


☐

I'm not robot

  
reCAPTCHA

Continue

## Test the scriptures paul

How To Discern, Test & Judge Rightly by Sandy Simpson, 07/30/02 When publishing a website with thousands of articles, 1-2 million hits per month from around the world, and hundreds of emails a week, I realized, over time, that there is a terrible problem in Christianity today. The problem stems from a subjective existential view of the world that is filtered into the church of secular society, but also from the teachings of heretical wolves who have taught a whole generation of faithful completely inbibic methods of discernment or to get rid of any discernment completely. Let me start this chapter by telling you what methods are being used for discernment today that have no Biblical support, so I'll move on to the ways in which the Bible tells us to test teaching, prophecy, and actions. The following criteria are what many people who call themselves Christians are using to test reality and truth today: (1) Experiences, manifestations (2) Feelings, emotions (3) Number of followers (4) Numbers of people claiming to be saved (5) The size of a church or movement (6) Signs and wonders, supposed miracles (whether real or false) (7) Subjective testimonies (8) Rumors and rumors (9) How successful and rich a teacher is (10) If a person speaks with authority (11) The atmosphere of a meeting None of the above criteria used by many believers today are cited in the Bible as ways to test, discern and judge correctly. Experiences Experiences Experiences and manifestations can be from many sources; physical, emotional, mental, paranormal/demonic, or of the Lord. All experiences need to be tested against the testimony and teachings of God's written word. Dead in spirit is a hidden technique imported into Christianity, and has nothing to do with what they teach us in Scripture. The prophets, apostles, and Jesus Christ did not do or teach it as something that must be done. If you have an experience, it is best to check the source. Think twice before submitting to people putting their hands on you for any reason. Mormon sentiments made the standard breast-burning fare for their followers, but now a large cross-section of Christendom has been taught to judge everything by similar criteria. Modern Christians are not, for the most part, being taught to submit to the Word of God, but rather to the way they feel emotionally. The phrase I think has been replaced by the phrase I feel. This is due in part to New Age influences through films such as Star Wars. But in the last twenty years, Church teachers have taught an entire generation to trust their feelings. Emotions are part of the realm of flesh and mind (soul). Emotions can be used by God, but they are often a way for the enemy to drive Christians away from the truths of the Bible and gain a position in Lives. Number of followers Many leaders have a large number of followers, including cultists and other religious gurus. In fact, some of the most popular leaders, who have the most followers, are not Christians. The number of followers is not a good test of the authenticity of a leader or his ministry. Numbers claiming salvation ultimately, God knows who is saved. Believers can certainly say whether people are false prophets and heretics and should be rejected, but we are not the final judge of their salvation. One fact is certain. When someone claims to be saved, they will show the fruit of the Spirit, believe and teach sound doctrine, and not make false prophecies. The size of the Church means nothing in the realm of discernment. God seeks quality over quantity, regardless of what apostles like C. Pedro Wagner claim: ... we must see clearly that the end justifies the means. What else could justify the means? If the method I'm using achieves the goal I'm aiming at, that's why it's a good method. If, on the other hand, my method is not to achieve the goal, how can I be justified in continuing to use it? C. Peter Wagner, His Church Can Grow - Seven Vital Signs of a Healthy Church, 1976, pg. 137. - emphasis on the original) Quantitative judgments are of men. The size of a church may be due to God's blessing to a ministry and people being truly saved or because of the oratory abilities of a preacher. Big clubs are not necessarily good clubs. The size of the church is no way to test a ministry. Signs and Wonders Signs and Wonders are a dozen cents today and have as much evidence in false churches the occult as they do in Biblical Christianity. Jesus is minded that those who saw him perform miracles should have believed, though for the most part they did not. They could not even tell the signs of the times (Matt. 16:1-4). People today love to be able to claim that they have seen or experienced a wonder or miracle of God. Maybe that's because they want to feel that they've been touched by God personally, are holy, or simply want to be accepted by their peers. If you will claim that you have seen or experienced a miracle of God, then this miracle must be kept up to biblical criteria to prove that it is a biblical divine cure as opposed to many other forms of healing. I cover this subject later in the chapter called Test All. True believers are careful not to use deceptive methods, lie about experiences and signs in order to gain converts. 2 Corinthians 4:2 Instead, we renounce secret and shameful forms; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by clearly exposing the truth, we praise the conscience of every man in the eyes of God. Subjective Testimonies Testimonies are good and can even be an inspiration (if they are true), but are also inherently inherently In other words, they are difficult, if not impossible, to prove objectively, unless there is undisputed proof. Do not allow testimonies, however excited they may be, to instill it in biblical methods of testing. Don't rely on testimonies to shape your belief system. Just as you would test a cake to see if it is done by manually inserting a toothpick, instead of relying on the good smell of the cake and the feelings you get from its aroma, do not use subjective methods to test stories - use the objective Word of God. Rumors Most stories are being passed on today as rumors. They often gain a bit here and there until they were blown up all the way out of proportion from the original account. Don't pass on rumors, gossip and stories unless you check them out completely. These days on the Internet, this has become a much easier task, so there's no excuse to avoid researching claims from all angles. Don't think of people's words. Do the math yourself. A teacher's success Can anyone be successful given the right tools, gifts, connections and circumstances. Some of the most pious men and women in the church were poor. Don't be influenced by rich televangelists. They often raised their money from the backs of the less fortunate, the naive, the desperate, the poor, the ungodly, the widows. True success is not measured by money, power, number of followers or any of the criteria of the American Dream. Man looks out, but God looks into the heart. We can have a very clear picture of a person's heart if we test what they say and what they do against scripture. Apparent Authority Many men and women are able to speak with authority. It can be a natural gift, a demonic gift, or a gift from God. But it's no way to test whether a person is a true or false teacher. Authority can be placed, learned, acted. God's true authority is accompanied by true teaching, true prophecy, and the fruit of the Spirit. Atmosphere Benny Hinn states that he needs an atmosphere to do his miracles. Interviewer: If Benny Hinn is real, he goes to the hospitals and heals everyone there. Benny Hinn: I've been told that many times. What I tell them is very simple. Healing most of the time needs an atmosphere of faith. I went to hospitals. I've done this many times or in people's homes and I pray for them. Most of the time, they cannot be cured. ... God's people make it happen; bring this atmosphere of faith ... (Benny Hinn, interview by Marla Weech of WFTV, Inside Central Florida) When did the

apostles need an atmosphere to heal? Beware of the test meetings by the atmosphere created there. How and amway meeting or In a football game, an atmosphere can be manipulated. God doesn't need a stadium full of screaming benny Hinn fans burning with carnivorous passion to move. What He needs is obedience to His Word.

**BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT** There are three important biblical ways in which we should use discernment. (1) Test all teachings for sound doctrine, and especially against the core doctrines of the Faith, as set out in the sixty-six books of the Bible (see the chapter Learn what you believe). (2) Test all prophecies to see if they are biblical and if a prophet's predictions are realized. (3) Test their lives, words, and actions for the fruit of the Spirit. **TEST YOUR TEACHINGS** The Church and individual Christians are commanded by the Lord to reject false teachers heretics. Titus 3:10 A man who is a heretic after the first and second rejection of the admonition; (KJV) A heretic is defined by Peter as one who places error next to truth, secretly introducing destructive heresies. 2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly present destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them... bringing rapid destruction upon themselves. Christians should reject those who preach a false gospel because they are condemned by the Lord. Galatians 1:8-9 But even if we or an angel from heaven were to preach a gospel different from the one we preach to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have said, now I say again: if someone is preaching to you a gospel different from what you have accepted, let him be eternally condemned! Even Paul, a fundamental apostle, encouraged his listeners to test his teaching against the written Word of God, and stated that those who teach should not go beyond what is written. Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of a nobler character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. 1 Corinthians 4:6 Now, brethren, I have applied these things to me and Apollo for their benefit, that they may learn with us the meaning of the saying: Do not go beyond what is written. So you won't be proud of one man against another. Believers must be demanding. Phil. 1:9-11 And this is my prayer: may your love be increasingly absent in knowledge and depth of discernment, so that you may discern what is best and can be pure and innocent until the day of Christ, full of the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ- to the glory and praise of God. Proverbs 15:14 The demanding heart seeks knowledge, but a fool's mouth feeds on madness. Proverbs 17:24 A keen man keeps wisdom in sight, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth. Proverbs 18:15 The heart of discernment acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek him out. Proverbs 28:7 He who upholds the law is a demanding son, but a of glutton dishonors his father Proverbs 3:21 My son, son, sound judgment and discernment, do not leave them out of your sight, and Why do we test teaching against scripture? Because we are commanded to remain in solid doctrine, to keep faith, to follow the teachings of prophets, apostles, and Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 4:3 For time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to meet their own desires, they will gather around a large number of teachers to say what their itchy ears want to hear. Titus 1:9 He must firmly keep the message as he has been taught, so that he may encourage others by solid doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 2:1 You must teach what is in accordance with sound doctrine. False teachers are liars and do not remain in solid doctrine. 1 Timothy 1:10 for adulterers and pervers, for slave traders and liars and perjury - and for anything else is contrary to the sound doctrine **TEST THE SPIRITS** We are warned by the Lord to test all spirits because many false prophets have come out. 1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe in all spirits, but test the spirits to see if they are of God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. How do we test the spirits? Comparing what they are teaching and prophesying to scripture, and whether they are living in the fruit of the Spirit. How are we going to do that? First we must be believers in Christ to test anything rightly. Romans 12:2 No longer conform to the standard of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of their minds. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is... its good, pleasant and perfect will. 2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourself to see if they are in faith; test each other. Don't you realize that Christ Jesus is in you... unless, of course, you fail the test? So we test our own words and actions to make sure we are in faith and solid doctrine. Galatians 6:4 Each must test his own actions. So he can be proud of himself, without comparing himself to someone else, how much should we test? All. 1st Thessalonians 5:21 Test all. Hold on to the good. **JUDGE WITH REASON** Let's judge? Certainly. We should not judge hypercritically (Matt. 7:1) - in other words, judge someone while doing the same thing ourselves. We are not the final judge of anyone's salvation. But we must judge what people teach and prophesy. Paul commanded those who heard him to judge what he was saying. 1 Corinthians 10:15 I speak to wise people; judge for yourselves what I say. We must learn to judge with reason now, because one day we will judge the earth and the angels with Christ. 1 Corinthians 6:3 Don't you know we're going to judge angels? The more things in this life! They tell the Lord to judge those within the Church because God judges those out there. reject hereticheretics expel bad men from the assembly of believers because if they are allowed to remain they will leave all the lump. 1 Corinthians 5:12-13 What business is my judging who is out of the church? Shouldn't you judge that in there? God will judge those out there. Kick the bad man out of you. **TEST YOUR PROPHECY** Let's test the prophecy to see if it comes true and is biblical. A true prophet is 100% accurate because he worships God in spirit and truth and speaks the truth. We must reject false prophets and remove them from the assembly of believers. Duet. 13:1-5 If a prophet, or one who predicts dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he spoke occurs, and he says, Let us follow other gods (gods you do not know) and let us cultivate them, you should not hear the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD, your God, is testing you to find out if you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the LORD of Your God that you must follow, and he you must revere. Keep your commands and obey it; serve him and hold him. This prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he preached rebellion against the LORD his God, who took him out of Egypt and redeemed him from the land of slavery; he tried to transform him the way the LORD his God commanded him to follow. You must cleanse evil between you. False prophets may have a good track record, but they are never 100% accurate. However, they may be able to trick people into thinking they do. That's where the teaching test comes in, and that's why it's listed as the first test of discernment. Some prophets may seem fine, but if they are teaching heresy you can be sure it is a test of God to see if you will love Him with all your heart. John tells us that if we love the Lord we will obey his orders (John 14:21, 15:10; 1 John 5:2-3; 2 John 1:6). The Bible commands us repeatedly to test, discern, and judge teaching, prophecy, and fruits. We must reject heretics who do not repent. If we do not obey the Lord in this, we are proving that we do not truly love him. Deuteronom 18:20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, should be put to death. We do not kill false prophets today, but we must withdraw from their presence. Deuteronomy 18:22 If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not occur or come true, this is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet spoke presumptuously. Don't be afraid of him. The Lord is against those who give false prophecies. Jeremiah 23:32 Indeed, I am against those who prophet false dreams, declarethe LORD. They tell them and take my diverted people with their lies, but I didn't send them or name them. They do not benefit these people at the very least, the LORD declares. Jeremiah 27:15 I have not sent them, declare the LORD. They're prophesying lies in my name. Therefore, I will banish you and you will perish, both you and the prophets you prophesied to you. Those who follow false prophets will share their judgment. Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesied lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people worship in this way. But what are you going to do in the end? Jeremiah 23:31 Yes, declare the LORD, I am against the prophets who sway their own tongues and yet declare, 'The LORD declares.' Jeremiah 27:15 I have not sent them, declare the LORD. They're prophesying lies in my name. Therefore, I will banish you and you will perish, both you and the prophets you prophesied to you. Ezekiel 13:9 My hand will be against prophets who see false visions and lying divinations. They will not belong to the counsel of my people or be listed in the records of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter the land of Israel. Then you'll know I'm the Sovereign Lord. We shouldn't even hear false prophecy. Jeremiah 23:16 This is what the LORD Almighty says: Do not hear what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. False prophets are often those who claim to have had a dream or a vision of the Lord or the Lord. Jeremiah 23:25 I have heard what the prophets say that prophecy is in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream! False prophets are using divination and the illusion of their own minds instead of communicating with God. Jeremiah 14:14 Then the LORD said to me, The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I didn't send them or name them or talk to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries, and the delusions of your own minds. Ezekiel 22:28 His prophets whiten these scriptures by false visions and lying divinations. They say, This is what the Sovereign Lord says -- when the LORD has not spoken. **TEST YOUR FRUITS** Matt. 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are fierce wolves. By their fruits you will recognize them. Do people choose grapes of thorns, or thistle figs? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree can't bear bad fruit, and a bad tree can't bear good fruit. Every tree that doesn't bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will recognize them. The final test is to compare the words and actions of any teacher or prophet with the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:18-25. Note that the passage above comes just after the most quote today to try to make a case that we should not judge at all, namely Matt. If you read about you realize that judge should not be applied to all situations. The Bible has specific criteria on how to judge and how not to judge. When judging fruits, it is also useful to look at the list of things in Galatians 5:18-25 that are the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit. If a person falsely prophesied, even once, he's probably using divination and false visions. Are they trying to build a follower and promote themselves, gaining fame? So they probably have selfish ambition. Do they promote drunk in the Spirit? That's the sin of drunkenness. If they're taking the poor out of their money with corrupt money-raising schemes, that's not the fruit of kindness. If their encounters are marked by wild manifestations, they do not have the fruit of peace or self-control. If they are arrogant mockery they do not have the fruit of kindness. Gal. 5:18-25 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, anger attacks, selfish ambition, dissent, factions, and envy; drunkenness,, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, kindness, faithfulness, kindness, and self-control. Against these things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the sinful nature with their passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let's keep up with the Spirit. The Lord will cut off anyone who bears no fruit. This means that anyone who does not have the fruit of the Spirit and has not done the will of the Father. John 15:2 He cuts off all the branches in me that bear no fruit, while every branch that bears fruit he could so that it might be even more fruitful. **CONCLUSION** Finally, we must understand that those who are false teachers, false prophets, without the fruit of the Spirit are a plague on true Christianity. We must separate ourselves from them. Rom. 16:17 Now I implore you brethren to mark us that they cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them Eph. 5:11 And not have fellowship with the fruitless works of darkness, but fail them 2 Thou. 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly, and not after the tradition you have received from us 2 Tim. , he says that some will have a form of divinity, but denying his power. Of such a turn for these people are never able to come to the knowledge of the truth 2 John 10:11 If any come to you, do not bring this doctrine, do not receive it into your house, nor cast the speed of God for the one who gave you the speed of God is part of his evil deeds 2 Color. 6:17 Why go out among them, and be separated you, says the Lord, and not touch the unclean thing; and I will receive you Jude 1:12 These men are stains on their feasts of love, eating with you without the slightest scruple - shepherds who feed only on themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted -- twice dead. We've all been in the dark. Now that we are in the light we must walk in the light, rejecting the darkness. Hey, hey. 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of light consists of all goodness, justice, and truth) and discover what pleases the Lord. It has nothing to do with the fruitless acts of darkness, but rather exposing them. They.