

Today's Message: **DISCERNMENT!**
Psalm 119: 121-144
Pastor Gary Stump

"Gaslighting" is when someone leads you to question your own reality.

"A lie can travel halfway around the world while truth is putting on its shoes." –Mark Twain

How do you know when you're being gaslighted? Do you have discernment?

Matthew 7:1 (NKJV) "Judge not, that you be not judged." VS.

Matthew 7:20 (NLT) "Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions."

Don't we all want discernment?

Discernment = able to see and understand people, things, or situations clearly and intelligently; showing good judgment; making careful judgments about the quality of similar things; ability to obtain spiritual guidance and understanding.

"Discernment is not a matter of telling the difference between right and wrong; rather it is telling the difference between right and almost right." Chas. Spurgeon

"Discernment is God's call to intercession, never to faultfinding." Corrie ten Boom

We all want discernment, but how do we develop it?

עAyin means eye = the discerning eye penetrates beneath the surface and reveals the secret of God's word.

Psalm 119:121–144 (NLT) עAyin Don't leave me to the mercy of my enemies, for I have done what is just and right. ¹²² Please guarantee a blessing for me. Don't let the arrogant oppress me! ¹²³ My eyes strain to see your rescue, to see the truth of your promise fulfilled. ¹²⁴ I am your servant; deal with me in unending love, and teach me your decrees. ¹²⁵ Give discernment to me, your servant; then I will understand your laws. ¹²⁶ LORD, it is time for you to act, for these evil people have violated your instructions. ¹²⁷ Truly, I love your commands more than gold, even the finest gold. ¹²⁸ Each of your commandments is right. That is why I hate every false way. פPe ¹²⁹ Your laws are wonderful. No wonder I obey them! ¹³⁰ The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand. ¹³¹ I pant with expectation, longing for your commands. ¹³² Come and show me your mercy, as you do for all who love your

name. ¹³³ Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by evil. ¹³⁴ Ransom me from the oppression of evil people; then I can obey your commandments. ¹³⁵ Look upon me with love; teach me your decrees. ¹³⁶ Rivers of tears gush from my eyes because people disobey your instructions. זTsade ¹³⁷ O LORD, you are righteous, and your regulations are fair. ¹³⁸ Your laws are perfect and completely trustworthy. ¹³⁹ I am overwhelmed with indignation, for my enemies have disregarded your words. ¹⁴⁰ Your promises have been thoroughly tested; that is why I love them so much. ¹⁴¹ I am insignificant and despised, but I don't forget your commandments. ¹⁴² Your justice is eternal, and your instructions are perfectly true. ¹⁴³ As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands. ¹⁴⁴ Your laws are always right; help me to understand them so I may live.

v. 125 Give discernment to me, your servant; then I will understand your laws.

Discernment is a major component of spiritual maturity. It involves perception, understanding, perspective, and your worldview.

Philippians 1:9 (ESV) And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

Epignosis (ἐπίγνωσις) = the content of what is definitely known—what is known, definite knowledge, full knowledge.

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NIV84) The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Aisthesis (αἴσθησις) = to have the capacity to perceive clearly and hence to understand the real nature of something—to be able to perceive, to have the capacity to understand

Discernment comes from spiritual maturity

Hebrews 5:14 (NASB95) But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Diakrisis (διάκρισις) = the ability to evaluate and judge; differentiation between good and evil; to quarrel.

Romans 14:1 (ESV) As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

Discernment gives us the opportunity of seeing things from another's point of view. Not talking over one another, but actively listening with empathy. The more you know God's word, the more you can listen carefully to another's point of view without getting anxious.

Read a Proverb each day (31 Proverbs for 31 Days)

Proverbs 1:1–4 (NLT) These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel. ² Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. ³ Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. ⁴ These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young.

Do any of you get a "verse of a day" on some app? Have you noticed how often the "verse of the day" relates directly to something in your life?

Steps to increase discernment:

- Pray for discernment.
- Read God's word.
- Study God's word.
- Understand God's word.
- Apply God's word.

Discernment means you can separate the wheat from the chaff

1 Thessalonians 5:21–22 (NLT) but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good.

1 John 4:1 (NLT) Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

John 7:24 (NLT) *"Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly."*

v. 130 The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

1 Corinthians 1:26–28 (NLT) *Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you.²⁷ Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.²⁸ God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important.*

Proverbs 14:15 (NLT) *Only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps.*

Hosea 14:9 (NLT) *Let those who are wise understand these things. Let those with discernment listen carefully. The paths of the LORD are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. But in those paths sinners stumble and fall.*

Proverbs 3:21–26 (NLT) *My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them,²² for they will refresh your soul. They are like jewels on a necklace.²³ They keep you safe on your way, and your feet will not stumble.²⁴ You can go to bed without fear; you will lie down and sleep soundly.²⁵ You need not be afraid of sudden disaster or the destruction that comes upon the wicked,²⁶ for the LORD is your security. He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap.*

SO WHAT?

What will you do to develop more discernment?

James 3:13–18 (NLT) *If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.¹⁴ But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying.¹⁵ For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.¹⁶ For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.¹⁸ And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.*

How should we respond to the wisdom available to us through discernment?

Romans 11:33–36 (NLT) *Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!³⁴ For who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice?³⁵ And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?³⁶ For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.*

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[ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022](#)

1. YOUTH TONIGHT—6-8pm at Jon & Shannon Harris' (16369 Drayton Way, Fortville).

2. HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY—9TH-12TH GRADES--Thursday nights 6-8pm at Cynthia Brown's home (14079 Clifton Ct, Fishers IN 46040). See Jerry Ackerman for more info or text him at 317-919-7171.

3. YOUTH NEXT SUNDAY AT ADRENALINE—4-6PM Youth meet at Adrenaline (10080 E. 121st); Cost \$10; Friends are Free. Grades 6-12.

4. LADIES BIBLE STUDY—WEDNESDAYS—9:30am at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers; 131st & Cumberland). Studying the book of Hebrews. Hebrews study guide \$10. See Laurie Abell (317-432-6851) or Kathy Stump (317-292-7632) for more details.

5. LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK LIVE—We will continue to livestream our service on Pastor Gary's Facebook Live and it will be available on our website (www.onwardchurch.org) and our YouTube channel (see below for link)

Gary's FACEBOOK LIVE link: <https://www.facebook.com/gary.stump.3>

Onward Church YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSHetYKQbsv3tYGbNtwgnOg>

6. ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT—NEXT WEEKEND at Brown County Inn, 51 State Rd. 46, Nashville, IN. FIRST SESSION SATURDAY AT 2PM.

2022 Onward Marriage Retreat Schedule

Speaker: Matthew A. Vander Wiele, Ed. D.

Theme: Experiencing Sabbath Rest within your Marriage

Saturday February 26th

ROOM CHECK IN: 4:00 pm (you may be able to check in earlier)
SESSION 1: 2:00pm – 3:30ish
FREE TIME/DINNER 4:00pm – 7:30pm
SESSION 2: 7:30pm – 9:00ish
Free Time

Sunday February 27th

ROOM CHECKOUT: Before Session
SESSION 3: 9:30am – 11:00ish
AFTERNOON FREE TIME!

- Light refreshments and snacks will be served at all sessions!
- Booklets provided!
- Bring – Bible, Journal, Pen and SPOUSE!!
- Have Fun!

7. CULTURE, RACE AND THE CHURCH is an online, self-paced course by **Dr. Charles Ware** through Grace Relations and the College of Biblical Studies. Here is a link for more information or to register:

<https://gracerelations.cbshouston.edu/>

8. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022. Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,800 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at gary@garystump.org.

9. GIVE BIBLES IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE—The Gideons have provided a display in the back of the room for you to give God's word.

10. "BIBLE ANSWER MAN"—Each week we have a segment in the service where we answer your Bible questions. If you have a particular Bible question, write it on the back of your Prayer Card and we will try to answer your questions.

11. ONWARD PASSOVER SEDER—Good Friday, April 15th @ 6:30pm at the Delaware Township Community Center. Invite your family and friends to this wonderful celebration of Messiah in the Passover. Dinner included. Cost is FREE. Limited space.