**Women of Warfare “WOW” Class 3**

**“Learning to Discern” *by Connie Stoffel***

**Friday, August 31, 2018**

**Personal Housecleaning:**

***“Many lessons will be taught to you***

***before they can be taught through you!***

**Exodus 4:11-12 Let’s take a look at Moses’ life: Just one man.**

**Exo 4:11** And the LORD H3068  said H559  unto H413  him, Who H4310  hath made H7760  man's H120  mouth? H6310  or H176  who H4310  maketh H7760  the dumb, H483  or H176  deaf, H2795  or H176  the seeing, H6493  or H176  the blind? H5787  have not H3808  I H595  the LORD? H3068  **Exo 4:12** Now H6258  therefore go, H1980  and I H595  will be H1961  with H5973  thy mouth, H6310  and teach H3384  thee what H834  thou shalt say. H1696  **Exo 4:15** And thou shalt speak H1696  unto H413  him, and put H7760  ( H853 ) words H1697  in his mouth: H6310  and I H595  will be H1961  with H5973  thy mouth, H6310  and with H5973  his mouth, H6310  and will teach H3384  you( H853 ) what H834  ye shall do. H6213

***TEACH:*** יָרָא    יָרָה yârâh  yârâ' *yaw-raw', yaw-raw'* A primitive root; properly to *flow* as water (that is, to *rain*); transitively to *lay* or *throw* (especially an arrow, that is, to *shoot*); figuratively to *point* out (as if by *aiming* the finger), to *teach: -* (+) archer, cast, direct, inform, instruct, lay, shew, shoot, teach (-er,-ing), through.

The Fathers teaching you through the Holy Spirit will be so precise that it will cause you to hit the mark in whatever you say of do, but you must follow Their leading. He will not only teach us: - what to say - what to do

***SAY:*** דָּבַר dâbar *daw-bar'* A primitive root; perhaps properly to *arrange*; but used figuratively (of words) to *speak*; rarely (in a destructive sense) to *subdue: -* answer, appoint, bid, command, commune, declare, destroy, give, name, promise, pronounce, rehearse, say, speak, be spokesman, subdue, talk, teach, tell, think, use [entreaties], utter, X well, X work.

***DO:*** עָשָׂה‛âśâh *aw-saw'* A primitive root; to *do* or *make*, in the broadest sense and widest application: - accomplish, advance, appoint, apt, be at, become, bear, bestow, bring forth, bruise, be busy, X certainly, have the charge of, commit, deal (with), deck, + displease, do, (ready) dress (-ed), (put in) execute (-ion), exercise, fashion, + feast, [fight-] ing man, + finish, fit, fly, follow, fulfil, furnish, gather, get, go about, govern, grant, great, + hinder, hold ([a feast]), X indeed, + be industrious, + journey, keep, labour, maintain, make, be meet, observe, be occupied, offer, + officer, pare, bring (come) to pass, perform, practise, prepare, procure, provide, put, requite, X sacrifice, serve, set, shew, X sin, spend, X surely, take, X thoroughly, trim, X very, + vex, be [warr-] ior, work (-man), yield, use.

A lot of people find out they have their gifting’s and they jump right in using them. They think there is some shortcut around having to learn. There are no shortcuts in the Kingdom of God. James warns us clearly….

**Jas 3:1** My G3450  brethren, G80  be G1096  not G3361  many G4183  masters, G1320  knowing G1492  that G3754  we shall receive G2983  the greater G3187  condemnation. G2917

MASTERS: **G1320**: διδάσκαλος didaskalos *did-as'-kal-os* From G1321; an *instructor* (generally or specifically): - doctor, master, teacher. **G1321:** διδάσκω didaskō *did-as'-ko* A prolonged (causative) form of a primary verb δάω daō (to *learn*); to *teach* (in the same broad application): - teach.

This is instructors or teachers of different kinds. Almost every ministry can fall under this warning:

**Eph 4:11**  And G2532  he G846  gave G1325  some, G3588 G3303  apostles; G652  and G1161  some, G3588  prophets; G4396  and G1161  some, G3588  evangelists; G2099  and G1161  some, G3588  pastors G4166  and G2532  teachers; G1320    **Eph 4:12** For G4314  the G3588  perfecting G2677  of the G3588  saints, G40  for G1519  the work G2041  of the ministry, G1248  for G1519  the edifying G3619  of the G3588  body G4983  of Christ: G5547

**“WE MUST LEARN TO DISCERN”**

**Teaching: Learning to Discern**

***What is true discernment?***

Different battles require different weapons, but….

***discernment is always necessary***!

We talked about Hebrews 5:14 last week:

**Heb 5:14** But G1161  strong meat G4731 G5160  belongeth G2076  to them that are of full age, G5046  *even* those who by reason of G1223  use G1838  have G2192  their senses G145  exercised G1128  to G4314  ***discern*** G1253  both G5037  good G2570  and G2532  evil. G2556

**GREEK: *discern***  **#1253 - Diakrisis: the act of judgment**

**Original Word:**διάκρισις, εως, ἡ **Part of Speech:**Noun, Feminine **Transliteration:**diakrisis
**Phonetic Spelling:**(dee-ak'-ree-sis) **Short Definition:**distinguishing, deciding, passing sentence on **Definition:**distinguishing; hence: deciding, passing sentence on; the act of judgment, discernment.

We talked about the same word “diakrisis” being used again in 1 Corinthians 12:10 speaking about spiritual gifts:

“to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to

Two distinct “Discernments” here. One that every believer must possess and that must be exercised and cultivated… and one that is a gift to be used upon need of the situation.

Read Hebrews 5:14 again….

“But solid food belongs to those who are [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A14&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30045a)]of full age, *that is,* those who ***by reason of [***[***b***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A14&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30045b)***]use*** have their senses ***exercised*** to ***discern*** both good and evil.” Hebrews 5:14

Constant use and fully trained are the ones who will discern…

In the following verses, I believe Paul was using both types of discernments in this portion of scripture. The “Gift of Discernment” came forth quickly because he had learned to exercise his ability to discern.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas are in Philippi.

**Act 16:16** And G1161  it came to pass, G1096  as we G2257  went G4198  to G1519  prayer, G4335  a certain G5100  damsel G3814  possessed G2192  with a spirit G4151  of divination G4436  met G528  us, G2254  which G3748  brought G3930  her G848  masters G2962  much G4183  gain G2039  by soothsaying: G3132

***Notice what she is saying:***

**Act 16:17** The same G3778  followed G2628  Paul G3972  and G2532  us, G2254  and cried, G2896  saying, G3004  These G3778  men G444  are G1526  the servants G1401  of the G3588  most high G5310  God, G2316  which G3748  shew G2605  unto us G2254  the way G3598  of salvation. G4991

Satan is not afraid of using truth to deceive people. Truth/not full truth is being spoken by the enemy of God. Men and women with the gift of discernment are specially gifted in distinguishing between those words, deeds and appearances that are true and those that are false.

Though her words were true, the spirit behind them was false and sought to lure people with a little bit of truth so that the opportunity could be used to heap reproach upon the gospel.

Paul judged her words to be true, but knew by appearance that the spirits guiding her were insincere. He was not fooled by what might have been an appearance of godliness.

This happens all the time in ministry and we need to use great caution regarding the spirit behind the half truths.

Appearances must also be carefully weighed against the Scriptures. Paul didn’t confront the spirit right away. The word “grieved” gives us a clue.

**Act 16:18** And G1161  this G5124  did G4160  she( G1909 ) many G4183  days. G2250  But G1161  Paul, G3972  being grieved, G1278  turned G1994  and G2532  said G2036  to the G3588  spirit, G4151  I command G3853  thee G4671  in G1722  the G3588  name G3686  of Jesus G2424  Christ G5547  to come G1831  out of G575  her. G846  And G2532  he came out G1831  the G3588  same G846  hour. G5610

**GRIEVED:** G1278 διαπονέω diaponeō *dee-ap-on-eh'-o* From G1223 and a derivative of G4192; to *toil through*, that is, (passively) *be worried:* - be grieved.

 **G1223** διά dia *dee-ah'* A primary preposition denoting the *channel* of an act; *through* (in very wide applications, local, causal or occasional). In composition it retains the same general import: - after, always, among, at, to avoid, because of (that), briefly, by, for (cause) . . . fore, from, in, by occasion of, of, by reason of, for sake, that, thereby, therefore, X though, through (-out), to, wherefore, with (-in). In composition it retains the same general import.

 **G4192:** πόνος ponos *pon'-os* From the base of G3993; *toil*, that is, (by implication) *anguish:* - pain.

Sometimes we think of things as black and white…..the enemy loves to operate in the almost white area, almost full truth. Sometimes it may even be what appears to be good.

Matthew 16 Chapter. Jesus begins telling His disciples that He would suffer….

**Mat 16:21** From G575  that time forth G5119  began G756  Jesus G2424  to shew G1166  unto his G848  disciples, G3101  how that G3754  he G846  must G1163  go G565  unto G1519  Jerusalem, G2414  and G2532  suffer G3958  many things G4183  of G575  the G3588  elders G4245  and G2532  chief priests G749  and G2532  scribes, G1122  and G2532  be killed, G615  and G2532  be raised again G1453  the G3588  third G5154  day. G2250

Like us today, Peter is going to have no part of that.

Peter takes Jesus aside and rebukes Him….Peter is saying something that could be perceived as “good”. Not wanting Christ to die. Speak positively Jesus….you will overcome

**Mat 16:23** But G1161  he G3588  turned, G4762  and said G2036  unto Peter, G4074  Get G5217  thee behind G3694  me, G3450  Satan: G4567  thou art G1488  an offence G4625  unto me: G3450  for G3754  thou savourest G5426  not G3756  the things G3588  that be of God, G2316  but G235  those G3588  that be of men. G444

What Peter was saying could be looked at as good thing to say by you and me. But Jesus discerned that behind Peter’s voice was the spirit of Satan. And so every word about God or that supposedly comes from God must be carefully tested and examined in light of the Bible.

**Money at the bank….. touch and feel the real thing, so you can recognize the phony**

**Psa 119:66** Teach H3925  me good H2898  judgment H2940  and knowledge: H1847  for H3588  I have believed H539  thy commandments. H4687

**Judgement: H2940:** טַעַם ṭa‛am *tah'-am* From H2938; properly a *taste*, that is, (figuratively) *perception*; by implication *intelligence*; transitively a *mandate: -* advice, behaviour, decree, discretion, judgment, reason, taste, understanding.

The word “Judgement” used in **Psalm 119:66** means “taste.” It is the ability to make discriminating judgments, to distinguish between, and recognize the moral implications of, different situations and courses of action. It includes the ability to “weigh up” and assess the moral and spiritual status of individuals, groups, and even movements.

We had talked last week that Discernment was Synonymous with thinking biblically….

So discernment is learning to think God’s thoughts after Him, practically and spiritually; it means having a sense of how things look in God’s eyes and seeing them in some measure “uncovered and laid bare”

**Heb 4:13** Neither G2532 G3756  is G2076  there any creature G2937  that is not manifest G852  in his sight: G1799 G846  but G1161  all things G3956  *are* naked G1131  and G2532  opened G5136  unto the G3588  eyes G3788  of him G846  with G4314  whom G3739  we have to do. G2254 G3056

***CAUTION: Discernment is NOT:***

It is not judge-mentalism, suspicion, critical, or condescending.

It is a thorough examination, scrutinizing through the lens of the word, thinking like God thinks, having His mind on all thing.

**Psa 119:125** I H589  *am* thy servant; H5650  give me understanding, H995  that I may know H3045  thy testimonies. H5713

UNDERSTANDING: H995: בִּין bı̂yn *bene* A primitive root; to *separate* mentally (or *distinguish*), that is, (generally) *understand: -* attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, discern, eloquent, feel, inform, instruct, have intelligence, know, look well to, mark, perceive, be prudent, regard, (can) skill (-ful), teach, think, (cause, make to, get, give, have) understand (-ing), view, (deal) wise (-ly, man).

**HOW DOES THIS WORK FOR US:**

As laid out in scripture, we are to individually ask God to give us this understanding, this discernment just as David and many others have.

Then we engage with the Word of God to obtain it.

Then we understand that God has granted some this gift and this becomes our sounding board.

1. One aspect of Discernment is trained for, We must train ourselves to discern. This is accomplished through the word. Studying the word. Prayer. Intimacy with God. Remaining teachable…..

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. That is also true here. Those who are the most susceptible are the ones who have a measure of biblical knowledge. Our confidence in our ability, our confidence in our intelligence can lead us astray.

1. Lean on God and Lean on those who have the gift of discernment. This becomes the place where we confirm what we believe God is saying. Am I hearing from God or something similar.

God gives these gifts to the church…..lean on each other, we need each other.

While all Christians are responsible for what they believe, it seems clear that some people are especially gifted by God for this task. This is not merely a gift, but a responsibility.

Biblical scholar and commentator Lenski says, *“Certain difficult cases occur, for which more than common Christian discernment is necessary.*

***Biggest Reason today for the need of discernment:***

Jesus warns, “false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect”

**Mat 24:24** For G1063  there shall arise G1453  false Christs, G5580  and G2532  false prophets, G5578  and G2532  shall shew G1325  great G3173  signs G4592  and G2532  wonders; G5059  insomuch that, G5620  if G1487  *it were* possible, G1415  they shall deceive G4105  the G3588  very G2532  elect. G1588

Signs, wonders and miracles, no matter how extraordinary and how beneficial they appear, must be examined and compared to the Word of God.

The difficulty with discernment is just that, it’s difficult. We can probably all tell of a time that we have missed it big time.

It’s easy for us to discern the outright sin areas, the black and white. But the Christians job the majority of the time is discerning the look a-likes.

We all have heard the scripture iron sharpens iron. It’s the same with discernment.

**Pro 27:17** Iron H1270  sharpeneth H2300  iron; H1270  so a man H376  sharpeneth H2300  the countenance H6440  of his friend. H7453

If my mentor has numerous character defects, instead of being sharpened, I will find myself doing the very same things she does. If she doesn’t use discernment, then I won’t use discernment!

Seek out mentors who have overcome. Seek out mentors who have conquered.

**Discernment: A gift of the Spirit:**

Ladies, God still empowers some of His people to unmask false prophets and carnal hypocrites. He gives them the insight to expose imitations and deceptions that most Christians would take as genuine.

Those Christians who are gifted with discernment will be able to compare ungodly words, deeds and appearances with what God has revealed in Scripture and expose the fraudulent leaders and teachers for what they are.

They are gifted with unusual ability in separating what is true from what is false and what is right from what is wrong and we need this in the body or else these more difficult circumstances can actually lead us astray.

**Good or God**

**2Co 11:13** For G1063  such G5108  *are* false apostles, G5570  deceitful G1386  workers, G2040  transforming themselves G3345  into G1519  the apostles G652  of Christ. G5547  **2Co 11:14** And G2532  no G3756  marvel; G2298  for G1063  Satan G4567  himself G846  is transformed G3345  into G1519  an angel G32  of light. G5457

**2Co 11:15** Therefore G3767  *it is* no G3756  great thing G3173  if G1499  his G846  ministers G1249  also be transformed G3345  as G5613  the ministers G1249  of righteousness; G1343  whose G3739  end G5056  shall be G2071  according G2596  to their G846  works. G2041

The Word “Met-askh-ay-mat-id'-zo” Paul uses three of it’s five uses right here…..

Transforming themselves:

Transformed:

Transformed:

Definition: I change the outward appearance (the dress, the form of presentment) of something, transfigure; I adapt.

**TRANSFORMING**: H3345: μετασχηματίζω metaschēmatizō

*met-askh-ay-mat-id'-zo* From G3326 and a derivative of G4976; to *transfigure* or *disguise*; figuratively to *apply* (by accommodation): - transfer, transform (self).

Please study out G3326 and G4976

Paul says that three types of individuals use this masking:

 ***- false apostles,***

 ***- satan himself,***

 ***- satan’s servants……***

Ladies, they aren’t transforming themselves of what we see in the movies, dark and sinister, they are transforming as apostles, angels of light, servants of righteousness.

This why Chuck Smith says: *That is why it is extremely important to have the gift of the discernment of spirits. You cannot always tell a false prophet by what he says. Many times what he says is 99% correct and that is what makes them so dangerous. You cannot always tell them by their actions.*

Charles Spurgeon once said*, "Discernment is not simply a matter of telling the difference between what is right and wrong; rather it is the difference between right and almost right."*

This is the enemies device…..it’s the 99% tile. It’s almost truth. It’s almost right. So close. It’s not the evil that will trick us, it’s going to be the “good”. It may be us attempting to do good, it may be those attempting to do good for us…..

Back to our original text in Acts 16 where this young girl was saying what was true, but Paul discerned what was the spirit behind it.

True discernment means not only distinguishing the right from the wrong; it means:

 - distinguishing the primary from the secondary,

 - the essential from the indifferent,

 - and the permanent from the transient.

And, yes, it means most certainly means distinguishing

 - between the good and the better,

 - even between the better and the best.

**Four things discernment does for us:**

1. **It acts as a means of protection, guarding us from being deceived spiritually**.

***It protects us from being blown away by the winds of teaching that could throw us off-course!***

***Last Weeks Quote:* Always be watching:**

***“The original intent of your life and your Kingdom purpose***

***will always be tampered with by the enemy.”***

The person may be presenting false doctrine, or the motive behind it is wrong. Another example could be, A new job may seem “good”. Raise in pay, it’s the right thing to do, but it may be the thing that sets me off course.

The course of action can appear good, but still not be God’s best for us.

1. **Discernment also acts as an instrument of healing**

*Discernment can be the surgical scalpel in our spiritual surgery that makes healing possible*.

Most of us resist the scalpel, but God uses discernment as a means to bring us to wholeness in Him.

As I place myself against the more solid material/person, I begin the true sharpening process. I allow myself to be more sharp, but only as the dull edge is removed.

1. **Discernment functions as a key to Christian freedom**.

*The zealous but undiscerning Christian becomes enslaved to others; we find ourselves in difficulty doing what we thought was “good”.*

I have counseled many people that thought that they were doing good and were there to help others, but actually destroyed them. Led them astray.

1. **Finally, discernment serves as a catalyst to spiritual development** **and growth.**

**Pro 14:6** A scorner H3887  seeketh H1245  wisdom, H2451  and *findeth it* not: H369  but knowledge H1847  *is* easy H7043  unto him that understandeth. H995

*A wise woman of God can receive counsel from others, not dead set to have her own way. She listens to her mentors in Christ, not the gossip of others. How do you feel about this woman, how do you feel about this circumstance?*

***Ladies, we need to Learn* to discern. *We need to hunger and thirst* to discern**, **ESPECIALLY TO HAVE THE DISCERNMENT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

Saint **Catherine of Siena** TOSD (25 March 1347 in **Siena** – 29 April 1380 in Rome)

I don’t usually quote Catholics but Catherine of Siena nailed it in her Dialogue and she writes:

*“If it is the devil who has come to visit the mind under the guise of light, the soul experiences gladness at his coming. But the longer he stays, the more the gladness gives way to the weariness and darkness and pricking as the mind becomes clouded over by his presence within. But when the soul is truly visited by me (i.e. God), eternal Truth, she experiences holy fear at the first encounter. And with this fear comes gladness and security, along with a gentle prudence.”*

The enemy can make you feel good, with an almost truthful message. The serpent’s words and taste were good. When she saw it was good…. He appealed to the sensual side. How it would make her feel.

I want you to see something awesome again this week!

**Php 1:9** And G2532  this G5124  I pray, G4336  that G2443  your G5216  love G26  may abound G4052  yet G2089  more G3123  and G2532  more G3123  in G1722  *knowledge* G1922  and G2532  *in* all G3956  *judgment;* G144  **Php 1:10** That ye G5209  may approve G1381  things that are excellent; G1308  that G2443  ye may be G5600  sincere G1506  and G2532  without offence G677  till G1519  the day G2250  of Christ; G5547  **Php 1:11** Being filled G4137  with the fruits G2590  of righteousness, G1343  which G3588  are by G1223  Jesus G2424  Christ, G5547  unto G1519  the glory G1391  and G2532  praise G1868  of God. G2316

**KNOWLEDGE: G1922:** ἐπίγνωσις epignōsis *ip-ig'-no-sis* From G1921; *recognition*, that is, (by implication) full *discernment*, *acknowledgement:* - (ac-) knowledge (-ing, -ment).

**JUDGEMENT: G144**: αἴσθησις aisthēsis *ah'ee-sthay-sis*

From G143; *perception*, that is, (figuratively) *discernment:* - judgment.

 (dok-im-ad'-zo) Definition: I put to the test, prove, examine; I distinguish by testing, approve after testing; I am fit.

**APPROVE: G13811** δοκιμάζω dokimazō *dok-im-ad'-zo* From G1384; to *test* (literally or figuratively); by implication to *approve:* - allow, discern, examine, X like, (ap-) prove, try.

If we are swallowing things we hear hook, line and sinker. We must examine them; the measuring stick is ALWAYS the Word of God. Test it.

**GOOD RULES TO LIVE BY REGARDING DISCERNMENT:**

 - Have eagerness with examination;

 - Not argumentative, but investigative;

 - Not Judgmental, but scrutinized.

**Two Things Will Always Accompany Truth:**

 - Confirmation by the Word.

 - Verification of Fathers of Faith

**REAL LIFE IS A MINEFIELD**

**AND WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BATTLE**

So how do we navigate this minefield: we use discernment!

“Our actions as Women of Warfare should be set up to discern the right direction *before* we step on that mine. We need to have the ability to keep effective tabs on it *while* it is present, and to debrief after it explodes.

We must be always be teachable and willing to take whatever disciplinary actions or clarifying lessons that may be needed to get us back on course.

In doing all this, expect that the Spirit *will* lead, if really asked and if really given a chance to lead.

Move out carefully, thoughtfully, biblically, and prayerfully.

Then we monitor ourselves and actions as we proceed with guidance from our mentors. We reflect on the each course of action, learning from our mistakes and/or successes, but only after we have completed the journey.

**Always remember: WEEK 1**

***“God will use our life experiences - BUT ONLY THROUGH HIS PERSPECTIVE!”***