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Spiritual Discernment

I Corinthians 2:14, **“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

Many of God’s children who are endeavoring to be good disciples of Christ can remember a time when they did not love the things of God. The reason they did not, or could not, was because they had not yet been born of the Spirit of God. As I Corinthians 2:14 says, **“the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God...”** The natural man is one who is **“...dead in trespasses and sins;...”** (Ephesians 2:1). Paul alludes to this again in Colossians 2:13, **“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;...”**

How then can a person who is a **“natural man”**, one that is not yet born again of the Spirit but has natural life only and who is dead in sin; then suddenly come alive and be the one who gives his own self eternal life? Christ is the only one who was able to accomplish the act of giving Himself natural life when His body was dead. He did this when He arose triumphant over death. Man who has natural life must have an outside source of strength to be able to be quickened with Spiritual Life. Christ does this for us at His own time according to His will. Then, and only then, are we able to understand and care about the wonderful things of God. Prior to the work of Christ in our hearts, the things of God are **“foolishness”** to us (meaning we do not care about them).

Many people misinterpret being called to follow Christ as a Christian, with the calling or quickening which Christ makes in the new birth. This causes them to believe that they accepted Christ so that He could save them eternally when actually they were already born again. Read again I Corinthians 2:14 and you will see what comes first: The New Birth, which is a work of Christ in us, and then the changing of our walk of obedience to His commandments (being converted).

What then does it mean to have Spiritual Discernment? Simply put, it is the ability to understand the wonderful blessings and the work of Christ in our life which can only be after one has been born again of the Spirit of God. In addition, it is making Godly decisions in our life based on intense prayer unto God to lead us “...**in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake**” (Psalm 23:3).

Once you have been born again and now love the things of God, then it is time to be converted from your old walk and way of life, to a life of being a good soldier of Christ. Conversion is NOT the new birth! It is a change of how you walk.

Only after one has become a “**new creature**” does he/she have the ability to Spiritually Discern. In II Corinthians 5:17 Paul says, “**Therefore if any man be in Christ**” (born again of the Spirit), **he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**” With this being so, then we should walk in the newness of life as a Disciple of Christ, as a good soldier in the fight against Satan and his devices, and live our lives utilizing the gift of Spiritual Discernment (understanding the will of God). These things are serious, not foolish! “**Think About It!**”