

We are looking at areas of growth and maturity for a Jesus Follower.

We took a break for the Christmas/New Year season and we are back to putting together our puzzle pieces, just a few more left!

Today, look at this piece of the puzzle:

A growing and maturing lifestyle of discernment

Many people question what God's will for their life is. A lot of time and money is spent trying to figure out God's will. Whatever God's ultimate and specific will is for your life, the foundation of His will for you is actually pretty simple: be joyful, pray and give thanks no matter what happens.

As we grow in the Lord, we need to grow in our biblical discernment. Discernment enables us to make the right choices in life. There are times when we need to make choices that are difficult. There are times when it seems like we need the wisdom of Solomon to know what the right decision is. As we understand God's character and get to know Him more intimately, then we will be able to make decisions based on principle instead of passion. Biblical discipleship trains people on how to develop discernment in their lives based on God's word.

Many people want to know God's will first then they feel they would have the power to obey. When we obey God first, and our minds become transformed we will then be able to enjoy the discernment that comes as we mature in Him.

Romans 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Just because certain things are "legal" or allowable doesn't mean they are beneficial to our lives. Discernment allows us to let Jesus be our master instead of other things.

1 Corinthians 6:12 *Everything is permissible for me"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"--but I will not be mastered by anything.*

Discernment lets us see the big picture. Without biblical insight we just live according to the moment, not always realizing how decisions today may affect tomorrow. As we walk in discernment, we can look further down the path and see how our actions have long term consequences.

1 Corinthians 10:23 *Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial.
"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive.*

There are times that decisions we make may not involve "right" and "wrong" but "wise" and "unwise." Those kinds of decisions can only be rendered correctly with biblical discernment.

Ephesians 5:15 *Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise*

As we grow in Christ, we have the opportunity to grow in our discernment. We can walk in purity and victory, as we are able to discern what is best.

Philippians 1:9,10 *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ...*

Discussion Questions

As you meditate on these verses, ask the Father to reveal to you areas in your life that you need to exercise more discernment. Ask Him to show you any areas in your life where what you are doing is not profitable, constructive, or wise from His perspective. Ask a trusted Jesus Follower to join you in prayer and help hold you accountable in these areas.