

How important to the Christian is proper discernment? What role does understanding have in faith?

God does not demand we be smart (indeed many times He chooses those who are not, so as to show His power), but does He demand that we have knowledge?

I. Why is the Mind so important?

- A. 1 Cor 15:44
 - 1. Rom 7:24
- B. 2 Cor 5:17
 - 1. John 3:3-7
- C. 1 Pet 2:25
 - 1. Heb 10:36
 - 2. Gal 5:16-24
 - 3. Phil 2:5-8
 - a) Eph 4:23

Challenge: 1 Cor 2:15

2 Tim 2:15

II. Knowing that the Mind is an important battlefield, how do we win?

- A. Jas 4:7
- B. Gen 6:5
 - 1. Rom 7:18
 - 2. Heb 4:16
- C. John 15:18-25
 - 1. Rom 12:2
 - 2. Jas 4:4

Challenge: 2 Cor 10:5

1 Cor 11:31

2 Cor 10:5

III. What is "Victory" really?

- A. Gal 6:7-8
- B. 1 Tim 6:12

Final Challenge: 1 Thess 5:23

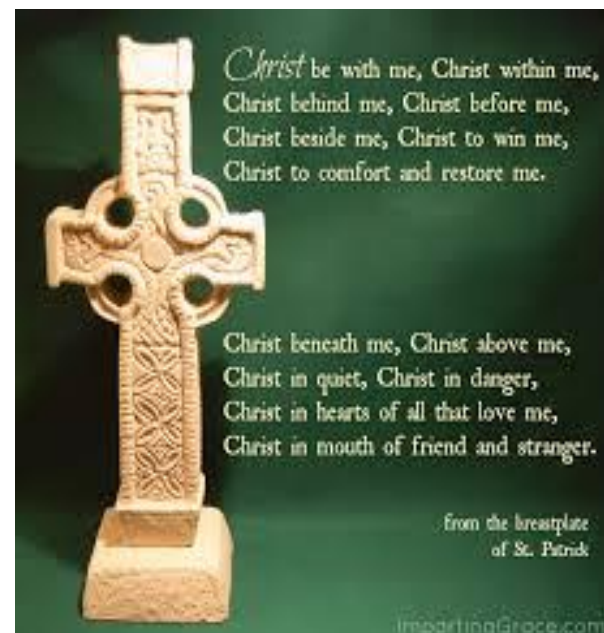
Close: 1 John 1:5-9

Prov 24:16

Final Song: [What a Friend We Have in Jesus](#), page 340

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Intro: How important to the Christian is proper discernment? What role does understanding have in faith? God does not demand we be smart (indeed many times He chooses those who are not, so as to show His power), but does He demand that we have knowledge?

I. Why is the Mind so important?

- A. Your body is already scheduled for replacement 1 Cor 15:44, because it is currently corrupted by sin and death Rom 7:24.
- B. Your spirit is already saved, instantly, as soon as God chooses to do so. That is what Salvation is. 2 Cor 5:17, John 3:3-7
- C. Your soul is where the war is waged. It must be shepherded by God (1 Pet 2:25).
 - 1. You must choose to do God's will, not your own (Heb 10:36)
 - 2. You must battle the feelings your old man throws at you, and choose instead to rely on God's promises to fill you with His "fruit" (Gal 5:16-24)
 - 3. You must put on the mind of Christ (Phil 2:5-8) and be regularly renewed in that regard (Eph 4:23)

Challenge: We have the awesome responsibility of having the Mind of Christ available to us as a teacher. 1 Cor 2:15 tells us that it is the only way to gain discernment. 2 Tim 2:15 tells us that this is a part of what God is looking for in a faithful servant.

II. Knowing that the Mind is an important battlefield, how do we win?

- A. If you resist the devil, he will flee from you (Jas 4:7), don't forget though that you must first submit to God.
 - 1. The devil does not fear you. It is a simple fact that the devil is a powerful being and has no reason to fear you. However, think of this. He is also very smart. The devil fleeing from you isn't only because he has to right then. He knows full well he can't stand up to the power and glory of God - he lost that fight already (several times). So when you call on God, why would he stay?
- B. Your flesh, don't forget, is still quite corrupted. Just as in Genesis, (Gen 6:5).
 - 1. That means your thoughts will keep twisting towards evil. Do you remember a time as a child, when you were so innocent that you didn't understand dirty jokes and you were confused when people were trying to be corrupt or evil? Pleasant memories, right?
 - 2. More of us, however, will commiserate with Rom 7:18. So how can we live righteously? Heb 4:16 says we need help. We often cannot do it on our own, and we never should try. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- C. The world hates God (John 15:18-25) and will do its best to corrupt you. (Rom 12:2)
 - 1. Jas 4:4, do not make friends of the World! It is not your friend!

Challenge: 2 Cor 10:5 reminds us that it is our responsibility to take evil thoughts captive. You are essentially a Deputy, Judge, and Warden of yourself. You need to capture the thoughts, you have to judge them (1 Cor 11:31), and you have to keep them captive. However, 2 Cor 10:5 also gives us hope - it points out that it is *possible* to take such thoughts captive.

III. What is "Victory" really?

- A. God never said that we would be capable of living without sin, simply that we would be capable of rising again.
- B. Gal 6:7-8 points out that you can fairly easily predict what it is you will get out of life. I didn't use the word "cultivating" by accident. You are literally *growing* your future thoughts by choosing what you put into your head.

- C. We are called to walk the walk, fight the good fight (1 Tim 6:12), not to be so perfect we have no battle to fight.

Final Challenge: 1 Thess 5:23 tells us that every aspect of ourselves is meant to be “kept” blameless. Don’t take this as a condemnation of yourself when you fall to sin, take it as an encouragement to get back up again.

Close: Whether the sin you struggle with is Fear, or Anger, or Doubt, or Lust, or Pride, or Vanity does not matter. What matters is, are you walking in Victory? To walk in Victory is not to never have sin (1 John 1:5-9), to be victorious is to keep getting right back up again and struggling forward with the Lord’s help (Prov 24:16).

Final Song: Take it to the Lord in Prayer ([What a Friend We Have in Jesus](#))

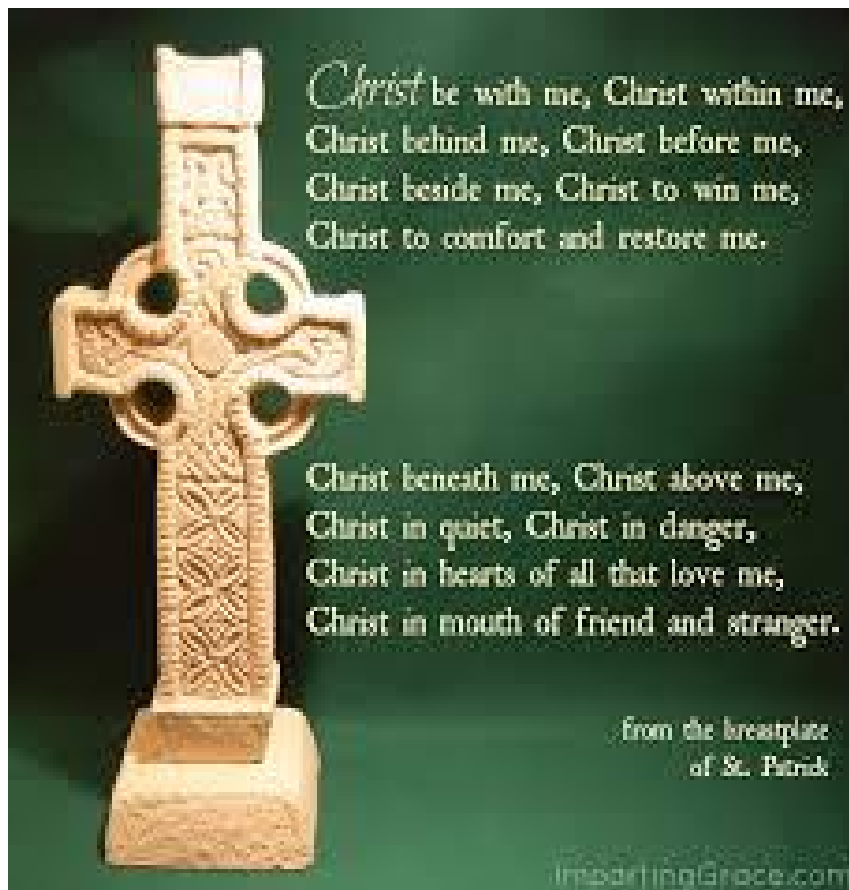
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John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall MAKE you free."*



How important to the Christian is proper discernment? What role does understanding have in faith? God does not demand we be smart (indeed many times He chooses those who are not, so as to show His power), but does He demand that we have knowledge? Maybe, but a knowledge of what, or better yet, Who? Pastor Josh brings us the challenge to 'cultivate a clean mind' and take a close look at proper discernment and wise choices, and at being more and more His model for this world.

mine, mental, clean, discern, holy, worldly, Christ, victory, fight, battle, flesh, win, spirit, soul, body, Holy Spirit, anger, doubt, lust, pride, vanity, perfect, good fight, give in, cultivate, evil thoughts, condemnation, blameless, glory, devil, sin, rise again, friend, promises, faithful servant, responsibility

Follow along with his message notes at

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