

A TWO-TO-SIX MONTH PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Adapted from *A Call to Discernment*, by Jay Adams
(1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

- I. What You NEED (Luke 9:23; Heb. 5:14)
 - A. A NOTEBOOK or TABLET
 - B. DISCIPLINE
 - C. A SCHEDULE
- II. What You DO
 - A. RECORDING
 - 1. Every DAY, write out a statement, claim, or idea you encounter that you think may be WRONG
 - 2. LABEL each entry with a one-word TOPIC
 - 3. Express the questionable statement, claim, or opinion in a SINGLE SENTENCE
 - 4. Provide explanatory NOTES as necessary
 - 5. Write QUESTIONS to which you'd like to find ANSWERS
 - B. TESTING (**Phil. 1:10**; 1 Thess. 5:21; **1 John 4:1-6**)
 - 1. Find SCRIPTURE that addresses your QUESTIONS
 - a. Should be familiar with the major themes of EVERY BOOK of the Bible
 - b. Should use a good CONCORDANCE and Bible DICTIONARY

2. Take care to INTERPRET passages CORRECTLY
 - a. Check CONTEXT
 - b. Look for SIMILAR uses
 - c. Use a VARIETY of Bible TRANSLATIONS
 - d. Consult COMMENTARIES, looking for scholarly input
 3. List the VERSES you found PERTINENT
 4. Summarize in one sentence what you found RIGHT or WRONG about the item you're investigating
 5. Write a PARAGRAPH explaining your REASONING
- C. SUBSTITUTING (if investigation revealed an error)
1. Look for the BIBLICAL alternative
 2. Write the biblical alternative in ONE SENTENCE, and add a paragraph of EXPLANATION
- D. IMPLEMENTING
1. Ask, "How can I put this truth to work in MY LIFE and help OTHERS to do so?"
 2. Plan your work by writing down WHAT you plan to do, WHEN you plan to start, and HOW you plan to do it.

III. What NEXT? (Prov. 14:15)

- A. REVIEW notes weekly
- B. RECORD any results
- C. ORGANIZE your entries by TOPIC