

An Exercise To Discern Both Good and Evil (Hebrews 5:14)

Why This Study?

I. Introduction:

A. Are you too trusting (**Proverbs 14:15**)?

1. We're taught of God to be cautious (**Micah 7:5-6**, **Colossians 2:4-8**, and **Colossians 4:5**) without becoming an evil surmiser (**I Timothy 6:3-5**).
2. Don't drop your guard, they have long been deceivers in our midst hiding among God's people (**Jeremiah 29:8-9** and **Jude 1:3-4**).

B. Do you realize that there are so-called "brethren" who will use subtle tactics and harm you though you think they love you (**Genesis 27:1-40**).

1. It is important that we be capable fruit inspectors (**Matthew 7:15-20**).
2. So-called "Brethren" have a long history of doing great harm to each other (**Jeremiah 9:4-5**, **Jeremiah 12:6**, **Malachi 2:10**, **I Corinthians 6:1-8**, **Galatians 5:7-15**, **I Timothy 4:1-2**, **James 4:1-3**, and **James 5:1-9**).

II. Body: Catching Subtle Statements And Questions Before We Or Others Are Led Away (**II Corinthians 11:3**).

A. The word of God speaks of those who using cunning craftiness (**Ephesians 4:14**).

1. We need to be spiritually mature, not like children (**I Corinthians 14:20**; cf. **Psalms 119:97-101**).
2. Not carried about with the sleight [fraud] of men (**Matthew 24:4**, **Matthew 24:24**, **II Corinthians 11:13-15**, and **II Peter 2:1-3**).
3. Not carried about by the cunning craftiness of men (**Galatians 3:1-3**, **I John 4:1-6**, and **I John 2:24-26**).
4. Not carried about by those in lie in wait to deceive (**Jeremiah 5:26-31**, **Romans 16:17-19**, and **II Timothy 3:1-7**).
5. Not being tossed to and fro (**I Kings 18:21**, **II Thessalonians 2:1-2**, **James 1:8**, **James 4:8**, and **II Peter 3:16-17**).

B. We have to learn to perceive such craftiness (**Luke 20:19-26**).

1. Understand that some people are setting traps for you by their questions (**Luke 11:53-54**).
2. They will twist what you say (**Psalms 56:5-6**).
3. They will try to entangle you in talk (**Matthew 22:15**).
4. Think about how not knowing when to engage in answering questions can be wrong on your part (**II Timothy 2:23**).

C. We have to renounce such craftiness (**II Corinthians 4:1-2**).

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1. We should always speak the truth with everyone (**Ephesians 4:15-16** and **Ephesians 4:24-25**).

2. We should not accept anything that is not tested and found right by the Lord's standard (**I Thessalonians 5:21**).

D. Proceeding forward, it is of great importance that you approach things with a spiritual discernment rather than carnal thinking (**I Corinthians 2:14-3:3**).

1. Being a fair, spiritually minded judge (**Proverbs 18:13**, **John 7:24**, **John 7:51**, and **Ephesians 5:6-11**).

2. Not allowing the darkness (**I Thessalonians 5:4-5** and **I Peter 2:9**) to blind us (**II Corinthians 4:3-4** and **I John 2:11**).

3. At the same time, DO NOT read too much into implications and hold onto something making an unnecessary inference (**John 21:20-23**).

4. Finally, remember "with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged" (**Matthew 7:2**).

III. Conclusion: Our goal in these upcoming studies is to by reason of use have our senses exercised to discern both good and evil (**Hebrews 5:14**).