

Discriminating¹ the Teaching You Receive

The literature you read, as well as the teaching you listen to or watch, needs to be checked to see that it is appropriate for your journey to being a fully functional, mature son in the Kingdom. The normal method used to check what is coming into your mind through the media you are engaged in is this: Does it feed your spirit. It is your spirit that must be fed, so that as your spirit-man matures and is allowed to be the dominant component of your being, it has the knowledge from Heaven that is needed to lead the rest of you (i.e. mind and soul).

The question arises, “How do you know that your spirit is being fed”? The usual indicator of this is that as you engage in the teaching, components of it are speaking to your spirit. Well, how do you know if it’s doing that? Unfortunately, that cannot be taught, it must be experienced. The ability to understand that your spirit is being spoken to by the Spirit of God only comes from learning and experiencing being Spirit-led. This ability to be Spirit-led is an indispensable, essential function of Kingdom sons – it is the hallmark of genuine sonship.² This listening ability has to be cultivated and it can only happen once a believer is baptised in the Holy Spirit and develops a lifestyle of listening to the Spirit. It won’t come just because a person is born-again, as it only occurs when the Spirit is given full reign in their life.

So what about those who can’t discern with their spirit what is ‘nourishing food’ for their spirit. In this case, there are a couple of guidelines:

1. Don’t take in what is religious.
2. Don’t take in what is legalistic.
3. Don’t take in what is theological with no genuine Kingdom ‘flavour’.
4. Don’t take in something just because you like it.
5. Don’t take in something because it sounds plausible.

These points will help you filter out a large ‘swag’ of teaching and books. What we are to look for is content that is appropriate for us right now because the Spirit is leading us to what we are to learn, so we can be reprogrammed.

Speaking of reprogramming, This is a significant process that has to go on in every believer’s life, no matter what their history. Those who are in, or have been in, the church system need to have religion, legalism and tradition³ eliminated so they align with Heaven. But for those who’ve just come into the Kingdom, they need to be reprogrammed of what they have picked up from their culture, society, education and their family. Reprogramming is a slow process as Father deals with bits at a time, not everything all at once. A heart to be reprogrammed is required so that it continues year-on-year, until we reach perfection⁴.

To help with understanding how to discern what to read, listen to or watch, here are a couple of **critiques** of articles that have been produced recently. Hopefully this will school you in the way you discriminate what you allow to teach you – choosing the best and ‘ditching’ the ‘rubbish’.

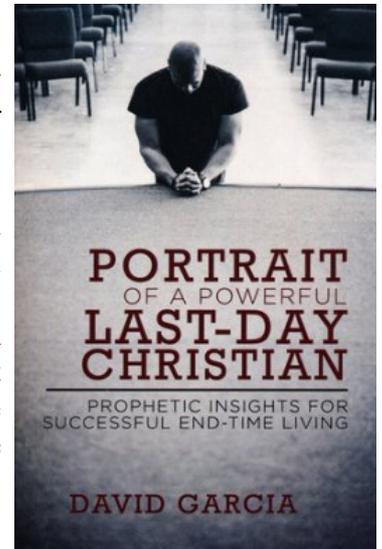
The following article analyses are critiques, not criticism of the person or their theology. The purpose of each evaluation is to show how important it is not to take teaching at face value, but to analyse and discern, and then choose what content to give assent to. My analytical comments do not come from a critical spirit but from the heart of a teacher who desires wisdom to be learnt.

1 – To make a wise choice between different options. Something we do all the time: the music we listen to; the movies we watch, etc.
2 – Romans 8:14
3 – See Matthew 15:6; Mark 7:13
4 – Hebrews 6:1

Portrait of a Powerful Last-Day Christian

I purchased “Portrait of a Powerful Last-Day Christian: Prophetic Insight for Successful End-Time Living”⁵ and went through it. Although the author declares that it is prophetic insight, the content of the book is anything but. Read it for yourself. (See the Table of Contents over the page.)

The genuine prophetic content in the whole book would be much less than ½ a page, with the bulk of it being a bible study of Samuel’s interaction with Israel’s kings. Of course with Samuel being an OT prophet and the book’s references to other OT prophets, that is not what is considered today to be a prophetic book. A book that claims to be prophetic should have the Spirit speaking to the reader from the words he has the author write. Such books are not recounting OT accounts of prophets in action, or the words of those prophets. They are Spirit-written documents, as are the audio and video teachings where the Spirit is speaking through the teacher.



[Introduction: A Handbook for Overcoming](#)

[Chapter One: Last-Day Christians Overcome](#)

[Chapter Two: Strengthen Yourself in the Lord](#)

[Chapter Three: God has a Provision for You](#)

[Chapter Four: Take Back What the Devil Has Stolen From You](#)

[Chapter Five: Persistence and Wisdom Brings Promotion and Victory](#)

[Chapter Six: Encouragement for Last-Day Christians](#)

Saul Prophets Will Be Spiritually Stripped

The article ‘Prophetic Word: Saul Prophets Will Be Spiritually Stripped’⁶ appeared in the ‘Prophetic Insight’ section of a charismatic magazine. From its title, it appears to be an important message from our King to his people. Upon reading it, the important prophetic content consists of only one sentence:

“While I prayed, the Lord said something to me that immediately shook the depths of my spirit. He said, “I will reveal the Saul prophets, and they will be stripped”. ”

The remainder of the article is a bible study which was the writer’s interpretation of the outworking of the downloaded prophetic sentence. The absence of genuine prophetic content, which would include the strategy/ies and consequence(s) given by the Spirit, makes the article of little to no use. That is, of course, unless the Spirit adds to it with more information from other prophetic voices, as well as your own prophetic downloads.

Compare this article with prophetic messages such as: “Fulfilment of Past Prophecies for Australia”⁷. The difference in comparison is obvious. A prophetic message should have the ‘fingerprints’ of the voice of God all over it.

The Lord Is Calling the Faithful Ones to Play Second Fiddle

Likewise, of little value is ‘A Prophetic Invitation: The Lord Is Calling the Faithful Ones to Play Second Fiddle’⁸, which also appeared in the ‘Prophetic Insight’ section of the same magazine. Again, the prophetic content as just a single sentence with the remainder of the blog being the person’s personal interpretation. Here’s the important content:

“Would you be willing to play second fiddle for me?”

5 – David Garcia (2014) “Portrait of a Powerful Last-Day Christian” Ambassador International
(www.amazon.com.au/Portrait-Powerful-Last-Day-Christian-Successful-ebook/dp/B00KXBU7AE)

6 – Ryan Johnson (22-1-2018) Charisma Magazine
(www.charismamag.com/blogs/prophetic-insight/35524-prophetic-word-saul-prophets-will-be-spiritually-stripped)

7 – CCOP (9-10-2017) canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/MESSAGE-Fulfilment-of-Past-Prophecies-for-Australia-9-10-2017.pdf

8 – Bill Yount (24-1-2018) Charisma Magazine
(www.charismamag.com/blogs/prophetic-insight/35553-a-prophetic-invitation-the-lord-is-calling-the-faithful-ones-to-play-second-fiddle)

The lack of Spirit-spoken content in the rest of the article makes this spiritually quite useless.

Sometimes we need to read theological articles or books to challenge our belief system. Recognising the Kingdom paradigm as Heaven's main priority, not the church, requires sound teaching of a theological nature to expand on what the Spirit had been saying to us. When we read such books or listen to such teaching, the Spirit will 'touch' us or he will sow a small 'seed' that requires him to provide 'watering' and 'nourishment' at a subsequent time. We must not miss such times and reject what is being 'fed' to us.

Here are some articles that fit into this category of changing our theology. In each case the article still needs to be evaluated by what we know about the Kingdom and the spiritual realm. We must not accept it because it may be new, topical or interesting. We must be vigilant at all times to discriminate between what is worthy of using our precious Kingdom time to receive teaching and what is not.

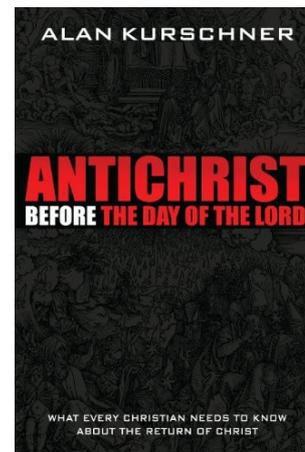
When Christians Began Speaking of 'the' Antichrist

The blog article, 'Reply to Thomas Kidd: When Christians Began Speaking of 'the' Antichrist'⁹, appeared in a biblical prophecy website. The author is a bible scholar, and by the content of his many articles, he's not a Spirit-directed believer or a genuine prophetic voice. This particular article of his has as its foundation church tradition and selected bible verses for the idea of the AntiChrist will be a person. For example:

“Christians have been talking about “the Antichrist” from the very beginning because they interpreted Scripture as teaching a future Antichrist personal figure that would persecute the last generation of the church. This is shown in the first Christian document outside of the New Testament, The Didache:¹⁰ “And then the deceiver of the world will appear as a son of God and will perform signs and wonders, and the earth will be delivered into his hands, and he will commit abominations the likes of which have never happened before” (16:4)”¹¹

To accept his theological idea we must first accept church tradition as faithful to the reality of the plans of God. Then we must take his biblical quotes and compare them with the total set of references concerning the AntiChrist. Of course, his justification from references in Revelation means that he subscribes to Futurist Eschatology which we must not overlook in our discernment. If the early church writers, post 70AD, failed to recognise that the beast was the Roman Empire and it's emperor, then they could easily have believed in a personal AntiChrist right from the start.

The writer's book¹² on the topic goes into full detail of his understanding about the AntiChrist. You'll need to check it out to decide your position on his thesis.



The Difference Between Sons of God & Children of God

Sometimes there are theological articles which are on the border between what should be accepted at face-value and what shouldn't. Take 'The Difference Between Sons of God & Children of God'¹³ as an example. Reading the article it sounds all correct – it 'ticks all the boxes' by mentioning all the latest jargon words and phrases on the Kingdom, end-times and the restoration of all things. However, closer scrutiny of its contents in light of what we know as Kingdom facts and what the Spirit has been showing us these days casts doubt on the article.

9 – Alan Kurschner (24-1-2018) "Reply to Thomas Kidd: "When Christians Began Speaking of 'the' Antichrist"
(www.alankurschner.com/2018/01/24/reply-to-thomas-kidd-when-christians-began-speaking-of-the-antichrist)

10 – Wikipedia: Also known as 'The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles'. It is a brief anonymous early Christian writing, dated by most modern scholars to the first century. (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Didache)

11 – Estimates for the dating of the Didache is 50-120 AD (www.earlychristianwritings.com/didache.html)

12 – Alan Kurschner (2013) "Antichrist Before the Day of the Lord: What Every Christian Needs to Know about the Return of Christ"
Eschatos Publishing (www.amazon.com.au/Antichrist-Before-Day-Lord-Christian-ebook/dp/B00J43PJGY)

13 – Unknown "The Difference Between Sons of God & Children of God"
(www.warsofgod.com/01_sons_of_god_and_children_of_god.html)

The author's contention is that only those who are predestined to come into the Kingdom are the children of God. These children have to spend their life working towards becoming a son which he refers to as "the highest rank possible" for a child of God to achieve.

"There is a significant difference between the children of God and the sons of God. The phrase "child of God" is an election term. Even before salvation was made available, Jesus spoke of his disciples as children of their Father God in heaven. Only those on this earth who are appointed to eternal life, whose names were written in the book of life before the foundation of the world, are known as children of God. They were spiritually born into this world as God's children and because they belong to Him, they will instinctively and inevitably believe in Jesus..."

*To be a son of God is the highest status or title that God chooses to give to some of His children. This title or rank is achieved when certain children of God, after receiving the truth and believing in Jesus Christ, make such perfect choices, do such an amazing and courageous job, and are so pleasing to the Lord in their fierce loyalty to Him that God grants them the highest rank and reward possible: to be called sons of God. The children of God who are loyal to Jesus (i.e. Christians) can choose to work toward achieving this "son of God" title, but they cannot choose to be children of God. They are born into this world as children, and those children of God who are loyal to Jesus have the authority to work towards inheriting from God the highest title of "son"."*¹⁴

Is this the case? From the parable known as 'The Prodigal Son'¹⁵ Jesus describes Father's attitude to his 2 types of sons. Whether the one who left home are the gentiles and the one who stayed represents the Jews is not the point here. When the rebellious son returned home, his father immediately placed a ring on his hand.¹⁶ Men's rings in the world of the wealthy and business class of NT times represented their status. The ring showed which family they belonged to, and showed that they were wealthy or upper class. More importantly the ring with the family crest was the signet ring with which they sealed documents. It is clear (and would have been unmistakable to Jesus' listeners) that the returning son (probably a young man) was reinstated as a fully-fledged son.

From this important parable it is obvious that when a wayward person is born-again and adopted into Father's family that they immediately become a genuine son. They do not need to work at becoming a son, they are one. What they need to do from that time on is to grow into maturity as a son and learning to function as one – not just have the title 'son'.

Here's some examples of issues with the article that is not clear if it is read without any depth perception:

1. In the Gospel accounts, Jesus was talking to his disciples under the OC – This means he had a different reference point to us and the writings in the NT.
2. Predestination (Calvinism) is the crux of the author's argument – This is an unreasonable position to argue from. Predestination can't be proven to exist.
3. The transition from 'child' to 'son' is based on works – We are sons, now, by adoption, not by our own works. Works are for rewards in Heaven, not our status in Father's family here and now.
4. Conscience is not our spirit speaking to us – Conscience can be programmed by our culture, family and education.
5. In Romans 8:16 the word translated 'children' can also mean son or daughter¹⁷ – There is no focus in this verse that forces a distinction between 'son' and 'child'.
6. Glorification of sons is in eternity – It's also on Earth as we have been told by the Spirit.
7. The revealing of the sons of God¹⁸ occurs with resurrection at Judgement – There's no indication that this is the time-frame. What our King has revealed to us recently is that it is beginning now and will increase up to his return to Earth.

14 – Unknown "The Difference Between Sons of God & Children of God"
(www.warsofgod.com/01_sons_of_god_and_children_of_god.html)

15 – Luke 15:11-32

16 – Luke 15:22

17 – See Strong's definition

18 – Romans 8:19

Read the article and check it with these 7 points. You'll see that even though it sounds 'Kingdom' it is missing some vital foundations.

Did Satan Already Fall From Heaven

Now sometimes our theology needs reprogramming by reading something that is outrageously against our theology. We look at the title of such a book or article and immediately reject it because it goes against our theological traditions. This rejection is a dangerous tactic – especially if you are in religion or legalism.

Here's an article that should challenge you: 'Paradise Lost: Did Satan Already Fall From Heaven?'¹⁹. The author is the same one who wrote the previously critiqued article. I challenge you to read it and see how you respond to its contents.

If you read it, bear these points in mind:

1. The author is putting his/her interpretation on the verses quoted from Isaiah.
2. The author subscribes to Futurist Eschatology. (See the diagram and his notes on Revelation)
3. 1 Peter 5:8
4. Matthew 4:1-11

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One way to get the right teaching material is to ask the Spirit to show them to you. I like working this way. It's amazing how a book will 'jump out' of the shelf; an article will appear on the computer screen; a person will send you an internet link; etc. It's exciting to learn this way.

So, when we read, listen or watch teaching, we must discern the content, check out the Spirit's wishes, and discriminate what we approve of. A lack of discrimination is foolishness. Godly wisdom – wisdom straight from the throne of God – is necessary for our spiritual growth and development. Being stunted spiritually is the alternative.

Finally, we live in an education-focussed Western culture, and a result of this is that there is a drive within many of us to know everything, to soak up knowledge for knowledge sake. Many of us have a propensity to want to gain as much knowledge as possible and this causes us to move into theological study. By that I mean, we want to know and understand everything about Christianity and what's in the Bible. We read copious books, spend countless hours reading the Bible and attend conference after conference. **Have we actually asked our Lord what we need to know?** If "Jesus is Lord" then we have to make him Lord. That means he's 'the boss', the master, and everything has to originate from him and align with him. Outside of total compliance with him is defiance and rebellion. Is this our attitude? Don't think so!

Then again, we don't need to know everything biblical or theological. There's much knowledge we value, but is it essential for living and operating as a mature son in Father's Kingdom?

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19 – Unknown "Paradise Lost: Did Satan Already Fall From Heaven?"

([www.warsofgod.com/03\\_satan\\_in\\_heaven.html](http://www.warsofgod.com/03_satan_in_heaven.html))