**How to NOT Get Spiritually Duped**

Lesson 14 - 1 Thess. 5:16-22

Cindy Lindstedt - LCBC Ladies Bible Study, Mar. 2/4, 2021

1. The Church’s greatest threat
2. Scriptural Warnings (Matt. 7: 15, 21; Acts 20:27-31)
3. The Church is to be the purveyor of the T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and guardian of the T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the **deposit of divine truth** which is Scripture! (Eph. 4; 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim. 1:13).
4. What is Spiritual Discernment? ***“The divinely given ability to distinguish God’s thoughts and ways from all others.”***
5. Divine Prescription for Spiritual Discernment (Do’s and Don’ts).

**16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. 19Do not quench the Spirit, 20do not utterly reject [**[**k**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+thess+5&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29629k)**]prophecies, 21but examine everything; hold firmly to that which is good, 22abstain from every [**[**l**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+thess+5&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29631l)**]form of evil.**

1. **Rejoice always (v. 16)** (1 Thess.5:5 Mac-note; John 1:12, 4:38; Acts. 17:28; Ps. 16:11)

God has given us everything we need through:

* True knowledge of Him (2 Peter 1)
* Holy Spirit leading into all truth (John 16:13)
* The Church – leaders & fellowship (Eph. 4)

1. **Pray without ceasing (v. 17)**

Having discernment starts with D\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

“Cry out for I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (Prov. 2). Solomon ‘s example (1 Kings 3).

If any man lacks W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ let him ask of God (James 1).

Five Prayers That Will Change Your Life (D. James Kennedy):

1. Cleanse me
2. Fill me
3. Lead me
4. Use me
5. Slay me

Why is praying without ceasing an imperative?

1. We can be easily D\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
2. We love the T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Thess. 2:10) even when it’s politically incorrect, unpopular, inconvenient, and/or uncomfortable.
3. **In everything give thanks (v. 18)**

* Thanklessness is a trait of unbelievers (Rom. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5)
* Christians are to be marked by thanksgiving (Eph. 5:4, 20; Col. 2:7; 3:15, 17; 4:2)
* Bible brims with examples of & admonitions for thanksgiving (e.g., Ps. 30:12)

**For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus** applies to all three above commands.

1. **DO NOT quench the Spirit (v. 19)**

The fire of God’s spirit can be doused by S\_\_N. (What is the missing letter?)

We are not to Gr\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18) but be filled with & walk in the Spirit.

1. **DO NOT utterly reject prophecies (v. 20)** means to S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to preaching of the Word of God.
2. **Examine EVERYTHING! (v. 21)** Open minds are like open W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They need S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to keep the B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out! 🐞🕷🦗🐜

Analyze, prove, validate, determine authenticity or genuineness in light of S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Science of*hermeneutics* requires careful, A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ listening/examination.

Not: “What does this verse mean to me?” but “What does God intend to say?

* Some got it wrong (2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:6-9); Bereans got it right! (Acts 17:11).
* Doctrinal precision is not P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and even considered D\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_& Un\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Discerning truth requires A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thinking (no gray areas).

1. **Hold firmly to that which is good (v. 21)** = the O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

The road less traveled…

False apostles disguised as angels of light (2 Cor. 11). Thankfully, our passage gives us God’s provision, His divine formula to fortify ourselves against deception so we can…

1. **Abstain from every form of evil**

**15**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+tim+2%3A15&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29830a)]does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

Avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further Un\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

POA: WE ARE AT WAR! The evangelical church is fighting for its life. The battlefield is our minds (2 Cor. 10:3-5). Don’t let your minds be “led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ” (2 Cor. 11:1-3). God has provided His children with defenses to NOT be duped & to deal with error (Eph. 4:15; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Matt. 18:15-17). We need to U\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ these defenses being clad with the **full armor of God** (Eph. 6).

Sanctify them in the truth; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH (John 17:17)





















