

# Testing Everything with Scripture

A Call to Discernment



## Proverbs 8:1

Does not wisdom call,  
And discernment give  
forth her voice?



## Proverbs 8:10

Take my discipline and  
not silver,

And knowledge rather  
than choicest fine gold.



## Proverbs 8:13

The fear of Yahweh is  
to hate evil;

Pride and arrogance  
and the evil way

And the mouth of  
perverted words, I  
hate.



Proverbs 8:35

For he who finds me finds  
life

And obtains favor from  
Yahweh.

36 But he who sins against  
me does violence to his own  
soul;

All those who hate me love  
death.

# 1. The Standard

# Psalm 19

7 The law of Yahweh is perfect, restoring the soul;

The testimony of Yahweh is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of Yahweh are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of Yahweh is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of Yahweh is clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of Yahweh are true; they are righteous altogether.

10 They are more desirable than gold, even more than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the

honeycomb.

11 Moreover, by them Your slave is warned;

In keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.

13 Also keep back Your slave from presumptuous sins;

Let them not rule over me;

Then I will be blameless,

And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

## Truth vs. Deviation

1 Thessalonians 5

21 but **examine** all things; hold fast to that which is good;

22 abstain from every form of evil.

Acts 17

11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, **examining** the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

## 2. The Response

# Teachable vs. Dismissive

Psalm 119

66 **Teach me good discernment** and knowledge,

For I believe in Your commandments.

Psalms 139

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me and know my anxious thoughts;

24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me,

And lead me in the everlasting way.

# Teachable vs. Dismissive

Proverbs 9

8 Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you,

Reprove a wise man and he will love you.

9 Give knowledge to a wise man and he will be still wiser,

Make a righteous man know it and he will increase his learning.

10 The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom,

And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

11 For by me your days will become many,

And years of life will be added to you.

12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself,

And if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

# 3. The Pursuit

# The Pursuit of Discernment

Proverbs 2:1–6

1 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,

2 To make your ear pay attention to wisdom, Incline your heart to discernment;

3 For if you call out for understanding, Give your voice for discernment;

4 If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures;

5 Then you will understand the fear of Yahweh And find the knowledge of God.

6 For Yahweh gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and discernment.

# The Pursuit of Discernment

## Proverbs 4

7 The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom;  
And with all your acquiring, acquire  
understanding.

# Trajectory vs. Drift

Ephesians 4

13 ... the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ,

14 so that we are no longer to be children, **tossed here and there by waves** and **carried about** by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming,

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up** in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is Christ

# 4. The Habits

# Trained vs. Dull

Hebrews 5

11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become **dull of hearing**. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who **because of practice** have their **senses trained to discern both good and evil**.

# Filters

Philippians. 4

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **dignified**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any **excellence** and if anything **worthy of praise**, consider these things.

9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **practice** these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Romans 12

2 And do not be **conformed to this world**, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is **good and pleasing and perfect**.

## Frameworks

2 Timothy 1:13

Hold to the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

# 5. The Results

# Thriving vs. Deceived

## Colossians 2

6 Therefore as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

7 having been **firmly rooted** and being **built up in Him**, and having been **established in your faith**—just as you were instructed—and abounding with thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you **captive** through philosophy and **empty deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

# Discernment

Wisdom in conforming to God's divine standard of truth

	<u>Discernment</u>	<u>Simple/Naïve Fool/Scoffer</u>
1. The Standard	Truth	Deviation
2. The Response	Teachable	Dismissive
3. The Pursuit	Trajectory	Drift
4. The Habits	Trained	Dull
5. The Results	Thriving	Deceived