

Got Discernment?

Ronnie Norman
Senior Minister

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& SURE**

1 THESSALONIANS SERIES

Discernment goes beneath the surface and reads between the lines.

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1 Thessalonians 5:25-28

²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us.

²⁶ Greet all God's people with a holy kiss.

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1 Thessalonians 5:25-28

27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

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1 Thessalonians 5:25-28

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

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1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all;

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Prophecy: God speaking to one person through another.

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1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all;

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Discernment is your friend.

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Beware of confirmation bias.

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Beware of generalizations.

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Beware of feeling your way to reality.

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Treat the Bible as God's Truth and not
as a consultant.

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Tim Keller - *The Reason for God:*
Belief in an Age of Skepticism

Now, what happens if you eliminate anything from the Bible that offends your sensibility and crosses your will?

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Tim Keller - *The Reason for God:*
Belief in an Age of Skepticism

If you pick and choose what you want to believe and reject the rest, how will you ever have a God who can contradict you?

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Tim Keller - *The Reason for God:*
Belief in an Age of Skepticism

You won't! You'll have ... a God, essentially, of your own making, and not a God with whom you can have a relationship and genuine interaction.

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Belief in an Age of Skepticism

Only if your God can say things that outrage you and make you struggle (as in real friendship or marriage!)

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Belief in an Age of Skepticism

*will you know that you have gotten
hold of a real God and not a figment of
your imagination.*

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Tim Keller - *The Reason for God:*
Belief in an Age of Skepticism

So an authoritative Bible is not the enemy of a personal relationship with God. It is the precondition for it.

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Engage wise believers present and
past.

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Ask for God's wisdom.

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