

Discernment

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Date: 16 August 2015

[0 : 00] My Jesus, I'm loving my Lord. A little bit different tonight because we're going to show some video clips.

! Some of these are a bit disturbing in nature in terms of where the church is at, the church! Worldwide is at and alarming things really you could say.

Yet cause for prayer and so I trust you'll take them in that vein. And just to introduce this one, it's a video clip of a man, a preacher called Justin Peters.

And he's got a series called A Call for Discernment. A Call for Discernment in which he warns about the Word of Faith movement.

The Word of Faith movement. And you can watch about four hours of this material on YouTube for free. This is just a taster here. It's really an introduction for whetting your appetite for his series.

[1 : 09] So I'll get Mark to run that and we'll just listen in if we can. Abraham said if they will not hear Moses, if they will not hear the prophets, neither will they believe even if somebody were to come back from the dead.

Dr. Rodney Howard Brown says the Holy Spirit is making folks out. That as these programs are airing, I'm speaking something into existence.

If that sounds eerily like God's act of creation in Genesis 1 and 2, that's because it is. Dear friends, only God can speak things into existence.

Jesus got up and he simply spoke to the storm. He said, peace be still. And all of a sudden there was a great calm. And the reason Jesus was able to bring peace to that situation was because he had peace on the inside.

Might it have had anything to do with the fact that, oh I don't know, that he was God? But if the Godhead gets together and say let us.

[2 : 19] Say that again because they don't get it. I now come into a priestly anointing. Jesus is not the only begotten Son of God. He is not. Dear friends, when it comes to matters of theology, when it comes to matters of doctrine, we absolutely are to judge on these things.

Safely within biblical parameters. You know, you're supposed to control the weather. From the hand of Pastor Benny Hinn, believers are overcome by the presence of the Lord.

Friends, I've been to the Benny Hinn Crusades. I've been to eight of them. And I've seen what the television cameras won't show you. That on the floor in the back are dozens and dozens and dozens of sick people.

It looks like it's silver and gold mixed tonight. And I was sucked out of my room. I heard this, and I went, I just, and you talk to that thing.

You tell it you're not coming here. I command you to dissipate. And you get back up there in Jesus' name. They demote God to make him look more human than what he is.

[3 : 23] And then they deify man to make us look a lot more like God than what we really are. But I'm going to say to you right now, you are gods, little g.

You are gods because you came from God, and you are gods. You're not just human. The only human part about you is this physical body that you live in. The real me is just like God.

And if God is in a body, that means he cannot be everywhere at the same time, which means he's not omnipresent, and that's not the God of the Bible. If they preach a different God, they preach a different gospel.

I need money. Then start creating it. Start speaking about it. Start speaking it into being. Speak to your billfold. Say, you big, thick billfold full of money.

God is God. He doesn't have to have faith. He doesn't exercise faith. He doesn't use faith. He's God. He's the object of faith. Wait a minute. What does that mean? I don't know what that means.

[4 : 25] I don't know what that means. But he's about to do it again. Now hear this. I'm prophesying this. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is about to appear physically in some churches and some

meetings.

And to many of his people, for one reason, to tell you he's about to show up. All I could think about is what a powerful testimony that would be. If all of a sudden I were to show up walking, you know, there is no cure for cerebral palsy.

Once you've got it, you've got it, unless God does something. So we see right there that God wants us to be healthy. Can everybody say, God wants me to be healthy? What I do is try to just teach practical principles. I may not bring the scripture into the end of my sermon, and I don't feel bad about that.

The faith preachers take the word of God, and instead of it serving as a source of strength and encouragement to the afflicted believer, they take God's word, they retch it out of its context, turn it on its head, so now it stands in judgment over them. And I cannot imagine a more self-serving perversion of God's word than what the faith preachers do with it. And to top it all off, they take their money.

God could do nothing on earth, nothing has God ever done on earth, without a human giving him access. Okay, that just gives you a bit of a taster for that series. The video footage was rather jumpy there, so I don't know why. A bit of a technical hitch, I'm afraid.

[5 : 54] But Justin Peters talks about these numbers of people, these so-called faith prosperity gospel preachers. Rodney Howard Brown, The Laughing Revival, Benny Hinn, well-known Joe Osteen, Clapp Greffler-Dollard, Paula White, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Jesse Duplantis, Marilyn Hickey, Paul Crouch, Joyce Meyer, Miles Monroe. These are all common names that people can tune into on their TVs.

And like Justin says, we are called to judge. We are called to judge within biblical parameters. Now the Lord says, judge righteous judgment. And there's much to be cautious about.

These are, this series you can see, tells you much about these kind of teachers and preachers. And they're consciously talking about extra biblical revelations, about bizarre things like silver and gold falling on people during meetings, or feathers falling out of the sky, manna falling on people into their Bibles and such things.

So, very strange, unbiblical kinds of signs and wonders. And as Justin says, these faith prosperity gospel preachers, they demote God and they deify man.

So, as if you're a little God. They follow a different God with a small g. And they're preaching a different gospel. They wrench the scriptures out of context and misapply them, misconstrued them.

[7 : 23] And so, my plea to you tonight, my message to you tonight is that we have much need of discernment. Much need of discernment. And discernment is about seeing things clearly.

It's about distinguishing truth from error. It's about discerning between truth and half-truths.

Because half-truths are error. Half-truths are error.

Spiritual discernment has been defined as the process of discerning God's will for one's life.

Spiritual discernment, discerning God's will for our lives.

And God has set an absolute standard for us. It's His Word. This is what sets the standard. This is what shows us how to live. And discernment helps us to make the best choices for our lives.

We need discernment in every area of our lives. But most especially in terms of the teaching we follow and the practice in terms of our worship. We need discernment in these days.

[8 : 24] And discernment is also the ability to think biblically. To think biblically. And 1 Thessalonians 5.21 we're told, Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Prove. In other words test all things. Prove them. Test them. See if they're genuine. Hold fast that which is good. Abstain from. Keep away from.

Or appearance of evil. Test it. See if it's genuine. Now here's another clip we're going to play. And this is a clip. Again it's a troubling clip.

I know Julie was quite disturbed when I was previewing it. And it's troubling to see what is going on. Hopefully the video is not so junky this time. I'm not sure how we can buffer it or make it work a little better.

But just to again preface this with a warning. It's troubling. It's troubling to you if you don't have an appetite for the things of the world.

[9 : 32] To see what is going on. Because we see that in this clip it shows some evidently worldly things. To see what is ending ending ending ending ending ending ending ending ending

unclean and unholy We're living in a world where it's a big blurred kind of grey There's no absolutes There's no right and wrong There's no black and white It's all just a grey But no, there is a black and white There is a clean and there's an unclean There is a holy and there is an unholy And evil is aggressively marketed today As the new normal And churches buy into this When they cave into worldly pressures So that they just adopt this worldly mindset

[17 : 11] There is a true and a false There is a right and a wrong And we need to learn to think biblically To have our eyes opened And see things for what they are You know, these false prosperity gospel preachers Sure, they're all over the airwaves All over the popular TV channels And they're very popular amongst many Christians But we need to learn to think biblically And exercise discernment When they're saying things like We're all little gods Or when they're saying things about Speaking things into existence As if we can be as God These are not biblical things When they're carrying on With all these weird and wonderful False signs and wonders That are not in the Bible We need to wake up and realise What's going on We're living in a church That is increasingly unbiblical People's mindsets are unbiblical So we need to pray To be discerning Christians And that's for all of us

It's every one of us This church too We need to have discernment And discernment takes time sometimes It's about analysing things It's judging things In a righteous judgement And God has a will for our lives That's important that we discern His will Discern what He wants for us What He wants us to do What His will is And what it is not Discernment defines truth Our Lord defines truth In John 17, 17 He says Sanctify them Make them holy He says He prays Through thy truth Thy word is truth He says As He prays for us That we'll believe on Him Sanctify them Make them holy Through thy truth Thy word is truth We're not to try And twist the truth To suit the tastes And trends of the world Or to dilute the truth And water it down Such that it's not The truth anymore Rather we are called To hunger for the truth To search for the truth

To know the truth To apply the truth And the scriptures Are called The word of truth It says Search the scriptures It says Rightly dividing The word of truth And one of the hallmarks Of the last days The Lord Jesus says Very evidently And often He says Of deception As being a sign One of the hallmarks Of the last days Of planet earth Of these end days Before our Lord's returning Is deception Deception Sometimes truth Is mixed with error Now what's truth Plus error It's error Isn't it You can mix the truth With error Then it becomes Error And these preachers They might say Some good things There's one guy You'll see in this next clip And you'll think Wow he's a great preacher He's got his name in lights He's got a lot of credibility And people look up to this man And you'll say Well why are you criticising this man We're just airing what he's saying We're just airing what he's saying Judge it for yourself Judge it for yourself The truth mixed with error Equals error A perversion of the truth Is a lie And our Lord wants us to discern Between right and wrong So here's another clip Again Just to warn you There's some disturbing things here It starts off With a very catchy tune From Jesus Culture Let the Spirit Move You And then we're going to go into Some preachers You spend over me And you are pleased When I spend myself on you I know Let go I really worship Letting my dance come forward

Let go Dance Let the Spirit Move You Dance Dance Holy Spirit Dance Dance Dance Let the Spirit Move You Dance Dance Let the Spirit Move You Dance Dance Holy Spirit Dance Dance Let the Spirit Move You Dance Dance Holy Spirit In You Dance

[22 : 16] Dus Let the Spirit Move You Let me go Authenticity, humility, Pope Francis is the perfect example of this.

He is doing everything right. You see, people will listen to what we say if they like what they see. And as our new Pope, he was very, very symbolic in his first mass with people of AIDS, his kissing of the disformed man, his loving the children, this authenticity, this humility, the caring for the poor. This is what the whole world expects us Christians to do. And when they go, oh, that's what a Christian does. In fact, there's a headline here in Orange County, and I love the headline, I saved it. It said, if you love Pope Francis, you'll love Jesus.

That was a headline? That was a headline. It was a headline. I saved it. I showed it to a group of priests I was speaking to a while back.

Tell me, what do you think is the future of Christianity? I think everybody that loves Christ or knows Christ, whether they're conscious of it or not, they're members of the body of Christ.

[24 : 13] And that's what God is doing today. He's calling people out of the world for his name, whether they come from the Muslim world or the Buddhist world or the Christian world or the

non-believing world.

They are members of the body of Christ because they've been called by God. They may not even know the name of Jesus, but they know in their heart that they need something that they don't have. And they turn to the only light that they have. And I think that they are saved and that they're going to be with us in heaven. This is fantastic. I'm so thrilled to hear you say that.

There's a wideness in God's mercy. How do you view God in a desert?

There's two types of birds. There's vultures and there's hummingbirds. One lives off dead carcasses, rotting meat.

[25 : 15] The other lives off the beautiful sweet nectar in a particular flower on a particular desert plant. In the same desert, they both find what they're looking for.

Do you know, take it all the way back into the Old Testament and the Muslim and you, we actually serve the same God, Allah, to a Muslim. To us, Abba Father, God.

Do you know, take it all the way back into the Old Testament and the Muslim and you, we actually serve the same God, Allah, to a Muslim. To us, Abba Father, God.

Here it is.

Here it is. That's it. That is a whole new level of breakthrough in your life tonight.

[26 : 38] A whole new level of breakthrough in your life tonight. And I'm going to have my wife Jessa share a dream that she had.

And I'm going to tell you what God's been speaking to me about. And I believe it's the key that's going to release the greatest miracle anointing for the church.

Through a hard time and you're, you know, walk by faith when everything around you looks dark and dim. It's discerning the times and seasons by getting a hope from God. Getting a hope from God.

To be able to see, to discern the times and the seasons that's ahead of you. And the thing about the elephant, it wasn't just an ordinary elephant. It was a wild elephant.

A wild elephant. It was radical. Radical, radical, radical, radical. And the elephant means a great impact.

[27 : 57] And I really felt like what happened in Lakeland was just a beginning. It was just an introduction. It was just an introduction. Just a table of contents of what's to come.

Sheikah. My wife's got some wild fire. I've been remembering an encounter I had a number of years ago with a specific angel called the Angel of Prosperity.

There's different names for angels throughout the scripture. We do see some, like the spirit of wisdom, the spirit of revelation, the spirit of might. And so when I met the angel of prosperity, it actually came in kind of a minty green sort of color.

I saw it as a light and it had movement to it. And the Lord spoke to me. The Holy Spirit said, this is the angel of prosperity. And immediately there was an angel standing in front of me.

This angel's name is Emma. This was a beautiful female looking angel. She held her hand out. Instinctively, I held my hand out. And she dropped a ruby in my hand.

[29 : 08] The angel Emma. And then she was gone. If you want to just pan over and show. But the manna just fell again. And it's on the floor.

And it happens like this quite a bit. Isn't that right, Kay? Oh, yeah. Jesus. Anybody have a spiritual wine barrel in this house?

Okay. I think you need to get your barrel out. On the count of three, take a big drink. One.

You ready? Two. I think you need to take a bath in the new wine. Three. Take a drink. One. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

They materialized. They popped out just and landed on the ground. You feel that anointing on it? Yeah. Look at that, guys. Look. Look at that. Look at some jewels just popped out of the heavens right now.

[30 : 14] Come on. Yeah, you can praise God. Look at that. Don't be surprised if more pop up right now, too. You see that? She just got knocked out under the glory on it. Look at that. Look at it. You feel that hot.

See? Look at that. Look at that. See that? Look at it. She's getting whacked by it. Look at that. Oh, Jesus. Oh, dear Jesus.

Oh, Lord. Yes, Lord. I've learned a quick prayer.

I'll teach it to all you really quickly. Okie dokie, Lord. ooooookie dokie Lord I love your heavy drunken glory Lord I love it Lord thank you Father for more of the heavy weighty drunken glory in this house today that's my favorite little bit of you Jesus is the bliss from from Luke chapter 1 some of you think that I don't give readings I've been going through different stages of drunkenness and the stage I'm at at the moment is slouching it's alarming stuff isn't it this is what's going on it started off with Jesus culture let the spirit move you very catchy catchy music is often paired up with flaky doctrine don't use your brain or think biblically and we saw Rick Warren there praising up the new Pope he calls him our new Pope our new Pope

Rick Warren is in great error here great error then we saw Robert Shuler interviewing the famous Billy Graham he was saying the people are members of the body of Christ they're saved we'll see them in heaven even if they don't know the name of Jesus even if they don't know the name of Jesus we see Brian Houston he's the famous head of the Hillsong Enterprise Brian Houston what does he say he says Christians and Muslims serve the same God that's not true it's not true the God of the Muslims is a different God from the God of the Bible and then we saw some clips of so called slaying in the spirit totally unbiblical totally unbiblical it's not in here the only people that were slain by the spirit was Ananias and Sapphira they were killed by God slain by God's spirit killed by God's spirit slaying in the spirit is not biblical we see some fall backwards when they blasphemed the Lord Jesus at the garden but we do not see the slaying in the spirit that is so common placed in many places and then we saw holy fire the preacher was saying it's real he was saying they think it's real they really honestly do they genuinely believe it and then we saw

[33 : 37] Todd Bentley with his new wife Jessup he did to the other one that he had he traded her in for a new model and then she gave some wacko latter day revelation about some dream that she had and about these manifestations including watching an elephant and people believe this stuff they believe it they go right along with it and all of these manifestations she gave her revelation and Todd says of his wife she had wild fire false fire was not the fire it was certainly not of God I believe and Patricia King then talks about an angel there's a lot of talk that Todd Bentley talks about angels a lot too about his spirit about angels and this and that an angel that was minty green the angel of prosperity you can search through this book and not find such an angel in here I don't read about that angel in the Bible it's just not in there and then Jeff Janssen talks about angels and precious stones dropping into his hand precious stones having some meeting and somehow precious jewels rubies and jewels just somehow manifest or in some places you can see footage too where gold dust rains from the ceiling and just covers people their hands and glistens over their bodies supposed gold dust false signs and wonders false signs and wonders the word tells us that the enemy will be such a one who will bring such false signs and wonders and then we saw this man

John Crowder he talks about spiritual drunkenness about a drunken glory this man John Crowder preached at a church not far from here called Field of Dreams you can see a footage of him there carrying on with his crazy talk and this John Crowder he speaks about the Holy Spirit as being like a drug that you can toke the Spirit you can in other words breathe in the Holy Spirit like you would some marijuana smoke and this is the ridiculous stuff that people are believing they're believing this stuff and then this John Scotland drunken in the Spirit disgusting stuff it's not biblical it's simply not biblical why are people swallowing it because they don't have biblical discernment they don't follow the Bible they don't think biblically they don't check things out and it's time brothers and sisters that we understood what is going on what on earth is going on what is happening truth is fallen in the streets and what we need more than ever before is the word of God the word of God we need to hunger and thirst for it we need to have it prepped with our compromise we need to search it out and find it there's a famine in the land a famine in other words a lack a desert of not hearing the word of God anymore it's just absent it's missing it's lost and where some preacher it's compromised it's not the sound word it's not the faithful word of God we need to see that there are people who will earnestly seek after God and search the scriptures and see if these things are so Acts 17 11 when the preacher spoke here it says that there were some more noble in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and they searched the scriptures they searched the scriptures to see if these things were so do that with everyone who preaches search the scriptures and see if these things are so we don't need a new revelation we don't need some extra biblical revelation in other words going outside of this and someone saying thus saith the Lord we don't need that because we've got God's word it's complete it's the canon has been fulfilled and the real Holy Spirit will not act contrary to his word that's evident that is quite clear he will not act contrary

there will not be such things as extra biblical false signs and wonders check it out check out everything check it out with the scriptures and when we worship him we will worship him in spirit and in truth the two spirit and in truth and in the beauty of holiness not with some drummer thrashing out some drumbeat in crazy frenzy it's interesting if you look through the word of God you don't see drums in here you don't see drums in the Bible the only place

I've heard it said where drums are evident is if you construe from the word tophet t-o-p-h-e-t! the valley of tophet was where they had Baal a Moloch Moloch and they gave the children they threw the babies into Moloch's hands this big metal statue that was heated up so the little babies would fry to death in the heated arms of Moloch as they beat the drums in the valley of tophet they beat the drums in a frenzy and that's where we see drums and so we need to be discerning about such things that's why if you others might disagree with me about drums but I can't see drums as being in any shape or form acceptable to worship God with wrong teaching happens because of a lack of discernment a lack of discernment and we need desperately to make wise choices for our lives biblical choices have our minds switched on biblically to say is that right?

is that right? is that honouring to God? is that pleasing to God? is that what would give God the glory in the beauty of holiness? and people are led astray today because they've got no doctrinal foundation we need to study get to where the study is get to where you can read the word where you can hear the word in your personal devotions in your family bible times in fellowship bible times get to where the word is so that you can grow so you can exercise that discernment so you can fine up that discernment and get it working more and more so so then you'll know what is pleasing to the Lord and you won't follow these crazy worldly trends such as gang man style as much as that's dated now or Harlem Shake or whatever it be you'll know that's of the world that's of the world I don't have a bar of that it's got no place for me let alone no place in a church in God's worship discernment helps us decide it helps us to decide righteously and rightfully and God honouringly what is right and what is wrong discernment will help you to decide who am I going to hang around with who am I going to associate with who am I going to affiliate with what church am I going to be identifying with it's called separation when we decide who we are going to hang with and who we are going to not hang with

[40 : 56] God says there is a difference between unclean and clean between unholy and holy God says there are things that differ he's put a difference difference and it's clear cut don't toy around in the middle decide and stand with your convictions that are biblically founded as David said he prayed teach me Psalm 119 verse 66 a book full of the word of God is Psalm 119 check that chapter out David says this he says teach me good judgment and knowledge for I have believed thy commandments make that your prayer teach me Lord teach me teach me good judgment and knowledge for I have believed thy commandments you can't go wrong if you hold fast the word of God hold fast the faithful word we need discernment to understand God's will and to do it we need discernment to distinguish between truth and error and you know you might hear a song that says just follow the spirit follow certain words there just go with the spirit there's the spirit of truth and there's the spirit of error it's not just one spirit there's many spirits really I suppose but we want to follow the spirit of truth the spirit of truth and he will not disagree with the word of truth it'll be in perfect synchronisation and we need to discern between truth and error discern the two and so to discern deception is very critical in these days in which we live and I'm not saying

I've got the monopoly on the truth or that I've got some particular that I've got everything down pat I'm still learning I'm still discerning I'm still evaluating and differentiating and trying to seek God's will for my life and for this church and what God wants us to do what he wants us to be and pray pray for me pray for us that we'll be in accord with God in accord with what is glorifying to him and discernment will help us it will help us all to differentiate between what is good and the best some will settle for the good God wants us to aspire to the best seek him for what is the best as his people he wants us to give him our very best our very best not to settle for something that's compromised or less than his best God's will will help you to discern what that is and to find that for yourself in your life what is God's will for your life as you pray as you pray like David did teach me Lord

I want to have good judgement I want to know your way for my life and he will but he won't guide you out of accord with his will he will guide you in accord with his will he will guide you by his word which is his sure voice to us in John 10 27 he promises us he says my sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me the Lord Jesus says that my sheep hear my voice where is his voice

it's right here the Bible the Bible is his voice to us and he says that my sheep will hear my voice and they will know I know them and they follow me and friends we read that God's spirit is called the spirit of truth it's not the spirit of some minty green angel or some spirit of some false signs and wonders or some spirit that makes you flail and thrash on the floor and fall in indecent postures but the spirit of truth will accord with the spirit of his word the word of God the word of truth and it says in John 14 the Lord Jesus says

I will pray the Father and he shall give you another comforter that he may abide with you he'll stay with you he'll remain with you forever even the spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it saith him not neither knoweth him but ye know him ye know him for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you the Lord Jesus says that the spirit of truth will guide you the world can't receive him but you can receive him he will dwell with you and he shall be in you and then he goes on in John 16 13 how be it when the spirit of truth is come the spirit of truth is come he will guide you into all truth for he shall not speak of himself but whatsoever he shall hear that shall he speak and he'll show you things to come he will guide you