

Growing Deep in the Christian Life: Returning to Our Roots

Don't Forget to Add a Cup of Discernment

ACTS 17:11–12; 18:24–28; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10–12; 3 JOHN 1:9–10



The Heart of the Matter

Periodically, Scripture warns us against having knowledge as an end in itself. For example, without love, knowledge alone can be a source of pride. Without humility, it can lead us into a judgmental attitude. Without wisdom, it can result in idealism and a perfectionistic spirit. Knowledge needs a buffer . . . something to soften it, give it perspective, make it workable and real. Perhaps the very best companion for knowledge is discernment. Let's spend a little time thinking about that and discovering some ways to mix both into our lives.



Discovering the Way

1. A Few Brief Definitions

Before we can put discernment into practice, we must first understand the definitions of some key terms: *knowledge*, *discernment*, and *balance*.

2. Some Examples from Scripture

Diotrephes in 3 John 1:9–10 is an example of an individual *without* discernment. But Apollos in Acts 18:24–28 is an example of an individual *with* discernment. The Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 1:10–12 is an example of a church *without* discernment. But the Berean church in Acts 17:11–12 is an example of a church *with* discernment.

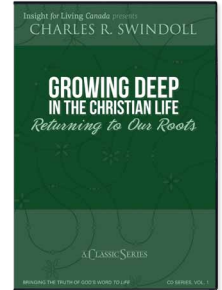


Starting Your Journey

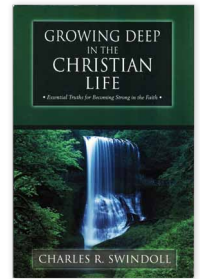
Several principles are worth remembering. First, no one person has all the truth. Second, no single church owns exclusive rights to your mind. Third, no specific interpretation is correct just because a gifted teacher says so.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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