**DISCERNMENT 71** (11-29-16)  DISCERNMENT, pg. 112

A believer who has a healthy spiritual life not only has a robust defense against the world, the flesh, and the devil, but also is vigilant in producing an abundance of divine good.

*The work of the Holy Spirit in and through each believer is both negative (a victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil) and positive—an output from within of that which is good; furthermore, the filling of the Spirit, while it does provide for a triumph over what is evil, has as its more important objective a positive, vital life and service which only God the Spirit can achieve.*

*Ibid 198*

The hymn “*It is Well With My Soul*” illustrates the mental attitude of a believer who is spiritually strong and healthy.

BACKGROUND:

"*It Is Well With My Soul*" is a hymn penned by hymnist Horatio Spafford and composed by Philip Bliss. First published in Gospel Songs No. 2 by Sankey and Bliss (1876), it is possibly the most influential and enduring in the Bliss repertoire and is often taken as a choral model, appearing in hymnals of a wide variety of Christian fellowships.

This hymn was written after traumatic events in Spafford's life. The first was the death of his son at the age of 2 and the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago that was extensively damaged by the great fire). His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the SS Ville du Havre.

In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the Atlantic, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the Loch Earn, and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone …". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died.

Bliss called his tune Ville du Havre, from the name of the stricken vessel. The Spaffords later had three more children. On February 11, 1880, their son, Horatio Goertner Spafford, died at the age of four, of scarlet fever. Their daughters were Bertha Hedges Spafford (born March 24, 1878) and Grace Spafford (born January 18, 1881). Their Presbyterian church regarded their tragedy as divine punishment. In response, the Spaffords formed their own Messianic sect, dubbed "the Overcomers" by American press. In 1881, the Spaffords, including baby Bertha and newborn Grace, set sail for Ottoman-Turkish Palestine. The Spaffords settled in Jerusalem and helped found a group called the American Colony.

Lyrics: ***“IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”***

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, I

 t is well, it is well with my soul.

**REFRAIN:**
It is well [It is well], with my soul [with my soul],
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

3. My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!— DISCERNMENT, pg. 113
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

5. But, Lord, ’tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

6. And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

A believer who is spiritually healthy takes the doctrines he has learned and applies them to his current circumstances. He triumphs over the attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil by keeping his relationship with God his number one priority. He takes in doctrine on a daily basis so he doesn’t get distracted by the details of life. This enables him to have maximum confidence in God and courage towards men. His spiritual momentum doesn’t waver because he has a personal sense of eternal destiny which means he lives his life on the basis of what will happen after this life rather than living it on the basis of what will happen today. His happiness does not depend on his circumstances because he has learned how to be content no matter what happens.

Every believer wants to be spiritually healthy but few are. Why you ask? The number one reason why the majority of believers are critically spiritually ill is because they are NOT CONSISTENT !!!

They have a hit or miss attitude towards studying the Word of God, so they miss a lot more than they hit. Therefore, they are continually afraid, confused, unstable, and often angry. They have a difficult time making or keeping friends because they are hypersensitive and judgmental. They hold grudges and are unforgiving because they live by their emotions rather than by doctrine.

They have little use for such things as impersonal/unconditional love or thinking of others more highly than self. They have little, if any, capacity to love others because they are consumed with self. They are miserable even when things are going their way because they are not satisfied and they will never be satisfied until they get their spiritual lives back on track. But most never do, so their lives remain a train wreck. Why you ask? You know why: NO CONSISTENCY ! ! !

***Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself…***

The good news is that anyone who can identify himself or herself with the description above can change things immediately. You decide whether you will live the full abundant life God has designed for you by consistently studying His Word, or you can continue to ignore Him by putting everyone and everything else first in importance. By the way, how has that been working out for you?

Yes you can live that full abundant life which has nothing to do with money or stuff but which has everything to do with no longer being enslaved to your circumstances. You can experience joy and contentment even when the worst happens. You can consider it all joy when you encounter various trials and give thanks in all things but you must first be consistent in taking in God’s Word.

You can’t be consistent by gritting you teeth and saying “I will be consistent from now on in learning God’s Word!” You can’t do it by your own power. but you can ask the Lord to help you, and

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He will. The hardest part is getting started. But after a while, you will develop an insatiable desire for the absolute thoughts God thinks on everything. That will become more important to you than anything else, and you will want others to see what they are missing.

Learning Bible doctrine, applying it to your circumstances, and seeing it work is extremely exciting! It is unfortunate that so many believers never find out how thrilling this is.

**So get off the LOSER TRAIN and get on board THE GAIN TRAIN before it’s too late!**

**You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. The train leaves the station every day and the way to board it is to study the Word. That’s the ticket!**

**DISCERNMENT 72** (12-1-16)

 **Subjects Covered So Far**

**Religion Family**

**Politics Friends**

**Government Health**

**Marriage Business / Employment**

**BUSINESS / EMPLOYMENT**

This is the sixth subject we have covered so far.

Whether we own a business or are employed by a business, the work we do for a living is a very important part of our lives. Many people get to choose their career but many do not. Some don’t really know what they want to do in life. Some think they know, but find out later that their real interest lies in something else. Many people are not doing what they would prefer but are working just to make ends meet. Others are looking for work, any work, but are unable to find a job. Then there are a few who are born into wealth who don’t need to work. Some of these work anyway and some do not.

All of these different situations have something in common. They really don’t have the control they think they have in directing themselves make a living.

***Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.***

Whether we own a business or are employed by a business, the work we do for a living is a very important part of our lives. Many people get to choose their career, but many do not. Some don’t really know what they want to do in life. Some think they know, but find out later that their real interest lies in something else. Many people are not doing what they would prefer but only work to make ends meet. Others are looking for any kind of work but are unable to find a job. Then there are a few who are born into wealth who don’t need to work. Some of those work anyway and some do not.

All of these different situations have something in common: they really don’t have the control they think they have over everything, especially when it comes to the way they make a living.

***Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.***

***Proverbs 19:21* *There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the LORD’s counsel, that will stand.***

***Jeremiah 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself; nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.***

***Jeremiah 10:23*** (NET) ***LORD, we know that people do not control their own destiny. It is not in their power to determine what will happen to them.***

*God ordained work as the normal routine of living. Every legitimate human task, therefore, is of intrinsic worth, however menial it may seem, and is potentially a means of glorifying God*.

*Martin H. Manser, Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies (London: Martin Manser, 2009).*

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Carrying out a task assigned to us is important but not more than the attitude we have while carrying it out.

*“It’s attitude, not aptitude, which determines you altitude.”* Zig Zigler

God ordained and established work from the very beginning with the first man. Adam was assigned a job and given authority over it even before Eve was taken from his rib.

***Genesis 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.***

God gave Adam a job to do, not to punish him, but to bless him. It enabled him to experience the satisfaction that comes from accomplishing a task and seeing that his work was well done.

God had a great sense of accomplishment when He restored the earth in six days and He wanted Adam to experience that as well.

***Genesis 1:31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.***

No doubt, the work Adam did in the Garden of Eden was pleasant, not hard or exhausting. It wasn’t till after he sinned that the hard labor, sweat, and toil came to be.

***Genesis 3:17b-19 Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18) "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; 19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."***

God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden where life was very different. The perfect environment with fertile loamy soil became hardened ground akin to black gumbo with weeds, thorns, and thistles.

God designed us to be self-sufficient and to provide for our own needs. We are commanded to work to support ourselves.

***1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 … make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you; 12) so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.***

***Ephesians 4:28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.***

Work is a blessing, not a punishment.

***Psalm 128:2 When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, You will be happy and it will be well with you.***

***Ecclesiastes 2:24 There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen, that it is from the hand of God.***

There are people who are physically unable to work who should be supported by family, friends, the church, or charitable organizations. When Israel was a theocracy living under the Mosaic law, the people were commanded to help the poor and the needy.

***Deuteronomy 15:11 For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'***

***Proverbs 28:27 He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.***

***Acts 11:27-30 Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28) And one of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would***

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***certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius. 29) And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. 30) And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.***

***1 Timothy 6:17-18 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18) Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.***

When people harvested their crops and orchards, they were commanded to leave some for the poor and needy.

***Leviticus 19:9-10 Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10) 'Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.***

The Mosaic Law required a special tithe every third year to take care of those who could not provide for themselves.

***1 Timothy 6:17-18 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18) Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,***

Those who were able to work but were lazy were not provided for since the people who were truly in need were well known by the community. The Bible tells us what was to happen to those who were lazy and refused to work to provide for their own needs.

***2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat. 11) For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.***

 ***Proverbs 14:23 In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.***

***Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat.***

***Titus 3:14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.***

***Proverbs 19:15 Laziness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle man will suffer hunger.***

***Proverbs 6:9-11 How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest " 11) and your poverty will come in like a vagabond, and your need like an armed man.***

***Proverbs 20:13 Do not love sleep, lest you become poor; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food.***

***Proverbs 24:34 Then your poverty will come as a robber, And your want like an armed man.***

The United States now have over 50 million people on food stamps now. This means that one out of every six people are now on food stamps. How many of this number could provide for themselves? Think of how many billions of dollars are given every year to people who can support themselves.

*The Los Angeles Times* *reported in 2010 that 24% of new welfare applications in San Diego County contain some form of fraud, which was determined to in fact include all forms of inaccuracy rather than just fraud.*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welfare_fraud>

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*Because welfare fraud often goes undetected or unreported, it is hard to obtain concrete numbers as to exactly how many people violate welfare programs to commit welfare fraud or how much it costs the government and taxpayers.*

*Many argue against the idea of a welfare program. They claim that it is because of these losses, that welfare programs actually harm our economy more than it benefits it. Others who are in support of welfare programs insist that the numbers are often exaggerated and that if welfare is eliminated, than it will harm those who truly depend on it. Many systems have been played out through states and governments to try and crack down on welfare fraud by enforcing finger printing, cracking down on verification, using fraud investigators hired by the FBI, etc.*

[*http://fraud.laws.com/welfare-fraud/welfare-fraud-possible-cost-on-the-system*](http://fraud.laws.com/welfare-fraud/welfare-fraud-possible-cost-on-the-system)

*Under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, 47 million people have been awarded $76 billion in benefits.*

[*http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/08/22/food-stamp-fraud-rampant-gao-report.html*](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/08/22/food-stamp-fraud-rampant-gao-report.html)

The colossal waste and fraud that we are experiencing is to be expected from a country that has a centralized government that is so bloated that no one is held accountable because it is impossible for anyone to know what is going on.

A question that seems no one is asking is, “Where in the Constitution for the United States of America can one find anything that gives the government the right to take money from some of the people and give it to others? Where is the justification in the Constitution for welfare?

**DISCERNMENT 73** (12-6-16)

On the other side of the coin from the lazy sluggard is the work-a-holic. This person misses out on the most important and wonderful part of life by elevating a business or career above everything else. This type of person need to consider the following verses:

***Ecclesiastes 2:17-18 So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind. 18) Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me.***

***Ecclesiastes 4:8 There was a certain man without a dependent, having neither a son nor a brother, yet there was no end to all his labor. Indeed, his eyes were not satisfied with riches and he never asked, "And for whom am I laboring and depriving myself of pleasure?" This too is vanity and it is a grievous task.***

***Proverbs 23:4 Do not wear yourself out to become rich; be wise enough to restrain yourself.***

***Luke 12:15-21* *And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." 16) Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17) "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18) "So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19) 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' 20) "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21) "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."***

You can never be rich towards God if your priorities are out of kilter, BD is not #1, you are not taking in BD or thinking BD… YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY DESTITUTE if you keep putting other things first !

Hard work is good but too much work, being a workaholic without rest is not good. God set the pattern when He restored the earth in six days and then on the seventh day He rested. He didn’t rest because He was tired but because His work was completed and He took time to enjoy it.

 DISCERNMENT, pg. 118 He commanded the Jews to observe the Sabbath by resting on the seventh day. He commanded them not to do any work on the Sabbath. He instituted the seven day week.

***Exodus 20:9-11 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10) but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11) For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.***

**DISCERNMENT 74** (12-8-16)

The seven day week with the last day being a day of rest is in complete harmony with the earth and the creatures on it. On October 23, 1793, France officially denounced God, the Christian calendar, and the seven day week.

***French Calendar Reform:The De-Christianization of France***

*By eLaine Vornholt*

 *Laura Lee Vornholt-Jones*

*The historic fact is that the calendar was devised in order to predetermine the precise time of festivals honoring the gods. The calendar, in other words, was a religious device.1*

*During the French Revolution, France set aside Christianity and in public forum denounced the God of Heaven. “The world for the first time heard an assembly of men, born and educated in civilization, and assuming the right to govern one of the finest of the European nations, uplift their united voice to deny the most solemn truth which man’s soul receives, and renounce unanimously the belief and worship of a Deity.”2*

 *France is the only nation in the world concerning which the authentic record survives, that as a nation she lifted her hand in open rebellion against the Author of the universe. Plenty of blasphemers, plenty of infidels, there have been, and still continue to be, in England, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere; but France stands apart in the world’s history as the single state which, by the decree of her Legislative Assembly, pronounced that there was no God, and of which the entire population of the capital, and a vast majority elsewhere, women as well as men, danced and sang with joy in accepting the announcement.3*

 *On October 23, 1793, just nine days after Queen Marie-Atoinette was executed, the Republican Calendar was decreed. The French calendar reform was an attempt to de-Christianize the calendar, in keeping with the Revolution’s stated goal of promoting Reason as opposed to Religion. “Reason” was worshipped and religion denounced as superstition. This was the main motivation behind the French reform of the calendar. Pierre-Sylvain Maréchal, who originally proposed the change, declared: “the calendar of the French Republic…must not resemble in any respect the official annuals of the apostolic and Roman Church.”4*

*The new calendar bore a striking resemblance to the old Egyptian solar calendar. There were 12 months, each containing 30 days each. The months were broken up into 10-day décades with the final day being a day of rest. This was not a day to worship the God of Heaven. This was merely a day of rest from labor. At the end of the year, following the 12th month of Fructidor, a final five days were added to the calendar.*

*The 10-day week completely demolished any sanctity for Sunday as a holy day and the most important day of the week. By instituting a 10-day week, the French government exerted power over the Roman Catholic Church in her main area of influence: control of time. Throughout the middle ages, the people had been taught to reverence Sunday and lived in fear of the power of the papacy. Even the name of “Sunday” was removed from the new week, the days being numbered instead: Primidi, Duodi, Tridi, Quartidi, Quintidi, Sextidi, Septidi, Octidi, Nonidi, Décadi (First, Second, Third, etc.).*

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*The new calendar was promoted as “rational” and “scientific”. In 1791, the National Assembly had ordered the Académie des Sciences (Academy of Sciences) to “rationalize” the current system of weights and measures.5 The new and “rational” system it established is still used today: the metric system. The calendar, thus, was merely the next logical unit of measure to bring to a new, modern, scientific standard.6*

*However, the primary purpose was to destroy the traditional seven-day week and Sunday, the worship day for most of Christendom. When Charles-Gilbert Romme, its chief architect, was asked what the main reason for the new calendar was, he emphatically stated: “To abolish Sunday.”7 “The décade [the new “week”] or, rather, to be more precise, its “peak day,” Décadi came to be the single most important symbol of the de-Christianization of France.”8*

*Churches were forbidden to hold services on any day except for Décadi and citizens were not to close their stores on Sunday or acknowledge it by wearing their habits du dimanche, or “Sunday best”.9*

*French reform of time did not end with the days, weeks, months and years. They even established a new clock. In a decree dated October 5, 1793, it was declared: “The day, from midnight to midnight, is divided into ten parts, each part into ten others, so on until the smallest measurable portion of duration.” Like the metric system, this new arrangement was called “decimal time.” The hours of the day were divided ten decimal hours of 100 decimal minutes each. Each minute contained a 100 seconds, amounting to 100,000 seconds per day. On No-vember 24, 1793, it was explained: “The hundredth part of the hour is called the decima minute; the hundredth part of the minute is called the decimal second.”10*

**

*This particular antique clock-face is intriguing because it shows both the traditional 24-hour day in Arabic numbers on the outer circle, with the 10-hour day in Roman numerals on the inner circle. Notice that one complete revolution of the day hand would be one complete 24-hour period. Thus, the new French hour was over twice as long as the standard 60-minute hour used by the rest of Europe.*

*In 1798 when, on April 3, the ruling Directory “for the first time, made the observance of the ten-day week mandatory.”12The Directory’s main goal was obvious, to pull the entire social and economic life of France outside the sphere of the traditional Christian weekly rhythm, so as to make the latter absolutely irrelevant to daily life…The French [found] it almost impossible to even keep track of the days of the seven-day week when almost their entire affairs would be regulated by a ten-day rhythm of activity. Furthermore, how would anyone be able to preserve the traditional Christian way of life and attend church regularly every Sunday, when stores could be closed only on Décadis* [day 10] *and Quintidi* [Friday] *afternoons? Similarly, given that fish markets were held only on Duodi* [Tuesday]*, Quintidi* [Friday]*, and Septidi 13* [Sunday]*, how would citizens be able to keep eating fish every Friday?14*

*Besides being difficult to maintain one method of time-reckoning while all surrounding countries used another, the French Republican calendar fell into disfavor because workers were given one day off in ten rather than the previous system of one day off in seven.*

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*While the new calendar had always been opposed by the devout, a series of reforms under Napoleon Bonaparte began easing the enforcement of the new calendar.*

*On July 26, 1800, Napoleon “issued a decree announcing that, with the single exception of public officials, who would still be bound by the mandatory Décadi rest, French citizens were free to rest on whatever days they wished.”15 The Concordant of 1801, which was an agreement between Napoleon and Pope Pius VII, acknowledged the Church as the majority church of France. September 9, 1805, decreed that Sunday was once again the official rest day of France.*

*The Republican Calendar was finally abolished by Napoleon a little over 12 years after it was legislated. France returned to the Gregorian calendar January 1, 1806.*

*1 Zecharia Sitchin, When Time Began, (Santa Fe, New Mexico: Bear & Co., Publ., 1994), p. 198, emphasis supplied.*

*2 Sir Walter Scott, Life of Napoleon, (Philadelphia: E. L. Carey and A. Hart, 1839), Vol. 1, p. 124.*

*3 Blackwood’s Magazine, November, 1870.2 calendar*

*4 George B. Andrews, “Making the Revolutionary Calendar,” American Historical Review 36(1931) p. 525.*

*5 Maurice P. Crosland, “Science & Technology: Academy of Sciences,” Encyclopædia Britannica.*

*6 It is ironic that the French viewed the old system as needing to be “rationalized.” The sexagesmal system upon which is based miles, yards, feet, inches, etc., is extremely accurate and continues to be used in geometry and in modern time measurement. Even among nations that adopted the metric system, the sexagesmal system continues to be used in geometry and time measurement: i.e., 360 degrees in a circle, and 60 minutes in an hour.*

*7 Pierre Gaxotte, The French Revolution, (London: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1932), p. 329.*

*8 Eviatar Zerubavel, The Seven Day Circle: The History and Meaning of the Week, (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1985), p. 29.*

*9 L’Abbé J. Gallerand, Les Cultes sous la Terreur en Loir-et-Cher, 1792-1795, (Paris: Grande Imprimerie de Blois,1928), p. 634; Henri Grégoire, Histoire de Sectes Religieuses, (Paris: Baudouin Frères, 1828), Vol. 1, p. 240.*

*10 Zerubavel, op cit. p. 31; Albert Mathiez, La Théophilanthropie et le Culte Décadaire, 1796-1801, (Paris: Félix Alcan, 1904.*

*13 Benjamin Bois, Les Fêtes Révolutionnaires à Angers 1793-1799, Paris, Félix Alcan, 1929, p. 154.*

*14 Zerubavel, op cit., p. 32.*

*15 Zerubavel, op cit., p. 34.*

Jesus understood the need to balance work with rest.

***Mark 6:30-31 Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. 31) And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.***

***Psalm 127:2 It is in vain for you who rise early and sit late, eating the bread of anxious toil, when thus he provides for his beloved in his sleep.***

***Eccl. 4:6 Better is one handful with some rest than two hands full of toil and chasing the wind.***

There are more important things than work. We must use discernment to determine when we are to set work aside and when not to. Jesus demonstrated this point ***Luke 10:38-42.*** Children should not be deprived of their father because he will not make time for his children.

**DISCERNMENT 75** (12-13-16)

Physical rest is important but physical rest by itself is not enough to make us content or complete, we also need to have spiritual rest in our souls. Most believers know nothing about this type of rest.

READ: ***Hebrews 3:17-4:16***

**DISCERNMENT 76** (12-15-16)

**PP** Doctrinal Shield

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We call entering into God’s rest, “Faith-Resting”. We can still work physically and be at rest in our soul. That is exactly what we must do if we are to be productive and enjoy the work we do. In fact, we can do no work of intrinsic value apart from abiding in Christ.

***John 15:4-5 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5) I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.***

It is impossible to abide in Christ apart from being diligent in **REBOUNDING** [acknowledging sins to God] and **FAITH-RESTING.**

Faith-Rest is God's plan for Christians who are going through testing, and having problems. Faith-Rest is the means by which Christians can have joy and happiness in this life, which does not depend on people, circumstances, or things.

It does not matter whether your testing is mild or severe, whether it is the charge of the mosquito or the charge of the elephant, we can still maintain an RMA. When we Faith-Rest, there is no trouble, problem, testing or temptation that can steal away our joy and contentment.

***1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation*** [or test] ***has overtaken*** [v. rai] ***you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted*** [tested] ***beyond what you are able, but with the temptation*** [test/trial] ***will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.***

It is difficult to overstate the importance of Faith-Resting every day and several times a day. This is how we build up our confidence in Bible Doctrine and in the faithfulness of our Great God.

*1 Peter 1:6-7 In this* [God’s grace provision] *you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if 1st necessary, you have been distressed by various trials* [same Gr. word used in *1 Cor. 10:13*]*, 7) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious that of gold that perishes, though it be tried*  [Gr. DOKIMAZO proven, evaluated] *by fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."*

**DISCERNMENT 77** (12-20-16) READ: ***Hebrews 10:32-39***

There are two main reasons Christians fail to profit from all the blessings, promises and logistical provisions that God has put in place.

The most common reason for failure to enter into God’s rest is a lack of knowledge of His plan and the assets He has provided for us. Christians who do not know what the word of God says will never know the promises of God nor the provisions He has made for testing.

The children of Israel who wondered in the wilderness illustrate the other reason for failure. They heard the teaching but did not mix it with faith, so they did not experience victory or have rest in their soul.

They failed in their mission and died an ignominious death all because they failed to Faith-Rest.

The extent of a believer's spiritual maturity becomes obvious in hard times. All Christians look and behave about the same in good times. However, when testing comes, those who have actually failed to learn and apply Bible Doctrine fall apart at the seams, and fall back into patterns of worry, blaming other people, and trying to solve their own problems by worldly means.

**DISCERNMENT 78** (12-22-16)

People normally react to adversity with anger, fear, and resentment but a mature believer recognizes it as a test and an opportunity to Faith-Rest.

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Mental attitude sins short-circuit the application of Bible Doctrine so retaliation in the face of adversity replaces the Faith-Rest drill.

We must be alert when that happens and Rebound to neutralize the MAS so that we can recover our divine viewpoint and pass the test. Our goal is to make Faith-Rest a habit so there is no danger of being controlled by our circumstances.

Yes, when Faith-Rest becomes a habit, life is much better. We remain calm, stable and confident. Rather than being rattled or shaken over every little thing, we maintain an RMA no matter what happens.

***Psalm 16:8 I have set the LORD continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.***

***Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden upon the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.***

***Psalm 62:5-6 My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. 6) He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken.***

We have no dread or foreboding of what might happen in the future.

***Proverbs 1:33 …he who listens to me shall live securely, and shall be at ease from the dread of evil."***

***Psalm 112:7 He*** [the mature believer] ***will not fear evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.***

The doubt and fear are replaced with confidence and strength.

***Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.***

***2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,* Good works done with the right motivation while filled with the H.S. do not go unnoticed by our Lord.**

We are assured that our efforts in doing divine good while abiding in Christ do not go unnoticed by God.

***Hebrews 6:9-12 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. 10) For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11) And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12) that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.***

***Hebrews 10:35-36 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.***

**DISCERNMENT 79** (12-27-16)

Employers are to treat their employees fairly.

***Leviticus 19:13 You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.***

***Deuteronomy 24:14-15 "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates. 15) "Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he is poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the LORD, and it be sin to you.***

***Jeremiah 22:13 "Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness and his chambers by injustice, who uses his neighbor's service without wages and gives him nothing for his work....***

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***Malachi 3:5 And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans…***

***James 5:4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.***

Smart employers don’t pay their employees the minimum, they pay them the maximum. They expect a lot from their employees, they get a lot from their employees, and they pay a lot to their employees.

When employers respect their employees and let them know that they appreciate their efforts to go beyond what is expected, most employees will respond by consistently going beyond the call of duty because they know their extra effort is appreciated.

When employers push their employees to get the very most they can and pay them the very least they can, when they give them no incentives for advance- ment, and never acknowledge their extra effort, most of their employees will react by doing the very least they can and still keep their job. Those are the worst type of bosses; they are arrogant bureaucratic managers who bully their employees because it makes them feel important.

Being in a position of authority does not mean or imply that the person has leadership ability.

There are basically two types of people who are in charge:

**LEADERS** and **MANAGERS**

1) Leaders motivate, Managers regulate

2) Leaders encourage, Managers criticize

3) Leaders seek solutions, Managers place blame

4) Leaders incentivize, Managers stick to the book

5) Leaders praise good workers, Managers nick-pic them

6) Leaders delegate authority, Managers micro-manage

 7) Leaders take responsibility for blunders, Managers pass the buck

Good leaders are not necessarily popular. The basis of leadership is virtue, integrity, and objectivity. The basis for popularity is success, personality, personal appeal, or physical attractiveness. People in leadership positions who put popularity above respect, are miserable failures. They fail to correct and/or discipline subordinates when necessary in order to remain popular. This results in chaos and contention in the ranks.

**DISCERNMENT 80** (12-29-17)

1. Why is it important to address creation with an atheist before mentioning Jesus Christ?

*He must first recognize that God exists and that he is accountable to Him.*

2. Starters:

 Do you believe the world evolved from nothing or was it created?

 Did everything come from nothing or from a creator?

 Do you believe that a book could evolve or create itself? DNA?

 Do you think mentality came from an ameba or that an ameba came from mentality?

 The Bible says: earth is round, hangs on nothing, wash food to cleanse it, quarantine the sick.

 1st and 2nd Laws of Thermodynamics, blood, ocean currents, etc.

3. After they recognize that God exists:

 What do you think God is like?

 Did you know that the Bible says He is just and +R, and loving and merciful?

 Do you think His attitude is towards sin?

 Do you think He holds people accountable for ignoring Him, or for rejecting Him?

 ***Hebrews 9:27 …it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this***

 ***the judgment:***

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 Do you think there is anything we can do to avoid being accountable for our sins?

4. Did you know that God has provided a way for us to be saved from being condemned to hell for our sins?

 Would you like to know how?