

Conviction or Accusation

Discernment is not a feeling you get, it's knowledge. We must mature in the Spirit to be able to discern things. For example: We must be able to discern the Spirit's voice, the enemy's voice and our own self-talk in our mind.

One very important discernment is the difference between: cut-to-the-heart; conviction; condemnation; & accusation. Our well-balanced life in the Kingdom often depends on our discernment of these four.

In the natural, our emotions play havoc with us, and our interpersonal communications, causing us a lot of grief and turmoil. Part of maturing in the things of the Spirit is to bring us to a point of being even-keeled so we are not controlled by our emotions.

Paul talks about those who are tossed about by “every wind of doctrine”¹. These are carnal believers who can't discern truth because of their immaturity. James refers to “double-minded” believers who doubt and are “unstable”,² being tossed around in their mind like the waves of the sea. These people are also in turmoil.

Maturity in the things of the Kingdom and the Spirit are critical for our mental and spiritual well being. Many are in doubt and in turmoil because they haven't seen the need for maturity and therefore haven't pursued it. The enemy talks to them and their emotions grab hold of them on a regular basis so they are rendered ineffective. Kingdom sons, however, are stable, just as Jesus was.

Chief among our discerning failures, as I outlined at the start, is the inability to discern between condemnation, accusation and conviction.

When someone says something or teaches something, do not allow your emotions or the enemy to bring turmoil. Instead, rest and respond out of the Spirit and also out of sound doctrine.

Peace and rest cannot reign where there is doubt and turmoil.

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1 – Ephesians 4:14

2 – James 1:5-8