 32:8  
**Recognize** ----- Matthew 28:20  
**News** - Psalms 112:7, Proverbs 25:25

What is discern? Discern is to differentiate and understand. In biblical terms, to spiritually catch sight of the traps the devil would attempt to set up for young converts, believers, and church-goers.

The motive for Satan and his cohorts is to prevent anyone from having a relationship with God. Therefore, the further a person is from God, the more difficult it will be to discern between good and evil, right and wrong, or good and bad. However, fully mature believers can defy the enemy with the spiritual senses that they develop through the Spirit of God.

Discern is to detect. The reason for testing every spirit is that many people will come our way and give us something. The thing is their way of life. Whatever it may be, it is coming from their inner being, which is their spirit. What they offer us may come by words, attitude, or actions. We have to determine if it will help us or hurt us. A close relationship with God will aid us to decide if it is right or wrong, accept it, or reject it.

Discern is to be informed. This word is a part of the other English word information. The submission to the Word of God as

presented from the Bible is necessary for a believer to discern. The words are coming from God through apostles and others inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Word of God strengthens life, delivers, heals, and soothes the inner person. Therefore, spending time in the Holy Book will enable us to decipher any conversation from others to be good or evil.

Discern is to examine all things through the perspective of our spirit. The believers that receive help from the Holy Spirit are the people that can understand spiritual things. The unbelievers, without God's Spirit, cannot comprehend spiritual truth. They can grasp things intelligently, but that does not mean they can attain spiritual understanding. Non-believers cannot understand or believe anything beyond the material world.

Discern is for believers not to be fooled by individuals that come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are wolves. Verse fifteen of chapter seven in Matthew from the New Testament states this clearly. People will attempt to fool us through our eyes, but with the Holy Spirit as our guide, eventually, will expose them. However, believers can become weak spiritually if they feed their inner being with constant carnal things. Instead of believers being healthy, they get weaker.

Discern is to observe. To notice something before we encounter it and allow it to affect us. Today, in society, people find themselves in undesirable situations because of a lack of discernment. The reply, "if I only knew, I would not have made it get out of hand." The opportunity to figure it out before deciding to go forward with it is a normal response. However, God is the one who knows what lies ahead for each person. The only thing we have to do is to ask for His help.