



Speaker: Matt Magee

Series: Abide: Cultivating Intimacy with Christ

Sermon Title: Desiring Godly Discernment

Scripture: [1 Kings 3:3-15](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#); [Philippians 1:9-11](#); [Hebrews 5:12-14](#)

(Pro Tip: click on the passages linked above to be taken to a page with all the passages in one location.)

Main Idea: Cultivate intimacy with the Lord by depending wholly on Him for godly discernment according to His Word.

OUTLINE

1. Know Your Need - A "Little Child" After God's Own Heart Needs Discernment
 - "Discernment is the skill of understanding and applying God's Word with the purpose of separating truth from error and right from wrong." (Tim Challies, *The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment*, ch. 3.)
 - Solomon begins with praise and adoration (6).
 - Solomon acknowledges his need for discernment (7-8).
2. Clarify your desire
 - Solomon acknowledges his desire for understanding to govern God's people well, discerning between good and evil (9).
3. Ask for specific, biblically rooted understanding to discern what good and evil
4. Walk in wisdom, applying discernment, and watch as God bears great fruit in and through you.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Take a few minutes to discuss your understanding of discernment; and the difference between knowledge, understanding, and discernment.
2. Read 1 Kings 3:3-10 and observe what you see about Solomon knowing his need and clarifying, or stating his desire.

3. What is the significance of Solomon acknowledging his need for discernment in terms of personal growth?
4. How does the sermon link the process of discerning good and evil to loving one another? (See John 15:12-17.)
5. More generally, what are the 'spiritual truths' Christians should seek to understand and apply?
6. How does recognizing oneself as a 'little child' relate to seeking discernment in life?
7. Read 1 Kings 3:11-15 and discuss God's response to Solomon.
8. In what ways do you notice your own need for understanding to discern good from evil? This is an opportunity to be vulnerable with your group, and specific in discussing your need. This is one important way we learn to really come around one another in life.
9. Take time this week to write a specific prayer in this regard. You can even follow Solomon's pattern, if you find it to be helpful.