

The Bible and Discernment

Discernment is seeking Jesus' thoughts, His way of doing things.
His decision is always **the most loving way to think, speak or act.**

Some Bible texts which help us to discern

"God is **love** and **all** who abide in **love** abide in God and God in them." 1 John 4:7.
Jesus said, "**Love** one another as I **have loved** you." John 15:13.
"Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119: 105.
"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus. Luke 18:41.
"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10.
"Wait on the Lord." Psalm 27:14.
"Jesus said, "That all may be one." John 17:21.
"Put on the mind of Jesus Christ." Romans 13:14.
"Don't quench the Holy Spirit." 1 Thessalonians 5:19.
"Faith, hope and **love**, but the **greatest** of these is **love**." 1 Corinthians 13:13.
"Abide in Jesus." John 15:7.

Jesus wants us to know Him and His will. He stands before us every day and says, "I am here. Come to Me. I am the way, the truth, the life. I am the solution to every problem. I am the Answer Man. Come to Me."

Warnings in Scriptures

"Anyone who **does not love**, does not know God." 1 John 4:8.
"Watch out for false prophets." Mathew 7:15.
"Test every spirit to see which comes from Jesus." 1 John 4:1.
"As soon as you are perfect, cast the first stone." John 8:7.
"First get the plank out of your eye, then you can remove the speck out of another's eye." Matt 7:3.
"All things work for good for those who **love** God." Romans 8: 28.

How do we know it is Jesus' voice?

Confirmation from another person who knows the voice of Jesus.
Bible verse comes to mind to confirm.
We are **never discerning, if we do not love.**
Fruits of the Spirit are evident: **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self control. Galatians 5:22-23.

How can Jesus answer?

Yes. No. Wait. Alternative- not what you asked, but Jesus modifies your request.

What are blocks to discernment?

To be in touch with Jesus and the Holy Spirit is "an invigorating journey, not a predictable tour." It means giving up self for God, recognizing where God is, and where God is not.

Jesus said He is the way. He wants us to know His way, His timing, His speech, His waiting, and His silence. People, places and things can **block** His voice. Discernment is a gift given to all who seek it. Sometimes we don't seek it.

Blocks to discernment

Sins- choosing not to love, refusing to love, in our thoughts, actions, words or body language.

Sins are **always** against God, and can also be against others, yourself, and/or nature.

Sins **block** our ability to discern.

Sins can be once in a life time, or habitual.

There are sins of commission- doing the unloving thing.

sins of omission- not doing the loving thing.

The seven deadly (because they can kill the soul) sins are:

greed	material goods, human respect, things, money, stuff.
envy	of others, of material possessions, honors, responsibilities.
gluttony	foods, alcohol, anything that appeals to our senses.
anger	rebellion against God and good people.
lust	intimacy without love- impure acts, thoughts & words.
pride	giving ourselves greater power or sway than God desires.
sloth	eluding responsibility, passivity: when Jesus is asking you to act or speak.

2. **Feelings or emotions** which keep us away from God: anger, loneliness, depression, inadequacy, hopelessness, despair, loss, anxiety.
3. **Unforgiveness** of self, others, God, the Church, strangers, harmful leaderships, governments.
4. **Self will:** I want things my way, I know what's best for me and everyone, not willing to listen, hypocritical, self righteous, selfishness, its my way or the highway.
5. **Fears:** of the future, ill health, failure, success, loss of loved ones, finances, natural disasters, unworthiness, fear of death, your own or another's, fear of family going to hell.
6. **Your past:** guilt, shame, weaknesses, family and societal dysfunctions, unwilling to remove walls you or others have set up, stuck in "if only," romanticizing the past, regrets, making a mistake and not forgiving self or others for it, not being perfect, feeling inadequate.
7. **Lack of faith:** not knowing what our faith teaches, or why, refusal to pray before speaking or acting, lack of hope in God, lack of trust, lack of patience.
8. **Lack of self control:** unhealthy boundaries, impatience, refusal to listen to others, controlling.
9. **Addictions:** food, drink, gossip, computers, pornography, TV, buying, smoking, self-destruction.
10. **Other People** are more important than what God wills. Their view of who you are, and what you should do, determine your choices. You may see yourself as others do, not as God does.
11. **Ancestral Bondages:** premarital sex, cursing, babies out of wedlock, addictions, familial sins, suicide or self destruction, abuse, hostility to a nation, religion.
12. **Numbness-** immobility, stuck in a place or attitude, inability to act for Jesus or unwilling to.

Conclusions

Discernment is a gift from Jesus, offered every minute, every day, in little & big matters.

Jesus' voice, will, decision is the **only** one to follow.

The more we discern, the more we recognize our own sinfulness.

Remove the blocks **in you** to His voice and you will hear Him better.

When you condemn others, it is your sins you see.