

Definitions

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DISCERN/DISCERNMENT

1. Student Bible Dictionary p. 77
 - Be able to separate the things of God and the things not from God. Job 6:30, Ezekiel 44:23
 - Distinguish between good and evil. 1 Kings 3:9, Hebrews 5:14
 - "discerning of spirits" is the ability to tell whether one is speaking by the Holy Spirit or a false spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:10
2. Unger's Concise Bible Dictionary - no entry
3. The New Combined Bible Dictionary and Concordance (Pfeiffer) p. 134
 - To distinguish between, or determine worth or significance.
 - To see by eye of understanding.
 - Genesis 31:32, 1 Corinthians 11:29, Hebrews 5:14\
4. Vine's Concise Dictionary p. 96
 - **nekar - to discern, regard, recognize, pay attention to, be acquainted with.**
 - The basic meaning of the term is a physical apprehension, whether through sight, touch or hearing.
 - Darkness sometimes makes recognition impossible. Ruth 3:14
 - People are often recognized by their voices. Judges 18:3
 - Sometimes has the meaning of pay attention to, a special kind of recognition. Ruth 2:19
 - The sense of to distinguish is seen in Ezra 3:13
5. Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary p. 318
 - Of spirits - a gift of the Holy Spirit that enables a person to judge whether one who speaks in tongues or performs miracles does so by the power of the Holy Spirit or by a false spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - The apostle Paul suggested that a person led by the Holy Spirit will be concerned for those things that strengthen the church. 1 Corinthians 14:12, 26
6. Bible Dictionary (app)
 - Webster's 1828 dictionary - to separate or distinguish.
 - To separate by the eye or by the understanding.
 - To distinguish; to see the difference between two or more things; to discriminate; as to discern the blossom-buds from the leaf-buds of plants. Genesis 31
 - To make the difference. For nothing else discerns the virtue or the vice.
 - To discover; to see; to distinguish by eye. Proverbs 7
 - To discover by the intellect; to distinguish; hence, **to have knowledge of**; to judge. 2 Samuel 14, Ecclesiastes 8
 - To see or understand the difference; to make distinction; as, to discern between good and evil, truth and falsehood.
 - To have judicial cognizance.
7. BLB
 - Dokimazo - verb - 23x - prove 10, try 4, approve 3, discern 2, allow 2, like 1, examine 1
 - To test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals
 - To recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy
 - To test (literally or figuratively); by implication, to approve: - to allow, discern, examine, like, approve, try.
 - Diakrisis - feminine noun - 3x - discerning 1, discern 1, disputation 1
 - A distinguishing, discerning, judge
 - Judicial estimation: discerning, disputation.
 - **Nakar - verb - 50x - know 16, acknowledge 7, discern 6, respect 4, knowledge 2, known 2, feign to another 2, misc 11**
 - To recognize, acknowledge, know, respect, discern, regard
 - Niphal to be recognized
 - Piel to regard
 - Hiphil to regard, observe, pay attention to, pay regard to, notice
 - ◆ To recognize as formerly known, perceive
 - ◆ To be willing to recognize or acknowledge, with honor
 - ◆ To be acquainted with
 - ◆ To distinguish, understand
 - Hithpael to make oneself known
 - To act or treat as foreign or strange, disguise, misconstrue
 - Niphal to disguise oneself
 - Piel to treat as foreign (profane; to misconstrue
 - Hithpael to act as alien; to disguise oneself
 - To scrutinize, look intently at, to acknowledge, be acquainted with, care for, respect, revere.
 - Acknowledge, deliver, discern, dissemble, estrange, feign self to be another, **take knowledge (notice)**, perceive, regard, have respect.
 - Yada - verb - 947x - **know 645, known 105, knowledge 19**, perceive 18, shew 17, tell 8, wist 7, understand 7, certainly 7, acknowledge 6, acquaintance 6, consider 6, declare 6, teach 5, misc 85
 - Qal - to know, perceive and see, find out and discern.
 - To discriminate, distinguish
 - To know by experience
 - To consider
 - To have knowledge, be wise
8. GotQuestions

- Discern (and derivatives) are translations of the Greek word *anankazo* in the NT.
- To distinguish, to separate out by diligent search, to examine.
- The ability to properly discriminate or make determinations.
- **Related to wisdom.**
- A discerning mind demonstrates **wisdom** and insight that go beyond what is seen and heard. God's Word is "spiritually discerned." The Spirit gives us spiritual discernment.
- A discerning person will acknowledge the worth of God's Word.
- Unless we have true discernment, how can we determine what is "evil" and what is "good?"
- To maintain the purity of the gospel, the church must distinguish truth from heresy.
- **Wisdom also demands that we properly discriminate between what is "best" and what is merely "good."**
- Discernment has many collateral benefits.
- **May our prayer be "I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes." Psalm 119:25**

WISDOM

1. Student Bible Dictionary p. 249
 - Understanding, knowledge gained by experience, 2 Chronicles 9:23, 1 Corinthians 1:17 a gift of God James 1:5
 - Wisdom is a characteristic of God. The books of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes along with some Psalms such as 1, 119 are called Wisdom Literature. Sometimes people include James in the NT as Wisdom Literature.
2. Unger's Concise Bible Dictionary - no entry.
3. The New Combined Bible Dictionary and Concordance (Pfeiffer) p. 443
 - The ability to judge rightly.
 - The wisdom literature takes up one part of the writings of the OT. Wisdom commented upon the reality of things by means of observation and reflection. However this wisdom is seen as being from God, and the first rule of wisdom is to fear God. Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 9:10, Ecclesiastes 12:13
 - The wisdom of Israel became one of the noblest expressions of their faith, and is one of the preparations for the revelation of God through Christ, who is the incarnation of the wisdom of God. 1 Corinthians 1:24
 - The wisdom of which Paul spoke in the epistle to the Corinthians was the wisdom of the Greeks. He contrasted this wisdom with the foolishness of preaching. 1 Corinthians 1:21
 - Proverbs 4:7, Ecclesiastes 1:18, Matthew 11:19, 1 Corinthians 1:17, Colossians 1:9, James 1:5
4. Vine's Concise Dictionary p. 414
 - Sophia - with reference to God, to Christ personified, human wisdom and in spiritual things.
 - Phronesis - understanding, prudence.
5. Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary p. 1192
 - Ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, **based on knowledge** and understanding.
 - The apostle Paul declared that the message of the cross is foolishness to the Greeks and stumbling block to the Jews.
 - Against the wisdom of God Paul contrasted the wisdom of this world. 1 Corinthians 1:20, 3:19. against human wisdom 1 Corinthians 2:5. against the wisdom of this age 1 Corinthians 2:6 and man's wisdom 1 Corinthians 2:13.
 - The biblical concept of wisdom is different from the classical view of wisdom, which is sought through philosophy and human rational thought to determine the mysteries of existence and the universe.
 - The first principle of wisdom is that people should humble themselves before God in reverence and worship, obedient to His commands.
6. Bible Dictionary (app)
 - Webster's 1828 dictionary - **the right use or exercise of knowledge.**
 - The choice of laudable ends and the best means to accomplish them. Wisdom in act, effect or practice.
 - If wisdom is to be considered as a faculty of the mind, it is the faculty of discerning or judging what is most just, proper and useful, and if it is to be considered as an acquirement, **it is the knowledge and use of what is best, most just, most proper, most conducive to prosperity or happiness.**
 - Practical wisdom is nearly synonymous with discretion. It differs somewhat from prudence; prudence is the exercise of sound judgement in avoiding evils; wisdom is the exercise of sound judgement either in avoiding evils or attempting good. Prudence then is a species, of which wisdom is the genus.
 - In Scripture, human learning; erudition; **knowledge** of arts and sciences. Acts 7
 - Quickness of intellect; readiness of apprehension; dexterity in execution; as the wisdom on Bezaleel and Aholiab Exodus 31
 - Natural instinct and sagacity. Job 39
 - In Scripture theology, wisdom is true religion; godliness; piety; **the knowledge and fear of God**, and sincere and uniform obedience to His commands. This is the wisdom which is from above. Psalm 90, Job 28
 - Profitable words or doctrine. Psalm 37
 - Fleshly wisdom. 1 Corinthians 2, 2 Corinthians 1
 - The wisdom of words, artificial or affected eloquence; or learning displayed in teaching. 1 Corinthians 1 and 2
7. BLB
 - Hakma - feminine noun - 149x - wisdom 145, wisely 2, skillful man 1, wits 1
 - Skill in war
 - In administration
 - Shrewdness, wisdom
 - Prudence, in religious affairs
 - Ethical and religious wisdom
 - Sophia - feminine noun - 51x - wisdom 51
 - Broad and full of intelligence; used in the **knowledge** of very diverse matters
 - Which belongs to men
 - **Varied knowledge of things human and divine**, acquired by acuteness and experience, and stemmed up in maxims and proverbs
 - The science and learning
 - The act of interpreting dreams and always giving the sagest advice

- The intelligence evidenced in discovering the meaning of some mysterious number or vision .
- Skill in the management of affairs.
- Devout and proper prudence in intercourse with men not disciples of Christ, skill and discretion in imparting Christian truth
- The knowledge and practice of the requisites for godly and upright living.
- Supreme intelligence, such as belongs to God
 - To Christ.
 - The wisdom of God as evinced in forming and executing counsels in the formation and government of the world and the Scriptures.

8. GotQuestions

- "What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?"
 - Both recurring themes in the Bible, are related by not synonymous.
 - Wisdom- the ability **to discern** or judge what is true, right, or lasting.
 - **Cannot exist without knowledge.**
 - A gift from God. James 1:5 God blesses us with wisdom in order for us to glorify Him and use the knowledge we have of Him.
 - Proverbs, perhaps the best place in the Bible to learn of biblical wisdom.
 - After obtaining knowledge of God, he can begin to provide us with wisdom through Christ, who the Bible says is wisdom itself. 1 Corinthians 1:30
 - Acts properly upon knowledge (gathered over time through study of the Scriptures).
 - The fitting application of knowledge.
 - Knowledge- information gained through experience, reasoning, or acquaintance. Can exist without wisdom.
 - To fear the Lord is the start on the path to knowledge.
 - What is gathered over time through study of the Scriptures.
 - Knowledge understands the light has turned red; wisdom applies the brakes.
 - Knowledge sees the quicksand; wisdom walks around it.
 - **Knowledge memorizes the Ten Commandments; wisdom obeys them.**
 - **Knowledge learns of God; wisdom loves Him.**

KNOWLEDGE

1. Student Bible Dictionary p. 140
 - Understanding. Proverbs 1:7, Philippians 1:9
 - No entry on understanding.
2. Unger's Concise Bible Dictionary - no entry.
3. The New Combined Bible Dictionary and Concordance (Pfeiffer) p. 269
 - Power of knowing.
4. Vine's Concise Dictionary p. 208-211 (Too much to list so this is a summary)
 - VERBS: **nekar - to discern, regard, recognize, pay attention to, be acquainted with.**
 - Yada - to know.
 - Ginosko - to be in taking in knowledge, to come to know, recognize, understand: or to understand completely. Mark 13:28, 29, John 13:12, 15:18, 21:27, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Hebrews 10:34, 1 John 2:5, 4:2, 6, 7, 14, 5:2, 20
 - To know in the sense of realizing
 - To become known.
 - A relation between the person "knowing" and the object known. What is "known" is of value or importance to the one who knows and hence the establishment of the relationship. 1 Corinthians 8:3
 - The same idea of appreciation as well as "knowledge" underlies several statements concerning the "knowledge" of God and His truth on the part of believers. Such knowledge is obtained, not by mere intellectual activity, but by operation of the Holy Spirit consequent upon acceptance of Christ.
 - Nor is such knowledge marked by finality. 2 Peter 3:18
 - Oida- to see.
 - To have seen or perceived, to know, have knowledge of.
 - ◆ Absolutely, as in diving knowledge. Matthew 6:8, 32, John 6:6, 64, 8:14, 11:42, 13:11, 18:4, 2 Corinthians 11:31, 2 Peter 2:9, Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19, 3:1, 8, 15
 - ◆ In the case of human knowledge to know from observation. 1 Thessalonians 1:4, 5, 2:1, 2, 2 Thessalonians 3:7
 - DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GINOSKO AND OIDA OF MENTION
 - ◆ Ginosko often refers to inception or progress in knowledge.
 - ◇ Implies and active relation between the one who knows and the person or thing known.
 - ◇ As in Matthew 7:23 "I never knew you." suggests I have never been in approving connection with you.
 - ◇ Romans 1:21 simply suggests that they could not avoid the perception.
 - ◆ Oida often suggests fulness of knowledge John 8:55
 - ◇ The object has simply come within the scope of the knower's perception.
 - ◇ As in Matthew 25:12 "I know you not." suggests you stand in no relation to Me.
 - Epiginosko - to observe, fully perceive, notice attentively, **discern**, recognize.
 - A more special recognition.
 - May suggest advanced knowledge or special appreciation as in Romans 1:32 "knowing the ordinance of God" means knowing fully well.
- Nouns
 - Gnosis - a seeking to know, an enquiry, investigation.
 - In the NT especially of spiritual truth.
 - Epignosis - exact or full knowledge, **discernment**, recognition.
 - A strengthened form of ginoko.
 - Expressing a fuller or a full knowledge, a greater participation by the knower in the object known.
 - More powerfully influencing him.

5. Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary p. 664
- The truth or facts of life that a person acquires either through experience or thought.
 - The greatest truth that a person can possess with the mind or learn through experience is truth about God. Psalm 46:10, John 8:31-32
 - This cannot be gained by unaided human reason. Job 11:7, Romans 11:30
 - Acquired only as God shows Himself to people - in nature and conscience. Psalm 19, Romans 1:19-20; in history or providence. Deuteronomy 6:20-25, Daniel 2:21; and especially in the Bible. Psalm 119, Revelation 1:1-3
 - Mental knowledge by itself, as good as it may be, is inadequate; it is capable only of producing pride. 1 Corinthians 8:1, 13:2
 - Moral knowledge affects a person's will. Proverbs 1:7, Philippians 3:11-12, 1 John 4:6
 - It is knowledge of the heart, not the mind alone. The book of Proverbs deals primarily with this kind of knowledge.
 - Experiential knowledge is that gained through one's experience. Genesis 4:1, 2, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 4:7-8
6. Bible Dictionary (app)
- Webster's 1828 dictionary - a clear and certain perception of that which exists, or of truth and fact; the perception of the connection and agreement, or disagreement and repugnancy of our ideas.
 - We can have no knowledge of what doesn't exist. God has a perfect knowledge of all His works.
 - Human knowledge is very limited, and is mostly gained by observation and experience.
 - Learning, illumination of the mind. Ignorance is the curse of God, knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven.
 - Skill; as in knowledge of seamanship.
 - Acquaintance with any fact or person.
 - Cognizance; notice. Ruth 2
 - Information; power of knowing.
 - Sexual intercourse; but it is usual to prefix carnal; as carnal knowledge.
7. BLB
- Daat - masculine/feminine noun - 93x - knowledge 82, know 6, cunning 1, unwittingly 2, ignorantly 1, unawares 1
 - Knowledge, perception, skill
 - Discernment, understanding, wisdom
 - Nakar - verb - 50x - know 16, acknowledge 7, discern 6, respect 4, knowledge 2, known 2, feign to another 2, misc 11
 - To recognize, acknowledge, know, respect, discern, regard
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 - ◆ To recognize as formerly known, perceive
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 - ◆ To distinguish, understand
 - Hithpaal to make oneself known
 - To act or treat as foreign or strange, disguise, misconstrue
 - Niphal to disguise oneself
 - Piel to treat as foreign (profane); to misconstrue
 - Hithpaal to act as alien; to disguise oneself
 - To scrutinize, look intently at, to acknowledge, be acquainted with, care for, respect, revere.
 - Acknowledge, deliver, discern, dissemble, estrange, feign self to be another, take knowledge (notice), perceive, regard, have respect.
 - Epiginosko - verb - 42x - know 30, acknowledge 5, perceive 3, take knowledge of 2, have knowledge of 1, know well 1
 - To become thoroughly acquainted with, to know thoroughly, accurately, know well.
 - To know, recognize by sight, hearing, of certain signs, to perceive who a person is.
 - To know, find out, ascertain; perceive; understand.
 - Gnosis - feminine noun - 29x - knowledge 28, science 1
 - Knowledge signifies in general intelligence, understanding
 - The general knowledge of Christian religion
 - The deeper more perfect and enlarged knowledge of this religion, such as belongs to the more advanced
 - Especially of things lawful and unlawful for Christians
 - Moral wisdom, such as is seen in right living.
8. GotQuestions - see wisdom