

## **How to Grow in Discernment**

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**Read** 1 Kings 3:5-28 and 1 John 4:1-6.

### **Issues of holiness:**

1. Be a humble servant of God (1 Ki 3:9a).
2. Reject worldliness in your own life (1 Ki 3:11).
3. Grow in wisdom (1 Ki 3:12).
4. Maintain a vibrant lifestyle of worship (1 Ki 3:15).

### **Issues of practicality:**

1. Ask God for discernment (1 Ki 3:9-12).
2. Commit to using discernment for the purpose of judging rightly (1 Ki 3:9b).
  - Judging rightly involves judging people (v. 9a).
  - Judging rightly involves discerning between good and evil (v. 9b).
3. Acknowledge that ultimately only God can give the ability to judge rightly (1 Ki 3:9c).
4. Pay close attention to people's stories (1 Ki 3:16-22).
5. Sort through details to arrive at concise, accurate understandings of situations (1 Ki 3:23).
6. Use strategic tests to illicit truths that people hide (1 Ki 3:24-27).
7. Refuse to believe everything (1 Jn 4:1a).
8. Test people (1 Jn 4:1b).
9. Understand that many people are not as they make themselves appear (1 Jn 4:1c).
10. Intentionally figure out the doctrinal and theological underpinnings of people (1 Jn 4:2).
11. Closely examine people's speech and life patterns (1 Jn 4:3).
12. Be aware that this world is in rebellion against God (1 Jn 4:4).
13. Examine people's relationship with the world and with faithful Bible teachers (1 Jn 4:5-6a).
  - Who do they submit to?
  - Who do they listen to?
  - Who listens to them?
14. Seek to differentiate between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (1 Jn 4:6b).