

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DISCERNMENT

Introduction

The "Discernment" course is designed to equip believers with the ability to distinguish between truth and deception, good and evil, and the spiritual forces at work in various situations. Over three months, students will explore biblical foundations, practical applications, and spiritual principles necessary for developing and exercising discernment in their daily lives and ministries.

Through lectures, readings, and assignments, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the gift of discernment and how to apply it effectively.

Month 1: Foundations of Discernment

Week 1: Introduction to Discernment

- **Lecture:** Understanding Discernment
 - Definition and importance of discernment
 - Discernment as a spiritual gift
 - Key Scriptures: Hebrews 5:14, 1 Corinthians 12:10
- **Reading:** "The Discerner" by James W. Goll (Chapters 1-2)
- **Assignment:** Write a reflection on the significance of discernment in the life of a believer.

Week 2: Biblical Foundations of Discernment

- **Lecture:** Old Testament Perspectives on Discernment

- Examples of discernment in the Old Testament
- Key Scriptures: 1 Kings 3:9, Proverbs 2:3-5
- **Reading:** Selected passages from Proverbs and 1 Kings
- **Assignment:** Research an Old Testament figure who demonstrated discernment and analyze their impact.

Week 3: New Testament Perspectives on Discernment

- **Lecture:** Jesus and the Apostles on Discernment
 - Teachings of Jesus and the apostles on discernment
 - Key Scriptures: Matthew 7:15-20, Philippians 1:9-10
- **Reading:** "The Discerner" by James W. Goll (Chapters 3-4)
- **Assignment:** Compare and contrast the discernment teachings of Jesus and Paul.

Week 4: The Holy Spirit and Discernment

- **Lecture:** Role of the Holy Spirit in Discernment
 - The Holy Spirit as the source of discernment
 - Key Scriptures: John 16:13, 1 John 4:1
- **Reading:** "The Holy Spirit and You" by Dennis Bennett (Chapters 1-2)

- **Assignment:** Reflect on a personal experience where you felt the Holy Spirit guided your discernment.

Month 2: Practical Applications of Discernment

Week 5: Discernment in Daily Life

- **Lecture:** Applying Discernment in Everyday Situations
 - Practical steps for exercising discernment
 - Key Scriptures: James 1:5, Proverbs 3:5-6
- **Reading:** "Discerning the Voice of God" by Priscilla Shirer (Chapters 1-2)
- **Assignment:** Write a case study on a situation where you applied discernment and its outcome.

Week 6: Discernment in Relationships

- **Lecture:** Navigating Relationships with Discernment
 - Discernment in friendships, family, and ministry
 - Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20
- **Reading:** Selected passages from Proverbs and Corinthians
- **Assignment:** Develop a plan to improve discernment in your personal relationships.

Week 7: Discernment in Spiritual Warfare

- **Lecture:** Recognizing Spiritual Forces

- Discernment in identifying spiritual battles
- Key Scriptures: Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- **Reading:** "The Discerner" by James W. Goll (Chapters 5-6)
- **Assignment:** Conduct a spiritual warfare assessment and develop a strategy using discernment.

Week 8: Discernment in Decision Making

- **Lecture:** Making Godly Decisions
 - Steps for discerning God's will in decisions
 - Key Scriptures: Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:15
- **Reading:** "Knowing God's Will" by M. Blaine Smith (Chapters 1-2)
- **Assignment:** Present a decision-making process that incorporates biblical discernment principles.

Month 3: Advanced Concepts and Spiritual Development

Week 9: Developing Discernment Skills

- **Lecture:** Enhancing Your Discernment
 - Spiritual disciplines to sharpen discernment
 - Key Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:125

- **Reading:** "The Discerner" by James W. Goll (Chapters 7-8)
- **Assignment:** Create a personal development plan to enhance your discernment skills.

Week 10: Discernment and Prophecy

- **Lecture:** Discerning True Prophecy
 - Testing and verifying prophetic words
 - Key Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21, 1 John 4:1
- **Reading:** "The Prophet's Manual" by John Eckhardt (Chapters 1-2)
- **Assignment:** Evaluate a prophetic word and provide a biblical basis for your discernment.

Week 11: Ethical Considerations in Discernment

- **Lecture:** Integrity in Discernment
 - Ethical use of discernment
 - Key Scriptures: Micah 6:8, Galatians 5:22-23
- **Reading:** "The Discerner" by James W. Goll (Chapters 9-10)
- **Assignment:** Write an essay on the ethical responsibilities involved in practicing discernment.

Week 12: Final Project and Course Review

- **Lecture:** Integrating Knowledge and Practice
 - Review of key concepts and preparation for final project
- **Assignment:** Present a comprehensive project that includes a case study or testimony of using discernment, supported by biblical principles and personal reflection.