

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## Discernment Is Critical August 10, 2021 Suzi Armstrong

Discernment is critical. We are in a time of war – a war of words, a war of narratives, and a war to define the future. Should I take the vax or not take the vax. Is it right to be forced to take the vax? Who is telling the truth and who is covering up? What is the role of civil government and when is there over-reach? What is behind the redefining of sexuality? What is happening with our children and why?

**Discernment is to see, recognize or understand something that is not clear. Discernment is the ability to distinguish good from evil, right from wrong, what is beneficial and what is not.** We all want to discern with accuracy – to know what is real and what is not, what is truth and what is not. To discern what is of God and what is not. Discernment goes far beyond the facts given. True discernment is only available through God.

**Discernment starts with faith – with believing God.** Believing that what He says is true. Jesus said that God would send us the Spirit of truth and that He – the Holy Spirit – would lead us into all truth. We are promised that He will tell us what He hears, and He will tell us what is yet to come, meaning the future. 1 Corinthians 2 says the Spirit searches ALL things. That means everything. He knows the motives of men's hearts. This is where **true discernment from God cannot be replicated by psychology, body language, hunches, past experiences and lessons learned.** Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. This is why He can lead us into all truth, giving us insight and understanding that does not come through the mind but by the Spirit. Holy Spirit knows and understands the dynamics of the supernatural and how all of that interweaves in the natural world we live in. Holy Spirit understands history and the future.

There are many scriptures that tell us **DO NOT TO LEAN ON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.** We set our mind and heart above the arguments of the world, above philosophy, above culture, above what we see with our natural eyes. We set our mind on things above. We are seated with Christ Jesus far above powers and principalities. Remember the story about Elisha's servant who believed they were doomed when he saw that they were surrounded by armed troops. **Elisha's servant had no discernment – he would have surrendered to the enemy.** Elisha prayed and asked God to open his eyes so he could discern the bigger picture. When the servant's eyes were opened to see in the supernatural realm he saw many chariots of God and the angel armies of God that were there to protect them from the enemy. Because Elisha's servant lacked discernment and did not ask for discernment and fear entered his heart. He was convinced they were going to die in the hands of their enemy. Elisha's servant had a wrong perspective and belief because he lacked discernment. **Discernment is about seeing deeper than the surface of things.** Things are seldom as they appear.

### Matthew 10.16 NIV

<sup>16</sup>“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore **be as shrewd as snakes** and as innocent as doves.

- Sheep among the wolves. Wolves represent that there is much in the world that will stalk you, trap you and devour you when given a chance.
- Being shrewd is discernment. Know what is moving around you.
  - Be street smart, those that are street smart are survivors – they know how to navigate.
  - Do not be naive.
- Pay attention. Ask questions. Do not jump to conclusions. Get wisdom.

### **Proverbs 27.12** TPT

<sup>12</sup> **A wise, shrewd person discerns the danger ahead and prepares himself,**

but the naive simpleton never looks ahead and suffers the consequences.

- A discerning heart demonstrates wisdom and insight that go far beyond what is seen in the natural.

### **Romans 12.9** NIV

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. **Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.**

- We need discernment to know what is evil and what is good.

### **1 Thessalonians 5.16-22** NIV

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; **hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.**

### **Hebrews 4.12** KJV

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is **a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

- God's word provides us with discernment about every issue of life.

### **PRAYER taken from Psalm 18.12-19 TPT:**

To our nation and to the city of Detroit we declare

<sup>12</sup> Suddenly the brilliance of His presence broke through with lightning bolts and with a mighty storm from heaven—like a tempest dropping coals of fire.

<sup>13</sup> The Lord thundered, the great God above every god spoke with His thunder-voice over you.

What fearsome hailstones and flashes of fire were before Him!

<sup>14</sup> He released His lightning-arrows, and routed your foes Detroit and America! See how they ran and scattered in fear!

<sup>15</sup> Then with His mighty roar, He laid bare the foundations of your land, uncovering the secret source of the sea.

The hidden depths of land and sea were exposed by the hurricane-blast of His hot breath.

<sup>16</sup> He then reached down from heaven, all the way from the sky to you Detroit and the United States of America.

He reached down into your darkness, to rescue you!

He took you, Detroit and America out of your calamity and chaos and drew you to Himself,

taking you from the depths of despair!

<sup>17</sup> He delivered you from the hands of your hateful strong enemy,

<sup>18</sup> When your enemies attacked, He held onto you,

<sup>19</sup> His love broke open the way

and He brought you into a beautiful broad place.

**He rescued America and you, Detroit—because His delight is in you!**