

## Discern/Discernment (בִּינָה)

In its simplest definition, discernment is the ability to decide between truth and error, right and wrong. Discernment is the process of making careful distinctions in our thinking about truth. In other words, the ability to think with discernment is synonymous with an ability to think Scripturally.

The key to living an uncompromising life lies in one's ability to exercise discernment in every area of his or her life. For example, failure to distinguish between truth and error leaves the believer subject to all manner of false teaching. False teaching then leads to an unscriptural mindset, which results in unfruitful and disobedient living.

### DISCERN/DISCERNMENT

Discern/Discernment (בִּינָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern).

ב (Bet) = Family, In, House (of Yahuah & Yahusha)

י (Yod) = Work (Study), (to) Throw, Worship

נ (Nun) = (as an) Heir, (we) Continue, (as a) Son (of Yahuah)

A primitive root; to separate mentally (or distinguish), i.e.(generally) understand -- attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, discern, eloquent, feel, inform, instruct, have intelligence, know, look well to, mark, perceive, be prudent, regard, skill(-full), teach, think, (cause, make to, get, give, have) understand(-ing), view, (deal) wise(-ly, man).

בִּינָה (בִּינָה) Byn is a root verb meaning "to distinguish" (Strong's #995, x170) in the sense of gaining understanding by being able to discern, separate, or decide between.

A derivative construct noun is בֵּינָה byn (Strong's #996, x32) that translates as "between", "within" or "difference" .

First (1st) used in **Genesis 41:33,39** of Yoseph's ability to interpret dreams, and then in **Deuteronomy 1:13** of a required characteristic of leaders over the tribes of Yasharal, alongside "Wisdom" חָכְמָה châkhâm (Strong's #2450, x137) and "knowing" יָדָע yâdha' (Strong's #3045, x947).

בִּינָה (בִּינָה) Byn is regularly paired with חָכְמָה châkhâm (20x) as "Wisdom and Discernment (Understanding)" and several times with יָדָע yâdha' written as "Knowledge and Understanding (Discernment)".

בִּינָה (בִּינָה) Byn is not just prophetic, it is used of perception and discernment via all the senses. Whether of the eyes (**Proverbs 7:7; Job 31:1; Isaiah 5:21**), ears (**Proverbs 29:19**), taste (**Job 6:30**), or touch (**Psalms 58:10**).

Wisdom, skill, and perhaps eloquence, of speech are suggested by its use with דְּבַר dâbhâr (Strong's #1697, x1439) "word, speech" to describe a young David, before he was king, in **1 Samuel 16:18**.

In Solomon's famous prayer for wisdom he asks for an "understanding" heart, using Shâma' (Strong's #8085, x1159 to hear, listen to, obey) along with (בִּינָה (בִּינָה) Byn (Bin), to say: "that I may discern between good and evil" using byn (bin) together.

In the Hiphil causative form of the Hebrew verb it gains the meaning of "Bringing Wisdom, Understanding.

- 1) to discern, understand, consider
- 2) to perceive, discern
- 3) to understand, know (with the mind)
- 4) to observe, mark, give heed to, distinguish, consider
- 5) to have discernment, insight, understanding
- 6) to be discerning, intelligent, discreet, have understanding
- 7) to understand
- 8) to cause to understand, give understanding, teach
- 9) to show oneself discerning or attentive, consider diligently
- 10) to teach, instruct
- 11) prudent, regard

### **DISCERN - GREEK**

Dokimazo (pronounced dok-im-ad'-zo), Strong's #1381: from 1384; to test (literally or figuratively); by implication, to approve:--allow, discern, examine, approve, try.

**Thayer's Greek Lexicon:** dokimazō

- 1) to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals
- 2) to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy

### **DISCERNMENT FROM A SCRIPTURAL VIEW**

Beloved, do not believe every rûch (spirit), but test (dokimázō (from 1384/dókimos, "approved") – properly, to try (test) to show something is acceptable (real, approved); put to the test to reveal what is good (genuine), discern). the rûchs (spirits) to see whether they are from אַיָּהּ (Yahuah) for many false prophets have gone out into the world. **1 John 4:1**

**Philippians 1:9-10** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment (144 aísthēsis (a feminine noun) – properly, the brand of sense-discernment which "cuts through" hazy ethical (moral) matters to really "size things up" (used only in **Phil 1:9**), so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Mashiach,

**Hebrews 5:14** But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment (1253 diákrisis (from 1252 /diakrínō, see there) – properly, a thorough judgment, i.e. a discernment (conclusion) which distinguishes "look-alikes," i.e. things that appear to be the same) trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of ruch (spirit), of joints and of marrow, and discerning (2924. kritikos critical, able to judge or discern) the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**1 Kings 3:9** Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern (בִּינָה בִּינָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

**Romans 12:2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern (Dokimazo (pronounced dok-im-ad'-zo), Strong's #1381: from 1384; to test (literally or figuratively); by implication, to approve:--allow, examine, like, approve, try, discern) what is the will of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**James 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Ruch (Spirit) of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned (anakrínō 350 (from 303/aná, "up, completing a process," which intensifies 2919/krínō, "to select by separating/judging") – properly, to distinguish vigorously judging "down to up," i.e. closely examining (investigating) through "the process of careful study, evaluation and judgment"); "to examine, investigate, question).

**John 7:24** Do not judge by appearances, but judge with righteous judgment."

**1 Corinthians 14:33** For אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) is not a Aluhym of confusion but of Shalum (peace). As in all the Assemblies of the chosen believers,

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Mashiach. And no wonder, for even HaSatan disguises himself as an Malak (Angel) of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

**1 Thessalonians 5:21** But test everything; hold fast what is good.

**Matthew 10:16** "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

**Colossians 2:8** See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Mashiach.

**Psalms 119:125** I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies!

**1 Corinthians 12:10** To another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

**Proverbs 3:1-6:35** My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and Shalum (Peace) they will add to you.

Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) and man. Trust in אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ...

**Proverbs 2:1-5** My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand (8394. tebunah (discerning) the fear of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) and find the knowledge of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah).

**1 Timothy 6:3-5** If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Adon (Lord/Master) אֲדֹנָי (Yahusha) HaMashiach and the teaching that accords with Righteousness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that Righteousness is a means of gain.

**1 Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the Amunah (Faith) by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

**Hosea 14:9** Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning (בִּינָה בִּינָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern), let him know them; for the ways of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

**Proverbs 15:14** The heart of him who has understanding (בִּינָה בִּינָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

**Proverbs 18:15** An intelligent (בִּינָה בִּינָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

**Proverbs 15:21** Folly is a joy to him who lacks sense, but a man of understanding (8394. tebunah - discernment) walks straight ahead.

**Proverbs 28:11** A rich man is wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has understanding (בִּינָה בִּינָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) will find him out.

**1 Kings 3:11** And אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern (בִּינָה בִּינָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) what is right,

**Matthew 24:24** For false Mashiachs (Messiah/christs) and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

**1 John 2:27** But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true,

and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

**James 4:8** Draw near to אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**James 3:17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

**Acts 17:11** Now these Hebrews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

**John 16:13** When the Ruch (Spirit) of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

**Proverbs 1:5** Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands (רָאָה (רָאָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) obtain guidance,

**Psalms 111:10** The fear of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding (insight, wisdom). His praise endures forever!

**2 Samuel 14:17** And your servant thought, ‘The word of my Adon (lord) the king will set me at rest,’ for my Adon (lord) the king is like the Malak (Angel) of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) to discern (8085 Shama; hear) good and evil. אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) your Aluhym be with you!

**Psalms 119:66** Teach me good judgment (2940. taam decree (1), discernment (3), discreet (1), discretion (1), flavor (1), sanity (1), taste) and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

**Daniel 2:21** He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding (binah 999: an understanding; from 998 binah clearly, consideration, discernment, truth, understand, understanding, understands, understood).

**Proverbs 17:10** A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding (רָאָה (רָאָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) than a hundred blows into a fool.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-14** But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) has prepared for those who love him”— these things אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) has revealed to us through the Ruch (Spirit). For the Ruch (Spirit) searches everything, even the depths of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah). For who knows a person's thoughts except the ruch (spirit) of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) except the Ruch (Spirit) of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah). Now we have received not the ruch (spirit) of the world, but the Ruch (Spirit) who is from אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), that we might understand the things freely given us by אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah). And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Ruch (Spirit), interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Ruch (Spirit) of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned (350 anacrínō (from 303 /aná, "up, completing a process," which intensifies 2919 /krínō, "to select by separating/judging") – properly, to distinguish by

vigorously judging "down to up," i.e. closely examining (investigating) through "the process of careful study, evaluation and judgment" (L & N, 1, 27.44); "to examine, investigate, question).

**Proverbs 17:24** Wisdom is directly in front of the discerning (בִּינָה (בִּינָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) person, but the eyes of a fool run to the ends of the earth.

**Proverbs 3:13** Baruk (Blessed) is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding (8394. tebunah (discerning),

**Proverbs 2:3-5** Yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding (binah 998: knowledge, meaning, perfectly, understanding, wisdom, discernment), if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) and find the knowledge of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah).

**John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

**Job 6:30** Is there any injustice on my tongue? Cannot my palate (taste) discern (בִּינָה (בִּינָה) Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) the cause of calamity?

**Proverbs 3:21** My son, do not lose sight of these— keep sound wisdom and discretion,

**2 Timothy 2:2** And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

**1 Timothy 6:2** Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things.

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

**1 Corinthians 2:16** "For who has understood the mind of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Mashiach.

**Galatians 4:6** And because you are sons, אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) has sent the Ruch (Spirit) of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

**1 Corinthians 13:12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

**2 Corinthians 7:1** Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and ruch (spirit), bringing righteousness to completion in the fear of אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah).

**Matthew 16:3** And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret (1252 diakrínō (from 1223 /diá, "thoroughly back-and-forth," which intensifies 2919 /krínō, "to judge") – properly, investigate (judge) thoroughly – literally, judging "back-and-forth" which can either (positively) refer to close-reasoning (discrimination) or negatively "over-judging" (going too far, vacillating) the signs of the times.

**1 Corinthians 2:1-16** And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you

the testimony of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except **OWYָּאֵל** (Yahusha) HaMashiach and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Ruch (Spirit) and of power, that your Amunah (faith) might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah). ...

**Romans 8:16** The Ruch (Spirit) himself bears witness with our ruch (spirit) that we are children of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah),

**2 Timothy 3:15** And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through Amunah (faith) in **OWYָּאֵל** (Yahusha) HaMashiach.

**Proverbs 4:7** The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight (binah 998: an understanding, discernment).

**Acts 8:26-38** Now an Malak (Angel) of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Yarusalym to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Yarusalym to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Ruch (Spirit) said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ...

**Psalms 23:1-6** אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah) is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ...

**John 21:17** He said to him the third (3rd) time, "Simon, son of Yahonan (John), do you love me?" Kepha (Peter) was grieved because he said to him the third (3rd) time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Adon (Master/Lord), you know everything; you know that I love you." **OWYָּאֵל** (Yahusha) said to him, "Feed my sheep."

**Matthew 24:45** "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?"

**Ezekiel 44:23** They shall teach my people the difference between the Qadosh (holy) and the common, and show them how to distinguish (Yada 3045: to know, to discern) between the unclean and the clean.

**Matthew 6:22** "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of אַיָּאֵל (Yahuah), and take every thought captive to obey Mashiach,

**Matthew 24:32-33** “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

**2 Corinthians 11:4** For if someone comes and proclaims another **OWYʼAʼL** (Yahusha) than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

**Matthew 24:23-26** Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Mashiach (Messiah)!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false Mashiachs (Messiah/christs) and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.

**Matthew 5:8** “Baruk (Blessed) are the pure in heart, for they shall see **ʼAʼYʼAʼL** (Yahuah).

**1 Corinthians 12:11** All these are empowered by one and the same Ruch (Spirit), who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**Isaiah 7:15** He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

**Deuteronomy 32:28-29** “For they are a nation void of counsel, and there is no understanding in them. If they were wise, they would understand this; they would discern (**ʼL-ʼM (ʼLʼʼ)** Byn (Bin) Strong's #995: attend, consider, be cunning, diligently, direct, eloquent, feel, to discern) their latter end!