

# Discernment

## The call to follow Jesus

“The Foundation of Discernment”



Heritage Alliance Church

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“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6

### What is discernment?

Discernment is the ability to evaluate/perceive things with insight, clarity, and understanding. It involves the process of evaluating and distinguishing between different options, situations, or opinions to make informed decisions.

### For what end? Who’s end? What is the purpose of spiritual discernment?

Base Question – Are servants in the Kingdom God?

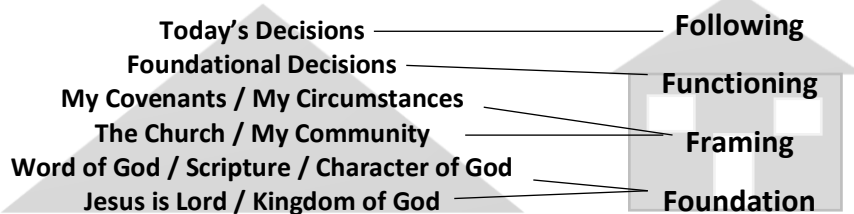
- Discernment relates to the whole of our Christian experience, how we follow.
- Discernment cannot be isolated to a particular decision outside
  - of a foundational decision to follow Jesus as Lord of our life
  - of what God has already revealed about His Character & Will
  - of his purposes, his plans, and his people
  - of the realities and commitments of my life

### Lordship = absolute surrender, ownership, service in the Kingdom

When a person yields to the lordship of Jesus Christ, he or she acknowledges His ownership and gives up his or her personal rights. Yielding to the lordship of Jesus Christ also involves total and unreserved obedience in lifelong service to the Kingdom of God.

“Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself.” 1 Corinthians 6:19

“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say?” Luke 6:46



### GUIDE TO A LIFE OF DISCERNMENT

1. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
2. “do not depend on your own understanding.
3. “Seek his will in all you do
4. The Promise: “and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.” Ephesians 5:15-17

God’s will, is best discerned in motion. God’s will, is always a step forward from here.

“...his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets. No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit... people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means... For, “Who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?” But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

“If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. 18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

John 14:15-18

“But now I am going away to the one who sent me... it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me... ‘There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’”

John 16:6-15

<sup>46</sup> “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? <sup>47</sup> I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. <sup>48</sup> It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. <sup>49</sup> But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.” Luke 6:46-49

“the human heart, is the most deceitful of all things.” Jeremiah 17:9