

WHAT IS “SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT?”

(1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

I. A General Definition—“The ability to _____ God’s _____ and _____ from all others” (Jay Adams, *A Call to Discernment*, p. 46).

II. Key Biblical Terminology

A. Hebrew verb, *biyn* (Gen. 41:33, 39; 1 Kings 3:9; Ps. 139:2; Prov. 7:7)

1. Translated “_____ or _____”
2. Related to the noun *bayin*, “the _____ or _____”
3. Related to the preposition *ben*, “_____”
4. Refers to the ability to _____ things from one another by identifying their points of _____

B. Greek *diakrino* (Matt. 16:3; 1 Cor. 6:5; 14:29; Heb. 5:14)

1. Translated “_____, _____, _____”
2. Refers to the ability to separate things or ideas from one another in order to make _____ and _____ on the basis of an _____ discrimination

III. A More Precise Definition

A. _____ discernment differs from _____ discernment in its _____

1. A _____ makes discriminating choices about _____

2. A _____ analyst makes discriminating choices about _____

3. A _____ must make discriminating choices about _____ matters of _____ significance

B. _____ discernment differs from _____ discernment in its _____

1. A discerning _____ has a trained _____

2. A discerning _____ analyst has a trained _____

3. A discerning _____ has a _____ that comes from a _____ (Rom. 12:1-2)

a. Requires the involvement of _____

b. Requires willingness to be _____

C. Spiritual discernment can be defined as “the _____ ability to _____ God’s thoughts and ways from _____” (Adams)

IV. Dangers to Avoid

A. Becoming so _____ that you _____

B. Becoming so _____ that you _____ into a shell

C. Becoming _____ over issues that are not _____

1. Mistaking your _____ of the Bible for the Bible _____

2. Mistaking the _____ of the _____ for the _____ of _____