

Predisposition Necessary for Genuine Discernment

It must first be understood that a discerning person must be a praying person. A praying person is one who takes God seriously and wants God's involvement in his/her life. If a person does not pray, they have nothing to discern.

If a person is praying, there are certain attitudes that must be present to be able to discern:

A Desire to do God's Will

A person must be totally committed to the Lord. If it does not really make a difference to us what Jesus wants, then discernment will be impossible.

We must have a strong sincere desire and commitment to do God's Will in order to discern. This implies having a "blank check" attitude towards God's will in our life.

The question in discernment is not "What should I do, Lord?" The question is "What is God's will for me in this particular situation?"

The discernment presupposes that we truly desire to do God's will in a concrete situation. That is, it makes a difference to us and is important to us what the Lord wants in a situation.

Openness to God

This is a gift we should pray for since a person must be truly open to God in order to be able to discern.

God may play a significant role in a person's life, yet he/she may not have a genuine desire or openness to do God's will. People can be religious fanatics and merely be wedded to their own ideas and concepts of God and His will for them.

The disciples even failed in openness. The disciples failed to discern Jesus fully since they failed in openness. They failed in openness because of the things they were attached to. Their attachments to honor, to wealth, to security, to life itself complicated and confused their discernment of the person and mission of Jesus.

Jesus' discernment was unerring because He was totally open to the Spirit. He had no attachments.

Most of us though want to do God's will, but we also want other things too. These other things or wants, which the saints call disordered attachments, block our ability to discern. All of us have a lot of disordered attachments. In *Weeds among the Wheat* Green says even Peter had disordered attachments.

**Therefore, my first aim should be to seek to serve God,
which is the end,
and only after that,
if it is more profitable, to have a benefice or marry,
for these are means to the end.**

Nothing must move me to use such means, or to deprive myself of them.